



Legislature of Ontario Debates

Second and Third Sessions of the Thirtieth Legislature

Thursday, January 15, 1976 — Monday, April 12, 1976



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OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Second Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, January 15, 1976
Morning Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER
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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, Jan. 15, 1976, being the first day of the second session of the 30th Parliament of the Province of Ontario for the despatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable P. M. McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976.

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the House and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker, and members of the legislative assembly of Ontario, this second session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario has been called to deal with a matter of great immediacy. You will be asked to consider legislation to bring about a settlement of the dispute between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the Metropolitan Toronto school boards, and to end the long and continuing teachers' strike.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: In order to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of Her Honour's speech, which I will now read.

(Reading dispensed with.)

Orders of the day.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTES ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that as the Legislature has been convened in this special

session for the purpose of considering only that matter which has been laid before the House in the address of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, the House hereby resolves to dispense with the customary address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the formal debates thereon, as the subject matter of the speech may be debated during the consideration of the legislation which has been submitted to the House.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. minister have an introductory statement?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are here today to consider legislation intended to bring an end to the long disruption of educational programmes in the secondary schools of Metropolitan Toronto.

This strike of secondary school teachers has been long and bitter. It has aroused frustrations and hostilities between teachers, school board members, students, parents and other citizens, the likes of which I think I can say, Mr. Speaker, we have never seen before. I hope, Mr. Speaker, we will never again see a situation where the opinions of various groups become so polarized and so severe. I hope that today will mark the starting point for a return to stability in our secondary schools, although I am the first to acknowledge that the road back may be very difficult.

Notice to begin negotiations was given to the Metropolitan Toronto School Board by its secondary school teachers on Jan. 16, 1975, almost exactly one year ago and fully 7½ months before the last agreement between the parties expired on Aug. 31, 1975; that agreement which expired, having been in effect for two years, since September of 1973.

Over the past year, every possible avenue has been explored in an attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement. I think we all believe

that a negotiated settlement certainly was the best thing that could happen in this, and, indeed in any school board and teacher collective bargaining situation.

I have been personally involved at various stages where it appeared that my participation might be helpful. The first time was in mid-June, when the parties asked me to appoint a mediator in order to get meaningful discussions and negotiations going. We acted promptly, by bringing in one of Canada's best labour mediator negotiators, Stanley Hartt.

Mr. Hartt worked through July and August, and was able, I am told, Mr. Speaker, to get the parties to sign off about 300 items in the contract. However, several important items remained unsettled, including the monetary matters, and Mr. Hartt was unable to solve the impasse on those.

In early September, under the provisions of Bill 100 which had then come into effect, Mr. Hartt was appointed by the Education Relations Commission, which was created by Bill 100, as a fact-finder in the dispute. In the report which he subsequently submitted, Mr. Hartt made recommendations which he later described as terms which he felt would achieve a settlement in this situation and not, as he pointed out, terms which he felt were necessarily deserved by the teachers, nor which he thought the school board should necessarily have to pay.

This report was subsequently embraced by the teachers as a basis for settlement and, with certain modifications, I believe submitted by the teachers in their final position. The school board, for its part, put forward an offer based upon the monetary settlement which had been reached with its elementary school teachers a few weeks earlier.

These developments still did not produce a settlement. Despite eleventh-hour bargaining and mediation by both William Dickie and myself, a serious impasse had developed.

It was on Nov. 12 that the dispute took a sharp turn, when the teachers went out on strike leaving the schools virtually incapacitated. That was 37 teaching days ago, Mr. Speaker, making this the longest teacher strike in Ontario history.

Now, today, for the sake of the students in the schools, I believe the onus is on this Legislature to deal responsibly and quickly with this bill which we are presenting this morning.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) has already stated that the government cannot in good conscience stand by any longer as the high

school students of Metropolitan Toronto are placed in real jeopardy as the innocent victims of an impossible situation. If we were dealing with pieces of mail or some manufactured goods, as in other labour disputes, and if this strike did not directly touch the lives of 140,000 young people, we perhaps could allow this battle to go on to a clear decision. But, Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with students who, I believe, deserve a break. For the sake of the students, a solution to the impasse is necessary now. It's something that has to be done now; and that, Mr. Speaker, is why we're here this morning.

This strike has been unusual, even unique, from the start. It began in the early period following the announcement of the federal anti-inflation programme and following Ontario's announcement of its intention to opt the public sector of this province into the programme. Even though the express demands of the teachers seem clearly in excess of the federal anti-inflation guidelines, even allowing for any special consideration that might apply, the teachers chose to exercise their legal prerogative to strike—and I emphasize it was their legal prerogative to strike in this case.

The whole exercise, however, had a sense of futility to it from the day it began. Many weeks later, the teachers chose to reaffirm their strike position by voting to reject the new offer submitted by the school board.

Mr. Speaker, 7½ months ago when I stood in this House to introduce Bill 100, which gave teachers the legal right to strike, along with many other improvements in the collective bargaining process between teachers and school boards, I made the following statement. I quote from my statement at that time:

The government, this government, has no intention of allowing this legislation, Bill 100, to be used to cause a major disruption in the education of pupils. It is our public responsibility to retain the right to take specific action, including legislative action if necessary, should serious disruptions of educational service occur. We have that responsibility and we will not shirk it.

That, Mr. Speaker, was the statement I made 7½ months ago on the introduction of Bill 100.

Obviously it's always a matter of judgement as to when the point of no return for students has been reached. At best, I suppose it's an arbitrary decision subject to interpretation and disagreement depending upon where one stands.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, we built into Bill 100 a clear provision that imposed upon the Education Relations Commission a responsibility to advise the government when,

in its opinion, a continuation of a strike or lockout would jeopardize the successful completion of courses of study by the students affected.

Last Saturday, the Education Relations Commission held a public hearing here in Toronto in connection with this responsibility that it has under the legislation. In its report, which was submitted to us by the commission, it stated in part, and I quote from the Education Relations Commission report submitted to the executive council of this province:

Recent developments in the dispute indicate to us that the parties will not likely achieve such a settlement in the near future. While we do not rule out the possibility that a resumption of negotiations might produce a settlement at some future date, we believe that the difficult and lengthy history of negotiations to date, coupled with these recent events, justify a prediction that no early negotiated settlement can be anticipated.

In these special circumstances we believe that the time at which these students will have been placed in jeopardy will almost certainly have arrived before a negotiated settlement is concluded.

Further, Mr. Speaker, the commission stated:

It is our opinion that the continuance of the strikes and lockouts in this dispute will place in jeopardy the successful completion of courses of study by the students affected.

Those are the quotes from the report presented to this government by the Education Relations Commission.

[10:15]

The Metropolitan Toronto secondary school teachers came to the same conclusions, I believe, in the brief they presented to the commission last Saturday when it held its hearing and from which this report to us arose. The brief which the teachers presented, Mr. Speaker, said this in part, and I quote from their brief:

The purpose of today's hearing is to determine whether or not the continuation of this strike will jeopardize the successful completion by the students of the current school year. The teachers, who are and always have been deeply concerned about the welfare of their students, say that it most undoubtedly will.

In the brief presented to the commission last Saturday by the directors of education of the school boards in Metro Toronto, it was

unanimously stated that it was their opinion—and I quote from the brief of the directors of education:

The continuance of the present strike on the part of the secondary school teachers will place the successful completion of courses of study by students in jeopardy.

This government has considered all of these views, and many others, very carefully indeed. It is clear to us that we have a responsibility to the secondary students of Metro Toronto and to their parents. We have obviously concluded that the schools must be reopened and returned to normal operation promptly, so that students will not be placed in an irreparable position of disadvantage in their future education and in their future career plans.

If there had been any sign that a negotiated settlement could have been achieved in a few more days, I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that we would not have been here today. Since the teachers voted to reject the school boards' last offer last Wednesday—that is, a week ago yesterday—I have met personally with both parties several times. But I must say that I could see no signs that a negotiated settlement could come about in the very near future.

Thus, we are presenting today to this Legislature, a bill which has two main basic objectives—the first, to get the high schools of Metropolitan Toronto open and operating normally by next Monday; and the second, to provide a means of equitable settlement in the dispute that has caused this strike and lockout. The bill we are presenting today has the following features:

Teachers will be required to return to schools on Monday morning, and school boards will be required to discontinue lockouts where they have been in effect. In this way, full programmes for all students will be restored almost immediately.

All matters remaining in dispute will be referred to an arbitrator for a decision. This decision will be given within 30 days and will be for a term of two years. The arbitrator's decision will be binding upon both parties.

Mr. Bullbrook: Subject to Mr. Pepin.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Subject to the ruling, of course, as are all other disputes in this province—to the consideration of the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa.

Mr. Bullbrook: Right.

Mr. Reid: The decision, not consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: He decides what they get. We'll get to that later.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Professional activity days will be cancelled for the balance of the school year in Metro Toronto secondary schools so that every available day will be used to help students make up for time lost during the strike.

In calling for an end to the strike the bill includes the same strike definition as Bill 100, which means among other things that work to rule is considered to constitute strike action.

Provisions relating to contravention of the bill will also be identical to the penalty provisions of Bill 100—fines of up to \$10,000 a day for organizations and up to \$500 a day for individuals who would contravene this Act; that is, fines, up to these amounts for individuals who are convicted of contravening the Act.

Mr. Speaker, we expect that both the teachers and the school boards will do everything possible to help students make up the time they have lost over the last 37 days, and to help them overcome the problems caused by interrupted schooling. It is for this reason that this bill cancels all the remaining professional activity days in Metropolitan Toronto secondary schools, so that every available day can be used to help the students catch up and regain the ground they have lost.

Further, I have asked both parties to consider the possibility of arranging special instruction programmes during the mid-winter break in March for students who may wish to take advantage of them.

In conclusion, **Mr. Speaker,** let me restate very simply the points that I have made. They are these:

1. We have received solid evidence, including a report from the Education Relations Commission, which indicates clearly that a continuation of the strike will place in jeopardy the educational programme of Metro Toronto secondary school students.

2. There appears to be no prospect of a negotiated settlement in this dispute in the immediate future.

3. Although we have considered many opinions on what course of action would be most appropriate at this time, to us the factor of paramount importance is the educational welfare of the students.

4. This strike has emphasized, if it needs emphasizing, that there are seldom winners in a dispute of this kind.

If this strike did not, as I said earlier, touch the lives of 140,000 young people, we could allow it to drag on to a clear decision; a course of action, I might say, that literally hundreds of callers have passed on as advice to this government. We are not, however, interested in teaching hard lessons at the expense of the students and this is the basis of our decision.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill is necessary and I believe that it is reasonable at this time, and I would urge this House to pass it speedily and to pass it unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: **Mr. Speaker,** this is an exceptional debate and in the context of that exception it will be my intention at the end or toward the end of my remarks to move a reasoned amendment on second reading. I think we will be granted unanimous consent, for that at least by government as we would wish to give unanimous consent so that the other processes can follow. I hope that would be acceptable to the Liberal Party—

Mr. Nixon: That is all right with us.

Mr. Lewis: —so that it can be all be contained within the one day. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate, as in fact the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) has put it in remarks, which I thought appropriate and effective on second reading, that this situation is immensely difficult for the students, teachers and parents in Metropolitan Toronto. The Speaker will recognize, as the House will recognize, that it presented for the New Democratic Party caucus, an equally difficult position to face this kind of legislation in a party which has traditionally, feelingly, with enormous conviction, held to the belief that compulsory arbitration is on almost every circumstance inappropriate and often destructive.

We were locked into a very lengthy caucus consideration last night and again this morning because of those factors. I think the New Democratic caucus and party recognize that the situation is in a sense past the point of return, that something has to be done to resolve it. We are not so impervious to that reality that it wouldn't enter into our discussions. We also recognize that in this dispute, unlike some others, many of the provisions of the collective bargaining process have been adhered to.

The processes of Bill 100, once introduced, worked their way through the collective bargaining system; and although there were

aberrations, and although there were gratuitous, and I think damaging, intrusions from the federal government, and although there were inconsistencies, Bill 100 largely worked its way through. We supported that bill and we understood at the time what we were supporting. We liked it and we thought it would work; and we thought it should be given an opportunity to work. Many of us wandered about the province saying exactly that to the members of the teaching profession; that we felt that after two years they had won, and the collective bargaining process had won, a singular victory.

I haven't, and I think my colleagues share this, always been very favourably disposed to both sides in this dispute. Like the Premier and the leader of the Liberal Party, I have shared the attribute of being booed by one of the adversaries and, I suspect, treated with less than affection by certain members of the boards, certainly certain chairmen of the boards. I have thought that on occasion both sides in this dispute have behaved peculiarly, even irresponsibly, but the fact of the matter remains that by and large the provisions of Bill 100 were adhered to. I have to admit that and we have to admit that. The process worked its way right through, in fact to the final conclusion, so that the Ontario Education Relations Commission made its finding to the government. Because I happen to have a particular regard for some members of that commission, I took those findings seriously, although they tended to mirror what the whole community already felt.

However, throughout the entire dispute there was one area of authority which we in the New Democratic Party never felt was appropriately or adequately exercised—and it baffles me to this day—and that's the authority of the government itself to intervene usefully helpfully, at moments when it looked as though a breakdown was coming or when an impasse had been reached. I do not to this day understand why it was not possible on a number of psychologically special situations for the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) and the Premier (Mr. Davis) jointly to have summoned the parties and attempted to resolve the dispute. Maybe I have an overly romantic view of the Premier's office and maybe I give to it too much authority.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: You will never know.

An hon. member: Maybe he will know.

Mr. Lewis: All right, maybe I will never know. I grant you that very real possibility.

When a politician can never know, he can indulge in romance, which is what I have been doing.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Are you advocating that?

Mr. Nixon: You have certainly been romancing the Premier, if not the premiership.

Mr. Lewis: To be fair to the Premier, if I have been doing the romancing, he certainly hasn't reciprocated.

Mr. Singer: How long are you going to be spurned?

Mr. Lewis: But I must say that that was a point of delinquency. That seemed to me to be a matter of abdication of leadership with which we in this party cannot agree and did not agree at the time. When it became clear, prior to the actual strike occurring, that the sides were so far apart they were building entrenched positions, I think the Minister of Education and the Premier should jointly have brought them together to avoid the strike at all.

When it became clear in the early days immediately following the breakdown that the position taken by the teachers for the Hartt provisions, on the one hand, and the position taken by the board on its last offer, on the other, were intransigent and that this was likely to go on for a very long time—and the Minister of Education himself conceded sensing that weeks ago—then it was time for the authority of the office of the Premier and the minister to be jointly used.

Those people opposite are strange about authority. They have no problems in exercising authority to close down a hospital in Goderich without advance notice where a little vulnerable and isolated community is involved but they have immense problems with authority when it involves a matter of political leadership in a dispute affecting the lives of 140,000 students, 8,000 teachers and God knows how many parents. I am very perplexed by the failure of political leadership on that basis.

[10:30]

Then came the crucial, the immobilizing moment in time, when Jean-Luc Pepin almost without invitation—in fact, I think it's fair to say without invitation—made his ruling on the board offer and threw all of the negotiations into a cocked hat. And at no time—when not only had the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario been violated by an appointed civil servant, but when the obvious consequence of that would be a prolonged and bitter and

disruptive dispute—at no point in time did the Premier summon to his office, jointly, the heads of the teachers' group and the chairmen of the boards and say, "My God, never in the history of collective bargaining in the province have we been faced with a situation of this type. This is qualitatively different from anything any of us would have envisaged. I want to exert my authority and influence with you and try to see if there is a way out."

I would have thought that if ever there was a point for political leadership to be exercised or intervention to flow, that was the point. The Premier and the Minister of Education have responded to that kind of request which was made by the leader of the Liberal Party and myself and others in this Legislature that we want to have it both ways, that we want to give the teachers the right to strike on the one hand and that we want to intrude on the collective bargaining process on the other.

The answer to that is falderal. Because the government gives people the right to strike doesn't mean that it then removes itself to a position of political paralysis and lets events take their course, regardless of the consequences, until some point that it has to summon the Legislature in emergency session. That's just nonsense.

Is the government suggesting to me that the Education Relations Commission would have rebuked the cabinet had it attempted to effect a settlement somewhere along the way? Is anyone arguing that? Is anyone arguing that teachers or boards would have refused to be called together by the Premier and the Minister of Education jointly? Is anyone suggesting that the public would have felt that was inappropriate? We felt for a long time that the right to strike in the public sector in this field for the teachers is legitimate, so we have accepted the concomitant requirement that when we grant the right to strike we move heaven and earth to keep it as short as possible and to effect a settlement.

On the other hand, the Conservative government came to the position of the right to strike only very late and very reluctantly. They have not yet arrived at the equivalent and parallel position that, having granted it, they then work as hard as the world permits to resolve it. The only thing that was never exercised was the kind of cabinet authority that I think was there. I don't think I'm wrong in suggesting that it might have been exercised effectively. I think it might have been exercised effectively since the trio of mediators broke down.

Let me add, as an aside, that was, in retrospect, a mistake, because that trio of mediators, however earnest they were, reverted to the old manner of collective bargaining; the messages passed back and forth in the corridors of hotel rooms. If we've learned anything about public sector disputes in this province it's that we have to be straight about every single proposition which is made, and we don't deal in the endless shuffling games. Judging from the behaviour of some of the mediators—one of them at least a highly theatrical gentleman—I began to wonder whether that was, in fact, ultimately useful, although I have no doubt it was pursued in as good faith as possible. That having broken down, then again I would have thought the Premier could bring them together.

If the Premier can interrupt a Florida vacation to rush back to the Province of Ontario to consider emergency legislation, then the Premier can take some time to call the parties together in his office to see if the emergency legislation can be forestalled. I would have thought that that was possible.

Mr. Nixon: Got to rush back to the Super Bowl.

Mr. Lewis: I was returning as well, as slowly as my car would take me, but got here on time.

Mr. Reid: Were you two together? Is your apartment down from his?

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Reid: Are you in the same building?

Mr. Lewis: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we ultimately reached this point of failure. It is a failure which, in some considerable measure, those of us in the New Democratic caucus attribute to the government. They allowed Bill 100 to work its course. They used the Education Relations Commission as best they could. They understood the parties bargained often, if not always, in good faith, but they refused to exercise at every appropriate critical moment the rights of political leadership; and that is essentially why we are here now. Those parties have been on occasion, even now, so close to a settlement, that if at any time the Premier and the Minister of Education jointly had pulled them together, I have a gut intuition that they would have had the settlement.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Who are you kidding?

Mr. Lewis: I am not kidding at all. I believe it and I believe it absolutely.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I believe it absolutely—absolutely believe it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That rhetoric isn't going to wash on this issue. It isn't going to wash on this issue.

Mr. Lewis: I don't know why the Premier didn't do it. I don't know why he didn't do it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are trying to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; can we get on with the order of the debate?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, do you have the figures on the—

Mr. Lewis: The chairman of the Education—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You liked your raise in pay.

Mr. Martel: That's right.

Mr. Lewis: Oh now, now; come on now.

Mr. Martel: You were cheap on that one, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Cassidy: The Premier is pretty sensitive.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I will put it another way.

Mr. Germa: The Premier is as odd as a \$3 bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You want a bill?

Mr. Germa: You are as odd as a \$3 bill.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I will put it another way. Had I been in the Premier's shoes—and I am not—I cannot imagine having a dispute of this kind go on for 38 days, having the effects we all know on the educational system, without having tried a personal intervention, using the office of the Premier for that purpose. I just cannot imagine it. I think—and I invite the Premier to try it one day—that he would be surprised at the influence that attaches to the Premier's office on both sides. Had he attempted to settle it, I think it

would have been settled. I think it would have been settled fairly quickly.

I want to go on. So, we are now faced with this legislation. And this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is typical Tory legislation. It's a typical and predictable Tory response. It is kind of cyclical in this House now; it comes with a certain rhythm every time there is a very serious dispute. The terms are almost always the same. It's the old traditional, ritual patterns tried over and over again; only this time it has some bizarre overtones.

The government is appointing another arbitrator under compulsory arbitration. We are setting a record in this dispute for conciliators, mediators, arbitrators, and interlopers of every kind and description. I don't know where they are going to find the arbitrator, although presumably they will have a person to announce. They must have had a pretty short list; they have used everyone else. And now, at the end of the cycle, they have got a bill effecting compulsory arbitration with yet another new person intervening. I mean, even for the government that must be a trifle uncomfortable, not to say ludicrous. They are going to pay further for the arbitrator, and certainly that is adding up to a lot of public expense for the costs of mediating, conciliating and arbitrating this dispute. One would think an occasional blush would come to the cheeks of those who talk of restraint, let alone spending more under these circumstances.

I must say that I think that really it's an almost fantasy component of the bill—another arbitrator. But the part that makes it worthy of skit material is that this poor beggar—whoever he or she is—has no authority whatsoever.

Mr. Deans: That's the problem.

Mr. Lewis: They make the decision and off it goes to the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa for the final communique, the final pronouncement. Now, there is something so peculiar about this whole process, something that must make the teachers surely ask themselves: "What have we got ourselves trapped into? What in God's name is going on here? Why are all these special favours visited upon us?"

Mr. R. S. Smith: You supported it.

Mr. Lewis: Just a second; I want to say that I don't know whether a reference to the Anti-Inflation Board should be included in this bill because I'm not sure that anyone on this side of the House is prepared to coun-

tenance its authority. It clearly exists, you've obviously signed an agreement, you've surrendered provincial right and you're going to go the route. But I'll be darned if we want to see it kind of enshrined in legislation—although maybe that has to come, maybe you have to signal the obvious, but it does—

Mr. Singer: Particularly since it's unconstitutional.

Mr. Lewis: It may also be unconstitutional. But it does make of the compulsory arbitration a mockery, an absolute mockery. So the minister adds in an arbitrator at the end of the game to comment on things which others have commented on ad nauseam, and that arbitrator might as well not rule anyway since it is going off to the Anti-Inflation Board for one of Jean-Luc Pepin's consistent, thoughtful, rational decisions—another one to add to the travesty which they are erecting in the scrutiny of wages across Canada, while this government, as Tories in Ontario, does absolutely nothing about prices or profits and so the game continues to be played.

Mr. Singer: You voted in favour of them doing that in the Throne debate.

Mr. Lewis: Now, I come to the second point.

Mr. Shore: What did you do in the Throne debate?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: I come to the second point I wanted to make about the nature of this legislation. It also fails to contain one of the items which make such legislation even tolerably fair if it has to be imposed. The minister hasn't even provided a floor for this arbitrator. He has in effect put the teachers—as, incidentally, he didn't do in his county, I don't think, and he hasn't done in other disputes—in a kind of double jeopardy. Not only does he appoint a compulsory arbitrator whose views have then to be passed on by the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa, but he gives to the compulsory arbitrator the right to bring in a settlement which may be below the board's offer, by saying absolutely nothing about it in the legislation.

Mr. Martel: Great stuff, Bill.

Mr. Lewis: That's very unfair. The word is fairness. That's terribly unfair to both parties, who have bargained under Bill 100 for God knows how many months. That's not

the way to work. Indeed, in most pieces of compulsory arbitration, including the compulsory arbitration which we have opposed in principle, the government, as Tories, has tended to include a percentage settlement which takes effect and is, as it turns out, the base on which the arbitrator renders the ultimate decision and the government therefore protects the workers from whom it has taken the right to strike.

If the government takes that right away from them and it feels that in the public interest it must be done, then the government has a concomitant responsibility to give them the protection at least of one of the offers. Even that isn't in the legislation. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the turmoil in the school system and among the teachers if an arbitrator of the government's appointment comes in and recommends a settlement significantly below the last board offer? Do you think that would be good faith bargaining to the collective bargaining process in the Province of Ontario? It wouldn't be fair in any sense. I don't think that's the way a government behaves.

In other words, by a failure of political leadership the government brings us to this pass—in some considerable measure; not in total measure but in some considerable measure—and then it brings in legislation which is frankly wanting on a number of terribly important points. Okay, so what then does the New Democratic Party do about it, because the dilemma for us is almost complete?

Mr. Grossman: It was for Barrett too.

Mr. Lewis: That's right. We wanted to find—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You could find an answer without your seven-hour meeting.

Mr. Lewis: We wanted to find a solution which seemed to be fair, and the position—

Mr. Reid: Where were you on the Throne debate?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They saved your hide.

Mr. Lewis: The position which we are—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor now.
[10:45]

Mr. Lewis: The position which we are working through in our reasoned amendment, which I shall put in specific terms in a mo-

ment, is essentially this. We accept as a caucus—and these realities exist in the world—that the education system cannot continue in its present state of breakdown and disarray; that that is just too damaging for pupils, teachers, boards, parents; the entire community.

I understand that; the caucus understands that. We understand there has to be some kind of settlement as quickly as possible. We don't think that the route the government has constructed will be helpful. We think that the route it has constructed can be terribly damaging to future collective bargaining processes in the whole educational system in Ontario. We want to have the schools open but preserve the collective bargaining process; and in fact that has been done successfully in one other jurisdiction.

Let me put it to you this way, Mr. Speaker. We think it is possible to accept the reality that the schools must open on Monday; we understand that reality. But we feel that within that context the parties be directed to continue collective bargaining and that the teachers be given the guarantee of the last board offer as a floor; and in that light, we feel the government has therefore instituted absolutely a serious element of fairness.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can't believe that.

Mr. Reid: He wants it both ways again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can't believe what you're saying.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I do believe it; in total, without any hesitation.

I understand completely that the schools have to open. I also understand that if the government brings in the tried and true mechanism of compulsory arbitration in all of the successive disputes—in Kent, in Peel, in central Algoma, in the Soo, in Timiskaming—that's why the government is adjourning the House not proroguing it. The House leader told us yesterday in our private meeting we would be adjourning today.

The government is going to be faced, or we're going to be faced, with a series of instances of compulsory arbitration which will wreck Bill 100 and wreck collective bargaining in the teacher area, and I frankly don't think that is useful or desirable. So we're putting to the government a position which meets directly, if I can use the words of the Minister of Education, what he wants to do. I quote from page 9:

"One, get the high schools of Metro Toronto open and operating normally by next Monday."

That's what we say the government should do.

"Two, provide a means of equitable settlement in the dispute that has caused this strike and lockout."

A negotiated settlement is the single, most equitable settlement one can have. There is no guarantee of equity in appointing an arbitrator who can make a finding below the last board offer or a finding above the last board offer, which goes to the Anti-Inflation Board and is varied again and throws the whole system into chaos.

That's equity? That's not equity at all; that's absurdity. What we're putting to the government is that there is in fact a serious and thoughtful way out of this particular predicament.

The parties want to have a negotiated settlement. The boards, last night and this morning, have been talking about the possibility of a negotiated settlement. Even William Ross, as recently as this morning, has said it might still be possible to get a negotiated settlement.

Mr. Deans: Right.

Mr. Lewis: If the government really moves on these people and encourages them to get the negotiated settlement, and gives a floor which is fair—and we all talked about a floor which is fair in the emergency debate which we had here some weeks ago—and it has the schools open, then at least for the teachers it preserves the collective bargaining system; and for the community it builds in the possibility of a school system which isn't dismembered by hostility, anger and ill feeling and a great deal of inherent bitterness.

Mr. Bullbrook: Do you still believe that Mr. Pepin is to be the ultimate arbitrator?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: We would prefer not.

Mr. Lewis: I would prefer a thousand times that the decisions which are made by collective bargaining, or if it should pass the decisions which are made by an arbitrator, be upheld in the jurisdiction of Ontario without reference to the Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Bullbrook: Right, you bet your life.

Mr. Lewis: Absolutely; there is no question about that. But I must say to the

government that I think the position that we're putting—

Mr. Reid: He wants it both ways again.

Mr. Lewis: —the solution that we're putting to it has about it an answer to the specific provisions which the Minister of Education put—by God, I am speaking directly to them—and it also has about it a sense of fairness. You see, if we can get a collective bargaining settlement out of this, it will do tremendous things for the educational system. If we can get a collective bargaining settlement out of this, teachers and boards all over the province won't feel futile or have been given the signal that this is always the end. And the schools will still be open.

Getting the schools open and saving the years for the kids is what we are here for today. The minister understands it and we understand it, and we have accepted it and embraced it. That far we are prepared to come. But we are also prepared to recognize that, having embraced that position, we don't then undermine it and invite a destructive consequence by bringing in a pattern of compulsory arbitration which, let me say, may satisfy things at the moment but sure as the devil doesn't make sense in the long run.

If the minister has worked so hard—and I concede he has—over the last couple of years, trying to make collective bargaining for teachers work, then he should give it one last push within the context of the schools operating. If he has to intervene himself, then he should do so, because he can get a negotiated settlement; and there would be nothing so healthy for the learning process and the educational environment in this metropolitan area than that.

Before I put the actual wording of the amendment—and I think the positions that I describe are contained in it, that the schools would open, that collective bargaining continues and that the floor becomes the last board offer, which was not acceptable but at least guaranteed a means of payment, an interim settlement, which I think, with some exceptions, one of them a very notable columnist, the community by and large would be willing to accept. In fact, the community will consider it unfair that the government is ordering people back to work without any provision whatsoever for some kind of basic floor to the settlement.

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: I don't think the government has done that before. I am working back in

my mind but the minister will recall that the government has used percentage figures in other compulsory arbitration legislation in order to overcome the unfairness which it has now enshrined in this bill. I don't think that is right and we don't think that is right.

Mr. Bullbrook: It's academic because of the government's agreement with the government of Canada. It has given them the right to make the decision.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Whatever may be academic about the floor—and I can't dispute this crazy world we are in, where everything we do is subject to the imprimatur of a Pierre Trudeau and Jean-Luc Pepin: it sits so comfortably with the government—

Mr. Singer: Supported by the Ontario New Democratic Party.

Mr. Lewis: I really think it is time that the minister thought about rescuing the processes of Bill 100; I would like to make a footnote there and then I want to make my last comment, because I have gone on longer than I should.

There are clear weaknesses in Bill 100 which have been identified, and there are obvious difficulties for the Education Relations Commission which have been identified and which, I suspect, they themselves could articulate. But I don't think we should abandon the bill and I don't think we should abandon the commission; I think we should continue to try to make it work. One of the ways of continuing to try to make it work is to get rid of this nonsensical approach of compulsory arbitration and to have a little creative politics over there occasionally, if it is possible, and achieve the government's ends and the community's goals in a way that is vastly more harmonious to society as a whole.

One last word: A lot of us have been very disturbed—and the tone of the Minister of Education's statement today was, I think, the right tone—a lot of us have been pretty disturbed about the way in which the teachers have taken a public clobbering in this dispute equivalent to very few others. If anything can come out of this which can reinstate the educational system in a way which somehow returns to teachers a certain level of self-respect and to the community generally a rather greater level of confidence we've got to find a way to do it. At the moment it is just seething with enmity on all sides; I don't know what that means for

the long term in the educational system but when I pick up the *Globe and Mail* today and see those students wearing those sweaters with those inscriptions on sale at schools, I would not have thought that possible a number of months ago. That's kind of the way the nadir has been reached in all of this. It is time for a collective political rehabilitation and I put to the government that part of that rehabilitation is to allow collective bargaining to render a settlement that will work all around.

Therefore, I intend to move a motion, seconded by my colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), with the best will in the world, feeling that we have arrived at a reasoned amendment.

Mr. Bullbrook: It is a reasoned amendment not a reasonable one. You must understand that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis moved that Bill 1 be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time one hour hence and that it now be referred back to have incorporated therein the following amendments:

Section 1, subsection 1(a), to be deleted and all subsequent clauses of section 1 be renumbered.

Section 2, subsection 2, to be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "During the period from and including the first Monday after the day this Act comes into force until an agreement as defined under the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, comes into effect, no teacher shall take part in a strike against a board of education and no board of education shall lock out a teacher."

Section 3, subsection 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, to be deleted.

Subsection 4 of section 3 to be amended to read as follows: "The parties shall each give written notice to the Minister of Education within seven days after the day this Act comes into force setting out all the matters the parties have agreed upon for inclusion in an agreement and the matters remaining in dispute between the parties, and the notice shall be deemed to be notice to the commission and thereafter, except as provided in section 57 of the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, a party shall not withdraw from the negotiations herein-after provided for."

Section 4, subsections 1 and 2, to be deleted and the following to be substituted therefor:

Subsection 1: "The terms and conditions offered by the boards to the teachers on Dec. 20, 1975, to be implemented on an interim basis."

Subsection 2: "The parties involved are instructed to resume forthwith negotiations in good faith in order to resolve all matters remaining in dispute."

That's the case we put to the government.

Mr. Nixon: We are here to see that the secondary schools of Metropolitan Toronto reopen next Monday and my colleagues and I intend to vote to see that that comes about.

The second thing that must concern us is that there is a fair and equitable settlement. While I have listened to the arguments by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) with care, it is my judgement that continuing negotiation is not a practical means whereby this might be achieved. It is with regret that we feel the time has come for an arbitrated settlement. There is a good deal to be said about the problems that are not of our choosing in this House although there is a remedy in this House for the problems that have been imposed by the Parliament of Canada and by the government of Canada in the Anti-Inflation Board. I will deal with that and my colleagues will deal with that in some detail.

[11:00]

One of the most regrettable situations that we face, however, is one that has already been alluded to and that is the depreciation in the morale and may I say the quality of education associated with this morale which we have seen occurring over the last number of years and it has, in fact, reached a nadir, at least we can't perceive how it could get worse. I can recall very well when I first entered this House in 1962—John Robarts was Minister of Education—the quality of education was not in question anywhere. The teachers considered that we had an enlightened government and enlightened policies in the Department of Education as it then was and I must say, to be fair, that this attitude followed Mr. Robarts' successor, the present Premier.

In those days of course there was no shortage of money. Anything that was for education, for research in education, for television in education, or anything that was associated with the quality of education as it was then understood was provided by this government, and actually provided rather easily compared with our judgement now, by the local boards of education, but it seems to me the deteri-

oration took place probably in 1971. It started then. A significant date, and the Premier knows about that date, and since then it has been all down hill.

In my opinion, and I want to reinforce what the Leader of the Opposition has said, there were at least three occasions when the Minister of Education and the Premier himself could have intruded, if they want to use that word, intruded themselves and their high offices into the negotiations in a way which I believe, with sensitivity and fairness, could have achieved a settlement. They neglected to do that and you may recall, Mr. Speaker, that you yourself brought me to order in the House when, day after day, I raised this matter before the Christmas prorogation. You called me to order for being repetitious. The Minister of Education, in my view, probably under the tutelage of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), had indicated very clearly that this was out of our hands, everything had gone to Ottawa, and what could we do when we were joining in the great fight against inflation; all of the authority and all of the responsibility now resided with the Parliament of Canada and what could we do?

I say, sir, that their decision was incorrect. It remains incorrect and I would suggest to you, sir, that in the future they will have to correct it by establishing some provincial implementation in these matters so that in circumstances that are directly, under the constitution, provincial in their import, will, in fact, be decided by decisions of this House or the emanations of the government that draws its power from this House.

We put that forward strongly as a contention in both the Throne debate and in our views expressed repeatedly to anyone who would listen. We still believe it is true and we believe that there is something rather strange in the fact that two days before this legislation is brought before us, the Treasurer, with fanfare, appears on television and with a flourish says that he has signed an agreement on behalf of the government of Ontario with the government of Canada, handing over completely the responsibility of these negotiations, for admittedly, a limited period of time but certainly for a substantial period of time based only on the authority or order in council OC48-76, dated Jan. 12, without reference to the House, because they knew they could not get the authority from the House because a substantial, a large, a thoughtful majority of this House believes that he and they are wrong in this regard.

Mr. Maeck: He said he was going to go back to the House.

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, what happened to your commitment?

Mr. Nixon: As I say, we are here to reopen the schools; we are here as well to have a settlement with the teachers which in this statute will be imposed, as my colleague has said repeatedly in his interjections and will be saying in his more formal comments in this House, subject to the judgement of another government which may or may not be knowledgeable in education matters, but surely is not going to have those special areas of expertise which are going to be necessary in order to have a proper and fitting settlement in this continuing situation and in the others that will follow, as has already been mentioned, because there will undoubtedly be others following.

I do blame the Minister of Education—who is hard working, and he's told us already about the numbers of meetings—and I blame the Premier for not intruding themselves—they use the word and I will use it as well, why not?—intruding themselves into these negotiations in some effective way. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, and I think you would agree, that there is a residue of respect for the Premier from his days as Minister of Education, those palmy days when we didn't face any of the problems, fiscal or otherwise, that we have to grapple with now. There is a respect there which would have meant that there could have been at least a substantial valid possibility of a solution, and the Premier was afraid to use those powers which he has. I mean those personal powers, not only of his office, but of his former involvement in education. I regret it. I feel that he is afraid he may fail. His justification is that he wants the provisions of Bill 100 to follow their course, which they now have, but I believe that that is a weak excuse for a lack of acceptance of the responsibility that is undoubtedly his.

I don't want to recount the history of the present situation; it has already been referred to rather specifically by the two previous speakers. It goes back a long time. The Reville report, you may recall, Mr. Speaker, evinced from the teachers and other school boards as well that they were politicized at least in realizing that their references to the Premier and to the various opposition parties could put back the thoughts that had been presented to the education community and this Legislature by Judge Reville, and we didn't hear much about that. It was the beginning, I believe, of the understanding of the teachers that their future was, in a large measure, in their own hands and their pro-

professional organizations accepted this responsibility. This whole concept, because of the inadequacies in the government decision and I suppose certain inadequacies in legislation, but I'll come to that in a moment, has led us to this position where we are this morning, dealing with compulsory arbitration.

Bill 100 was the culmination of the work of the government and a lot of hard thought and argument and worry on behalf of at least this opposition party. I believe that Bill 100 is a landmark piece of legislation. We supported it at the time. I have a feeling that the Minister of Education—and I don't know who his allies were—had as much trouble, probably more trouble, with his colleagues in the government of Ontario as he had with anyone else in getting that bill put before this House as government policy.

I believed and I still believe that it was a broad bill and one in which most of the negotiations between teachers and school boards can be accomplished and accomplished with sensitivity and usefulness and to a good and acceptable conclusion. We in the Liberal Party have always felt that among the important responsibilities of membership in this House is the responsibility to vote to end a strike where it is clear that negotiations are not going to result in success and where further negotiations seem to be futile. In our judgment, the negotiations have now proved to be futile in this particular situation.

It is beyond me to recount all of the circumstances that followed from the beginning of negotiations with the committee of board chairmen in Metropolitan Toronto and the representatives of the secondary school teachers' federation. It's true there have been a number of highpaid and expensive mediators, fact-finders and so on. I was amazed to read in the Webster column in the Globe the other day that the mediator or fact-finder, whatever his capacity was at that stage, at one time was being paid at the rate of \$19,000 a month. We've been throwing around loosely \$500 a day. Judy LaMarsh probably settled at too low a figure, and maybe that agreement should be renegotiated under these circumstances.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Are you suggesting it?

An hon. member: It was within the guidelines.

Mr. Singer: Which of her jobs?

Mr. Lewis: It's a good thing that Stanley Hartt made his report before the October announcement.

Mr. Nixon: It seems to me that it's a strange thing for the Leader of the Opposition to be concerned about the costs, in this case, of an arbitrator—and we haven't had an arbitrator yet—when it is evident that the costs of these negotiations have been enormous on the part of the secondary school teachers and on the part of the school board. Where the secondary school teachers probably dig that money out of the contributions from their own membership, the school board gets it from only one source, and that's from the pocketbooks of the taxpayer. I really can't see this appeal to economy by calling for continuing negotiations.

Mr. Reid: That was one of his weaker speeches; it was a weak speech.

Mr. Nixon: It may be that the teachers have a year's lease on those suites in the Prince Hotel—at least they are paying for it themselves—but the school board costs really are astronomical. I think the argument is a weak one and I don't want to stick on it, if the Leader of the Opposition doesn't mind.

Mr. Lewis: Not at all.

Mr. Reid: All his arguments were weak.

Mr. Nixon: But obviously the arbitrator, with the authority granted by the Legislature today or tomorrow, or whenever it is granted, will have to get down to business without delay. I would be interested to know who the arbitrator will be. The minister, in a private meeting yesterday, indicated that he might be able to announce it today. Somebody suggested it would be one of the senior Lewises that would be available, and I would think that that would be an arbitrator who would be eminently acceptable to all concerned.

Mr. Shore: Or maybe the junior one.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to know, is there more than one senior Lewis?

Mr. Lewis: We suggested that some weeks ago; had you done it then, it would have worked.

Mr. Nixon: Well, you know—

An hon. member: It was out of the question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That would be patronage; you can't do that.

Mr. Lewis: Instead of that happy trio over there.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, one of the aspects of Bill 100, which was referred to by both the previous speakers, is the Education Relations Commission; and while the minister has to be respectful toward that commission because he fathered it—

Mr. Foulds: Only figuratively speaking, of course.

Mr. Reid: That's why it was so long in coming.

Mr. Shore: He actually mothered it.

Mr. Nixon: I am corrected; I understand he mothered it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Spoken by a single expert in the field, too.

Mr. Nixon: But it was also referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, who didn't want to be too critical because the chairman is a close, respected friend of his. I don't have any of those restraints. I believe that the Education Relations Commission has been one of the more significant failures in Bill 100. I am not suggesting, as the *Globe and Mail* suggested yesterday, that it be phased out; I believe that its failure has been due, more than anything else, to the lack of vision on the part of the minister and the government in supporting it and utilizing it as, in my view, it must be used in the future. The fact is that of the five members, only three were appointed for a considerable length of time—are there five now?

Mr. Lewis: I think so, yes.

Mr. Nixon: Did they finally make it to five?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: You finally found two more who found two more who are willing to serve. All right. And, as has been pointed out repeatedly by Norman Webster in his column, the chairman was out of town for a good deal of the time and they couldn't even get a quorum. In other words, it was totally ineffective.

Mr. Lewis: That's true.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not true; that's not true.

Mr. Nixon: Oh well, I get my authority from the *Globe and Mail*; the minister can have his argument with Canada's paper of record.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Do you always agree with Webster's column?

Mr. Nixon: I always read it—and so does the Minister of Housing!

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But do you agree with it? It said some unkind things about you.

Mr. Nixon: I agreed with it when it said the Minister of Housing comes a little short of expectation.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are the last guy to make that statement, I tell you.

Mr. Bullbrook: Quit while you are behind, John.

Mr. Singer: It can only get worse, John.

Mr. Bullbrook: You can't do it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest to you, sir, that if there was a failure on the part of the Education Relations Commission, it was because the government did not take it seriously and did not intend to take it seriously. It was set up as a tame group of people who would tell the government when to end the strike so that they would have that particular weak reed to lean upon, and the minister leaned upon it weakly this morning when he said the commission had advised that now—

Mr. Mancini: After two months.

Mr. Nixon: —the educational and academic year of the students was in jeopardy. When you think of the numbers of students in this city who are working on a semester system—and somebody could give me the figure; I am sure the Minister of Education can—

Mr. Shore: Don't count on it.

[11:15]

Mr. Nixon: —to suggest that the accomplishment and success of their semester has not been in jeopardy now for weeks is ridiculous, just ridiculous. The fact that we have no departmental or external examinations means, I suppose, that the teachers or somebody can grant a certificate to anyone who comes back for any number of days. I have felt that the Education Relations Commission itself has been a notable failure in this regard and has almost been a subject of levity in that it convened one meeting, on Saturday, knowing full well, as it must have, that the government was going to bring in legislation to end the strike anyway. It had been announced, for heaven's sake. After great deliberations, hearing from a group of

teachers, a group from the board and a few citizens, they put their heads together and said, "Yes, it is time to end the strike." This allowed the minister to come in and say the government is doing this on the recommendation of that commission. Well, there is a strange kind of osmosis going on there.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government should consider substantially upgrading the role of the Education Relations Commission because it is true that there will be other occasions such as this, if we are unfortunate, and I have a feeling we will be. The Education Relations Commission is going to have to be upgraded so that it becomes very much a counterpart of the Ontario Labour Relations Board in my view. It is here to stay and it has to be considered far more important than it is presently considered. I would suggest very strongly that this occupy the attention of the government and the House in the near future. I believe in the strength and efficacy of Bill 100. I believe the role of the commission and certain other aspects must be amended in the light of our experience in this long negotiation.

As I have said, I too have been deeply concerned about the role of the Anti-Inflation Board. Representatives of all three parties have said they believe the economy of this province and of Canada must have some sort of control measures of this type to offset and control the ravages of inflation. I have no complaint whatsoever with the initiatives taken by the Parliament of Canada. Anyway, it doesn't matter whether I have. They have been taken, and the Anti-Inflation Board is in place.

I do say again that it is unfair and irrelevant and, as my colleagues keep saying, illegal and unconstitutional that the tremendous authority and responsibility that are vested in this House by the constitution be handed over simply by a mimeographed statement from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), which I understand he is going to table later today. This is a matter of substantial concern and we want to deal with that at some length later in this debate.

I personally believe and have said before that it is the responsibility of the Minister of Education, and perhaps the Premier as well, to involve himself with the teachers' professional organizations and their spokesmen and the school boards and their spokesmen, to go to Ottawa and assist them in getting a ruling that will allow this kind of a settlement to take place now and to remove the uncertainty which has been so seriously dislocating negotiations among teachers and

others in the public field across this Province of Ontario.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, one of the points we made from this side of the House last fall was that either the Minister of Education should go himself or, if the Premier wants to participate, the government could ask or I suppose even summon the representatives of that federal board to come to Ontario so that, failing the establishment of provincial implementation itself, we would know how we could deal with these circumstances as they affect us in this province.

Some of the provisions of the bill itself have concerned us and we, as a caucus, will be dealing with this in some detail when the bill comes before the committee of the whole House. The whole matter of the arbitrator having responsibility for a two-year term is of some concern. The minister's comments privately to me and to others were that, if it were not for a two-year term, it would mean that within the next few days notice could be given, and undoubtedly would be given by the representatives of OSSTF to the Toronto boards, that they wanted to begin negotiation for next year's settlement.

I've got this ambivalence in that though I've been talking for provincial implementation of the anti-inflation provisions, the government has adamantly refused to do so. Although there is a real chance of change in the future, I believe we are left directly under the supervision and the direction of the federal Anti-Inflation Board. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that the terms of reference and the specific aspects of the law call for a limitation for salary increases during the first year following the implementation of the anti-inflation legislation. In the first year the increase is to be eight per cent. You may have forgotten about that figure because they say there can be another two per cent for productivity, which makes it 10. There is another two per cent for catch-up which can make it 12. Then there is a certain other area which has no limit, apparently, which is for historical connections and that sort of thing—and the fact that the agreement is more than two years old.

Without going into the argument as to what the settlement for Toronto should be, the federal law called for the first year to be controlled by an eight per cent increase—with all of those changes that I have referred to. But for the second year it is quite clear that the increase is going to be six per cent and for the third year the increase is going to be four per cent. As far as I can see in the

legislation, there is very little judgement left. There is very little flexibility left which has been given to the board to be used during the phasing-in period of the anti-inflation procedures.

The thing I put to you, Mr. Speaker, is that it may not be necessary to have this bill apply for a second year since, if we are going to be governed by this agreement in this province, signed by the Treasurer and the representatives of the government of Canada, the increase for the second year is limited by law to six per cent. While there can be negotiations and arguments about the salary base and everything else, really the arbitration has already been accomplished by federal legislation. So, I would suggest that the effectiveness of the second year is, in my opinion, in question.

I am also very much aware of the argument that has been put—as I say, privately, by the Minister of Education—that it could efficiently settle the situation, and probably to the benefit of the teachers as well, over the second year. Before saying to you, Mr. Speaker, that we intend to amend that area, I would look forward to hearing from the minister, or other representatives of the government, in this connection.

We are prepared to vote for the principle of the bill. We believe the schools must be opened. We believe that the arbitration is necessary when we look at the history and tradition—the history, particularly—of this negotiation.

I now want to deal very briefly with the amendment that has been put forward by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis). It appears that the problems that he referred to earlier in his statement—I suppose he wouldn't think of them as problems but simply strikes—that the traditions of his caucus is very much against supporting this type of legislation and has led to this amendment. In fact, it means that they will vote against second reading—and the justification is that it should have been done another way.

You will know, Mr. Speaker, that under our rules, as I understand them, we do not vote on the amendment. The question you will put to us will be: "Will the bill now be read a second time?" That is the time when members have got to stand and say if they are voting in favour of the principle of the end of the strike or not.

Mr. Deans: No, no.

Mr. Nixon: All right. It's up to the NDP to explain their particular position.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you think about it?

Mr. Nixon: It's ambivalent. They are trying to have it both ways.

Mr. Bullbrook: They're going to vote against the bill.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Mr. Nixon: They are going to stand in this House and vote against the bill and then go out and tell everybody that, really, they are in favour of the power of the Legislature being used to end the strike—and that's their job.

Mr. Singer: Sure—expediency gives way to principle, or vice versa.

Mr. Nixon: I've had things like that to explain before and I know it is very difficult—so lots of luck. But, essentially, and I give the NDP credit for this—

Mr. Renwick: You've never thought anything through before.

Mr. Nixon: —that they have said, on the philosophy of their party, they do not come into the House to vote for this sort of legislation. I can't recall an occasion when they have; although their leader has certainly said—and I've heard him say—that they believe in compulsory arbitration for essential services—although some of his people during the election said otherwise; but that's another matter.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you read the amendment?

Mr. Nixon: I would simply like to say to you, sir, because we all have to explain our positions—

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you read the amendment?

Mr. Nixon: —that when you, sir, put the question the question is: "Shall this bill be read a second time?" And we are going to vote yes.

Mr. Foulds: Is this your main speech?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to speak very briefly on second reading. However, I think it's appropriate in a bill of this nature and, as serious as is the step being proposed by the government to the members of this House, that some few words are expressed. I think I can fairly state that it is with some regret that this bill is being discussed by members of this House. This government, with the support of mem-

bers opposite, passed Bill 100. It was our expectation that this in fact would resolve the traditional problems of teacher-board negotiations. Very few people recall that so much of this in the past had been done basically by way of practice or tradition that there was little by way of legislation governing the teacher-board negotiations. I can recall even becoming involved in one negotiation here in Metro—I think it was in 1969 or 1970—where we were very close to a possible resignation situation, and it was after very considerable debate and a great deal of soul-searching on the part of government that Bill 100 was introduced and passed.

I share the concerns expressed to me today by many people. I won't minimize it; I don't think there is any question that the present economic situation, the policy determinations being made by the federal government—incidentally, and I am not going to be a hypocrite about it, we have said things needed to be done long prior to those statements made by the government of Canada—I don't think there is any question that this has had some effect on the traditional bargaining procedures. It has had some impact in terms of some of the teacher-board negotiations that have been going on throughout this province. I don't minimize it.

We are faced today with a situation where I think the members of this House are called upon, in conscience, to set aside some of these traditional postures, some of these considerations that all of us feel very important, and recognize one very basic fact; that is, that we do have a responsibility to 140,000 young people in the educational system in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Lewis: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I recall very vividly the words used by the minister when Bill 100 was introduced; he quoted them here today and I could almost quote them without reading them—

Mr. Foulds: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He said, without question, that as far as the government was concerned—and I would like to think he spoke for all members of this House—while we anticipated and eagerly hoped that the procedures outlined by Bill 100 in fact would solve the problems, that we did not preclude our responsibility being called upon to be discharged in terms of seeing that the educational system was not unduly disrupted.

The leader of the Liberal Party can speak in a very critical fashion of the Education

Relations Commission. I would like to introduce him to the chairman of that commission, who is sitting in the gallery. I have had no great personal involvement in terms of their deliberations, etc., but I think to say that it has not been effective, that it hasn't attempted to do a job, really is an unfair criticism of the commission.

Mr. Nixon: I said you didn't support them properly. You didn't even appoint a full commission.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think that when we look at Metropolitan Toronto—and no one minimizes the importance—the fact is the commission has been extremely helpful in a number of situations in bringing conclusions to a number of negotiations throughout this province which we tend to overlook.

Now, I am not going to try to have it both ways—

Mr. Shore: You have been doing it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are not comfortable with having to do what we are doing. I don't think any of us in this House is. All of us would like to have seen this matter concluded by way of negotiations—

Mr. Deans: Why does it have to be one way or the other?

Mr. Lewis: What is this black-and-white interpretation of the situation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but the fact is that this has not occurred.

Mr. Lewis: It could if you intervened.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not here to lay blame or responsibility. I know the Leader of the Opposition would like to try to put some of that on my shoulders. That's fine. That's politics. He talks about political leadership—well, I am not calling him a hypocrite—I wouldn't use that terminology—

Mr. Shore: Never.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but I say the position of the New Democratic Party on this issue is contradictory. Their amendment poses no solution.

Mr. Lewis: Certainly it does.

Mr. Reid: It is unlawful; that's what it is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They are taking away the right to strike at the same time as they are trying to have it both ways in terms of their position. No question at all about that.

Mr. Lewis: You are suggesting a settlement that will preserve a system for you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know, when I try to follow the logic of his position and his party's position, I think back to just how convoluted the former Prime Minister of Canada, Mackenzie King, even with his crystal ball, used to be, and I have decided there is clarity in his approach to these things compared to the position of the New Democratic Party in this province on this particular issue.

Mr. Bullbrook: How did you get Mackenzie King into the act?

[11:30]

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know, Mr. Speaker, you can't say that you are going to legislate an end to a strike at the same time as you say you want to have this continue. You can't have it both ways.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brampton has the floor.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to know how he got Mackenzie King into the Act.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have a great feeling for history.

An hon. member: He's the arbitrator.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You may recommend him as the arbitrator, somebody said.

Mr. Wildman: A well-known Liberal.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't always, on educational matters, find myself in agreement with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon)—have I all the constituencies?—but on this occasion, on the one aspect of it, I do.

I was encouraged by his observation that they are going to support the bill on second reading, that is the essence of it; and secondly, that it must be done with some sense of urgency.

Mr. Speaker, the position of this government is very clear. We are faced with a shutdown of the school system of Metropolitan Toronto; negotiations have been carried out under Bill 100, they have not worked—

Mr. Deans: Worked? They haven't been given a chance.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We have a responsibility as members of this House to put the school system back to work as of Monday morning.

Mr. Lewis: You could get a settlement.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will say this to the members of the House, I'll make this undertaking right now: if the parties agree prior to third reading of this bill that they have come to a negotiated settlement—

Mr. MacDonald: Oh.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —I'll get the House leader to move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Lewis: Had the Premier tried to do that it would have happened.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will be delighted.

Mr. Renwick: Will the Premier delay third reading?

Hon. Mr. Davis: But you know it isn't going to happen. You know it isn't going to happen. All the rhetoric in the world, I say to the leader of the New Democratic Party—

Mr. Lewis: Why should it not happen? Why don't we try to make it happen?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have never seen him struggling more in this House trying to rationalize with his own conscience the petition that he put before us today; I really haven't. I say that, but I say it very kindly.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know what he has gone through for seven hours plus.

Mr. Reid: This must be his weakest hour; the Leader of the Opposition's weakest hour.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I sympathize with him, but it is time to stand up and be counted; it is time not to try to have it both ways.

Mr. Martel: We will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to say something else, Mr. Speaker. I will assume any criticism that comes to me—that's part of my job—but I want to say this about the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells): I think he has done a first-class job in endeavouring to resolve the dispute here in Metropolitan Toronto. I am not talking just about the time that he has put in and the leadership he has given but the conscience he has demonstrated; his resistance to coming down on one side or the other in terms, I think, of statements that might affect the long-term interest of the school system in this community. I think he deserves our congratulations. I don't ask you to stand up and applaud but I want the record—

Mr. Foulds: Oh no.

Mr. Roy: Oh no.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I don't. But I tell you it is not a simple responsibility in this day and age, and I just want the members of this House to know that as Premier, responsible for the overall direction of this government, which I never try to shirk, that I think the Minister of Education of this province, in this situation, has done an excellent and first-class job and I have no hesitation in saying so.

Mr. Bullbrook: Are there any medals?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think you will agree with me in the process.

Mr. Singer: Why doesn't the Premier get him to build houses because that is not working so well either?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into the various provisions of the bill. They are simple; they are relatively short. We are interested in equity.

Mr. Makarchuk: Simple is right.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think this is a way in which equity can be achieved. I know the leader—

Mr. Lewis: Equity? You are taking them to compulsory arbitration.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know that to satisfy their own problems members of the opposition talk about another arbitrator. Mr. Speaker, part of the equity, part of the need in the long term interest of the school system, is also to bring some finality to it. Their amendment solves nothing.

Mr. Deans: Neither does the Premier's bill, incidentally.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Their amendment solves nothing; it solves nothing and they know it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brampton has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't intend to prolong this part of the debate. I may have some observations on certain sections of the bill, but I would urge the Leader of the Opposition, because there are some hours left, to reconsider carefully the—

Mr. Lewis: Not at all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —reasoned but unreasonable amendment that he has proposed to second reading on this bill.

Mr. Singer: We are going to be expedient.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I urge him to join with the other members of this House and unanimously say to the people of Ontario, particularly the people of Metropolitan Toronto, yes we do care about those 140,000 students and we want them back in school Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Mr. Renwick: Why doesn't the Premier take the several hours that are necessary to think creatively?

Mr. Lewis: This could be quite an enjoyable day.

Mr. MacDonald: Before the Premier goes, I want to make sure if he is going out for a moment of relaxation that somebody gives him a copy of our reasoned amendment. He obviously hasn't read it. He may have a copy but he hasn't read it, because his peroration, his final comment, was that what he wants the New Democratic Party to do is to join with the government in making sure the schools will open. Will he read the reasoned amendment? It is that the schools will open on Monday.

Mr. Martel: The Premier is dragging a red herring through it.

Mr. MacDonald: Let that sink in.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: That brings me to two points I want to make at the very outset. In that account of the events that built up to the introduction of this bill, the minister had one place where I want to suggest to him he was at least premature. He said he had come to the conclusion that further negotiations held no prospect of a resolution of the impasse. Yet this morning we had the most intransigent member of the negotiating committee on the board side, namely the chairman of the board, saying there was an outside possibility that it may happen.

I am sure the minister knows that almost paralleling the seven hours in which the New Democratic caucus was meeting, the chairmen of the boards were meeting last night. And according to the news this morning, they are meeting again this morning because they think there is a solution possible.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: The Premier intervened to begin to cover his flank by saying, if perchance a negotiated settlement is reached before the third reading of this bill, he would be glad to withdraw the bill.

Do you know what that adds up to, Mr. Speaker? It adds up to this, that a negotiation is possible. If this government had intervened at some point and exercised the good office of either the minister or the Premier, perhaps some of that intransigence that unfortunately develops in negotiations of this nature could have been overcome earlier; and indeed it may, because of the threat of the legislation, be overcome now.

What I want to do is to emphasize the salient points of our reasoned amendment and try to get the impact of it across both to the government and to the leader of the third party, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) because, quite frankly, in terms of the objectives that he states, I think our reasoned amendment is going to meet them, I would hope, in a way that he would find more satisfactory than what the government is now doing. I ask him just to listen and I hope I can persuade him.

Mr. Nixon: I will listen. I always listen.

Mr. Martel: He is a reasonable man.

Mr. MacDonald: Let me reiterate once again, because if the Premier didn't grasp it it is just possible that somebody else throughout this House hasn't grasped it, that the primary objective of the reasoned amendment is that the current disarray and collapse of the school system in Metropolitan Toronto shall be ended as of next Monday morning. The schools will be open. The teachers will be back. So don't drag in irrelevancies, as though that isn't in the amendment. It is there. It is point one in the amendment.

However, we feel that it is possible to meet this reality, this pressing need, and yet at the same time do something about protecting, restoring and placing back into operation the whole free collective bargaining process. In light of the comments from Mr. Ross this morning, we have at least a glimmer of hope that with a little push it can be an effective collective bargaining process.

We don't want to destroy the whole operation of Bill 100. We have growing misgivings about certain aspects of Bill 100 which at an appropriate time, at another time, we would like to discuss, because I think experience has suggested where it can be strengthened, where it has been misinterpreted and where perhaps

it is being misused. For the moment, we don't need to.

We want to restore Bill 100 to make certain that it isn't shattered because of the whole trauma of this one strike in Metropolitan Toronto. The Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) is correct in reminding us that Bill 100 has been a useful vehicle in getting settlements. I don't know what the exact number is now, but even before Christmas it was something like 60 to 70 different settlements across the Province of Ontario. That's a fairly good record in view of only one strike here that has caused all these difficulties.

However, there are two or three other clauses in the bill to which I want to refer and throw them into the context of our reasoned amendment. As the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has pointed out, it seems to me that the government is inviting a perpetuation of all of the bitterness and the uncertainty, that has characterized the latter stages particularly of these negotiations, by not having in the bill some assurance that the arbitrator is not going to be able to come back with a settlement which conceivably could be lower than the last board offer. In our view that is an unnecessary kind of uncertainty. Therefore, our reasoned amendment is suggesting that that should be included in the bill so that we eliminate the uncertainty and so that the teachers can go back to the schools feeling that they haven't been battered by absolutely everybody in the community—a situation which is going to create tension and a whole jeopardizing of the operation of the educational system.

There are two other weaknesses in the bill. One has to do with a rather mixed reaction to the proposition of the two-year term. I'll be very frank, at one point in considering our reasoned amendment we gave some consideration to the proposition that it should be for only a one-year term. But if we are going to send the parties back to bargain, it seems to me that whether or not it is going to be a two-year term or a one-year term is something that they can and should settle as part of the collective bargaining process, because the relationship of one year to another is a very integral part of negotiations in many instances. So while we are inclined to believe that one year is appropriate rather than two, we think that should be left to the collective bargaining process.

Another weakness, and I want to speak to this for at least five minutes or so, is the whole position of the government with regard to the AIB. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, they really have established a

process of appointing an arbitrator who's going to come in with a binding and compulsory arrangement, presumably, when in fact he has no power at all.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's right.

Mr. MacDonald: He is going to come up with a solution that then goes off to Ottawa. You're making a mockery of the whole process, even of compulsory arbitration let alone normal collective bargaining. It seems to me there's some obligation in the part of the government to stand up and be counted—if I may borrow the phraseology of the Premier—to stand up and be counted on this issue. Are they going to let the arbitrator come in with some sort of a settlement and then send it off to the AIB and let the AIB turn the whole thing down?

Mr. Bullbrook: That's exactly what they intend doing.

Mr. MacDonald: Just pause for a moment and consider the situation we would have in the Province of Ontario or in the schools in Metro if that kind of an eventuality were to take place.

I want to remind the Minister of Education that back about mid-December I asked the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) whether or not, in the agreement that Ontario was negotiating with Ottawa, any consideration was being given to having included in that agreement a residual or reserve power on the part of the cabinet in the Province of Ontario to overrule the decision of the AIB under unique circumstances where it felt, for a variety of reasons, that settlement should be accepted even though it may be in breach of the guidelines.

I was rather interested in the reply of the provincial Treasurer. His comment was that he thought he detected the concern that was in the mind of the questioner and he wanted to assure me that he shared that concern, but he felt it should be left with Ottawa. Now that the agreement has been signed we find that it has been left with Ottawa, but not completely, Mr. Speaker, and this I want to draw to the attention of the House. It's interesting that as far as wages are concerned this government has completely handed over the power to the AIB; but when it came to prices, what the government has done is to establish in the notification section of the agreement with Ottawa the fact that under certain circumstances if the AIB wants to review an agreement that has been reached it will have to notify the appropriate minister in this government, and the appropriate minister will

then give them permission to review it if he deems it advisable. That is in reference to six different sections.

1. Those portions of the provincial public sector in respect of which any price or profit margin is effected or regulated in a manner referred to in subsection 4(1), subsection 1 of the federal Act;

2. The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission;

3. The Ontario Food Terminal Board;

4. The Ontario Stock Yards Board;

5. The Algonquin Forestry Authority;

6. The Ontario Transportation Development Corp.

In other words, if this government saw fit in those six different areas to say in effect that the AIB was not going to have final power, I want to ask this government why, in exceptional circumstances, to be decided on an ad hoc basis on a careful assessment of their merits or demerits, the province shouldn't exercise that power on the wages side as well as on the prices side.

[11:45]

How the government were to achieve that I don't know, but at least it seems to me that if a settlement is possible through the arbitrator that the government is going to appoint, the prospect that when a settlement is brought down, that settlement may be turned down by the AIB is an intolerable proposition. If we have difficulties now, they are going to be immeasurably compounded. It seems to me the government has to stand up and be counted, at least to say that when the arbitrator comes down with a decision, if that has to be reviewed before the AIB, then the government will indicate it is willing to go down and use its good offices to persuade the AIB that that decision should be accepted. In fact, I would go further—I think it should be an amendment to the agreement, but that's another matter at the moment.

In fact, just as a concluding comment on this point, when the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) intervened during the course of the remarks of the minister and referred to the role of the AIB, the minister chose his words very carefully. He said it would be referred "for consideration" of the AIB; he didn't say "for decision" of the AIB, and I quite frankly am a wee bit puzzled. Was that choice of word meaningful? Has the government got something in the back of its mind with regard to exceptional circumstances, that isn't a part of the contract or the agreement at the present time? As I understand it now, when it is referred to

the AIB it isn't for consideration. Anything on the wages side or on the salary side, when it is referred to the AIB, it is for a decision. I invite the minister to clarify that point.

Mr. Speaker, just let me conclude my remarks, because there are many people who want to speak and I think we can make our points rather briefly. I want to address remarks first to the government, and then secondly to the members of the Liberal Party. The Premier (Mr. Davis) said to us that the time has come to set aside traditional postures. What I want to point out to the government and particularly to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), since he is the only minister deeply involved who is now here to listen to my remarks—

Mr. Martel: No one is even listening.

Mr. MacDonald: —is that the New Democratic Party has departed from traditional postures, make no mistake about it. The position of the New Democratic Party traditionally has been against back-to-work legislation, and our reasoned amendment because of the situation in Metro at the present time accepts the proposition that back-to-work legislation and the opening of the schools are a necessity. They are a necessity that the overwhelming majority of the people in the community wants; indeed, they are a necessity that I am persuaded the overwhelming majority of the teachers wants, as well as the community. We have dealt with the point and it is not part of our normal posturing, if one wants to use that pejorative term.

However, we went one step forward. We feel that the government can get the school system back into operation, but it doesn't need to do that and still persist in the use of compulsory arbitration for all of the reasons that have already been spelled out by my leader and that I alluded to earlier. If it has compulsory arbitration in this kind of a situation, it will be recognized that this is down the road, not too far down the road, not only in negotiations that are taking place in many other places across the Province of Ontario between school boards and teachers, but in general collective bargaining across the province. In short, what the government is going to do is to erode the principles of free collective bargaining.

The Premier said that it was time for the New Democratic Party to stand up and be counted. We are going to stand up and be counted. We are going to vote against second reading of this bill because we don't think that it is necessary to have back-to-work legislation, if one wants to use that termi-

nology, accompanied with compulsory arbitration.

We have accepted the back-to-work move because we feel that the schools must be open. We feel, along with the minister and everybody else, that we can't continue to set this aside when the interests and the prospects and the concerns of parents and those 140,000 students are at stake. We have met that in our reasoned amendment and we're going to stand up and be counted on it and we invite the government members not to try to have it both ways themselves.

It's easy for the Premier to indulge in rhetoric and say to the NDP, "Don't have it both ways." Let me say to the government it can't have it both ways; it can't go around preaching that it is really in favour of free collective bargaining when it has a means by which it can restore and establish the operation of free collective bargaining, and instead it is determined to use compulsory arbitration.

Let me just say a brief word if I might to my legislative colleagues in the Liberal Party. They indicated that they want the schools open.

Mr. Bullbrook: Should I get Bob Nixon back?

Mr. MacDonald: Well, I would hope so. You indicated that you wanted the schools open. We agree. The reasoned amendment in its first consideration will open the schools. You said that you wanted equity in the agreement. Do you think you are going to get equity by sending it out to an arbitrator when he hasn't even got the obligation to start from a minimum level of the last board offer? Do you think that kind of uncertainty, that sense among all the teachers of what's been the purpose of this whole exercise is going to create the kind of atmosphere that will restore a healthy operation to the educational system? I don't see how you feel it can. Therefore, it seems to me the reasoned amendment is meeting the points. You are going to open the schools, you are going to send the parties back to negotiation, as indeed they are now in a process of negotiation, at least the board chairmen—

Mr. Speaker: Oder please, will the hon. member address his remarks through the Chair rather than at other particular members?

Mr. Bullbrook: I thought he was romancing me for a while.

Mr. MacDonald: Do you feel better over there?

I always assumed that any remarks that I was addressing to anybody in this House were going through the Chair. I'll have to speak to the Speaker sometime, to assure him that that's the case all the time, whether he recognizes it or not.

Mr. Renwick: Imagine being derailed by a colleague.

Mr. MacDonald: Yes, I invite the Liberal Party to reconsider its position and support the reasoned amendment, because I suggest to them, Mr. Speaker, through you, that all of the objectives that they have enunciated are going to be met. The schools will be opened but they will be opened with a greater assurance of equity. I would like to believe that the Liberal Party also wants to have the free collective bargaining process protected, not eroded.

Mr. Bullbrook: I thought the right to strike was part of the free collective bargaining process.

Mr. MacDonald: That can be done. Since the intransigence in the latter stages seem to be primarily on the board's side, where the board said that there could not be another single change after the vote taken by the teachers about a week ago, and now they are considering some of those changes, I invite the Liberal Party to support the reasoned amendment so that we can let the free collective bargaining process go on.

In short, we will achieve the two paramount objectives of the bill as enunciated by the minister and of our reasoned amendment; namely, that we'll get the schools back into operation, and we'll do it with equity, but we're going to do it by making certain that we protect some of the principles that we pay lip service to at least, sometimes in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a few comments to the House on this subject. I'll speak in support of the legislation and will also speak in opposition to the amendment that has been offered by the NDP.

We are here, and all of us are involved in what is undoubtedly a very hard decision to make. In my own case, I know that less than eight months ago, as chairman of a large urban board, I spoke in favour—and would continue to do so—of the right of teachers to strike. I believe in it. I think we recognized at the point in time when we were deliberating—from our point of view—the problems that could exist in Bill 100 and the situa-

tions that could develop. We knew that, sooner or later, in all likelihood this situation would arise and the Legislature would probably have to deliberate this kind of question.

In the Act, the part that gave us some confidence that it would really still protect the one part of the system that is important to us, namely the students, was that the commission had the authority to make these kinds of suggestions to the government, through the Lieutenant Governor, and that they could be acted upon. I don't think any of us would disagree that there is only one reason why we are here today and that is to bring some kind of order back into the careers and programmes that the 140,000 students in Metro Toronto embarked upon when they began this school year. If we're convinced that the continued delays in this process will cause irreparable damage, then I think that we would be less than responsible if we did not vote to send them back.

I've had discussions with a great many people in the Metro area, as well as some from outside, as to what effect this period of eight weeks has had on the ability to continue these programmes. I find none that would disagree that it has already reached what must be a terminal point. The arguments have been presented to the ERC, and nobody there took the view that we were not placing the students' programmes in jeopardy.

The general thoughts are that if we act quickly at this point in time it is possible—through the proper utilization of the remaining period—that they can complete a full year's programme.

But that would need, and I would hope receive, a very high degree of co-operation and a maximum effort at all levels—the trustees, the teachers, the administrators, the students; and the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), if he should be called on in any manner. Everyone must work, hopefully in a very positive manner, to accomplish these things. It is a large period of time which must be made up. In my mind, unquestionably, if it is delayed any further this will not be possible.

I have a few thoughts about the negotiation process, because we believe in the negotiation process and in Bill 100. We have been negotiating this agreement for just under a year. I believe, in a matter of a day or two, we will mark the first anniversary of discussions on this contract. The introduction of Bill 100 obviously put some delays into this while people became familiar with the bill, but all of the steps that were outlined and were put in to guide the path of sane nego-

tiations have been met. We have gone through, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has said, numerous outside interventions at various levels—from mediators and arbitrators—and none of these has worked. [12:00]

We must also assess the delays resulting from the intervention of the Anti-Inflation Board, with its opinion on the offer that was suggested. There is no question that this had a very detrimental effect on the negotiating process. But having some thoughts about the negotiating process and having been involved where outside intervention came in, I think we have to reach a point where we must make a decision as to whether we will make real progress. I don't think that that is possible in a very short period of time, so that I have to weigh the judgement that any delays of a significant nature once again will affect the students and I then must support this kind of legislation.

I would not criticize either party to the negotiations, either the trustees or the teachers. I am sure there are problems that have existed on both sides. I think it is fair though that a certain degree of criticism should be addressed to the Minister of Education and the Premier (Mr. Davis), and through them to the ERC. I believe, as has been stated before that there is great power in the high office of Premier of this province and in the Minister of Education.

I believe that Bill 100, in this case and perhaps in cases that will follow, has some political value. It provides a shield, if you will, so that the Minister of Education can stand in this Legislature and say, "I can't get involved in that because the ERC is an independent body." I suggest that if you look at the staff of it, Mr. Speaker, it's not too independent. But the Education Relations Commission has, if anything, to be criticized on its inactivity in the early stages especially. The minister told us shortly after these strikes started that the ERC would be holding public hearings; I think the date when that statement was made was Nov. 24. I suggest that leaving it to Jan. 9 was not very expedient and did nothing to help the whole process.

The problem that arises is that there were things inherent in Bill 100 that we recognized and will have to come to grips with later, but now is not the time to do this. In Ontario, there are other strikes which we hope will not have to be settled by this same process of legislation.

An hon. member: They will be.

Mr. Ferris: But, I am sure if you take a realistic look we will in all likelihood be back here to take the same action in some other jurisdiction.

Mr. Foulds: I will be looking forward to your ensuring that.

Mr. Ferris: Finally, I would close simply by saying that we understand the problems of the students. If we are, in fact, going to take the responsibility for the education of these children that we are charged with, I think there is no choice but to legislate them back at this point in time.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I rise as one of those Toronto members who has been suffering through very many phone calls for weeks now. It hasn't been easy for us to accept those phone calls, particularly those very many calls from frustrated parents, who suggest in some cases, as do those on the other side of the House, that the Minister of Education has not played an active enough role and has not played that sort of role which I suppose the public somehow remembers from Mr. Mackasey. Of course, the clear distinction in the two situations very often escapes the frustrated parent in that our Minister of Education of course was not a party to those negotiations.

Mr. Wildman: He should have been.

Mr. Grossman: That's exactly the point that the opposition has been making. They keep saying that he should have been. And yet the Leader of the Opposition has made very clear the fact that Bill 100 has been followed through all of its processes; he has acknowledged that the Minister of Education got the fact-finder working appropriately, got Mr. Hartt involved at a very early stage, and has seen to it that the process worked itself through.

They have been standing through the first session of this Legislature and pleading day after day for the Minister of Education or the Premier to get involved somehow—some magical, mythical way—in those negotiations. But if we had ended up back here today in any event, as we almost certainly would have, can you imagine the screaming over there? Can you imagine the Leader of the Opposition standing up and saying—as only he can say—"For goodness sake, when are you Tories going to learn the lessons about free labour negotiations? When are you Tories going to learn that if you had just stayed out this wouldn't have happened?"

Mr. Mackenzie: It is called collective bargaining.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: He would be standing up and instead of saying today, as he is able to say, "If you had just intervened at the appropriate psychological time, it would have been settled"—he would instead be standing up here today and saying: "Why did you intervene at that inappropriate, psychological time when they were so close to settlement?"

He has told us several times in his remarks today—

Mr. Renwick: Don't waste the time of the House on this idle speculation on your part.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eaton: He is right on. That's the way you play it all the time.

Mr. Grossman: That's the way it is. Whatever happens it has got to be the Minister of Education's fault.

Mr. Renwick: Debate the principle of the bill. If he wants to debate the principle of the bill, debate the principle of the bill; don't speculate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: If he got in—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Renwick: Don't engage in fantasies.

Mr. Riddell: Have we hit one of your nerve ends?

Mr. Eaton: Right on.

Mr. Grossman: So I want to say this: As one of those who has had a difficult time explaining the workings of a complicated bill, and the negotiations between two parties, I have had no hesitancy in saying to my many callers that this Minister of Education has stuck to the principle of Bill 100, and right through to this very moment has stuck to every principle of the free, collective bargaining system—

Mr. Makarchuk: He is stuck, period.

Mr. Grossman: —and as Bill 100 was set up to allow to operate.

Mr. Wildman: You believe that Bill 100 ends with arbitration.

Mr. Grossman: Our friends opposite go on to say, "Why appoint an arbitrator? He has no power at all. It has got to go to Ottawa and Pepin"—who is their new straw villain in the piece; and they try to associate him with us. "Why appoint an arbitrator"—

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: It's a tough morning for them. Barrett had a tough time, too.

Mr. Cassidy: You signed the agreement. You associated yourselves.

Mr. Renwick: This is the agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: Crawled into bed with them.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Grossman: They suggest that the arbitrator has no power at all.

Mr. Eaton: You can tell when you are getting to them.

Mr. Grossman: Why does he have no power? They go on to say that he has no power because it has to go to Ottawa; it has to go to Pepin—therefore the arbitrator has no power. There is nothing up in Ottawa now on behalf of the teachers and the board—there is no settlement; there is no contract for approval.

Mr. Foulds: There is nothing up in Ottawa, that is true.

Mr. Grossman: And if this legislation before us today results in a proposed settlement—an arbitrated settlement to go to that board—then we are a heck of a lot closer to solving the problem than we are without the arbitrator.

The opposition would say: "Go ahead, send them back"—but then just let them go and sit in a room from now until forever.

Mr. Deans: No; meet with them.

Mr. Grossman: That is no power at all. What is power is saying to an arbitrator: "Here it is; we are giving you 30 days. And, of course, like everyone else in this country, everyone else in this province"—

Mr. Martel: You let Ottawa prove it.

Mr. Grossman: —"of course you are going to have to go to Ottawa; but that is not a new rule for you."

Mr. Wildman: Oh, come on.

Mr. Grossman: That is not a new rule for Bill 100.

Mr. Cassidy: You can try to outlaw strikes. Is that what you favour?

Mr. Grossman: What we are saying clearly is that when the opposition says—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Grossman: —when the opposition says the arbitrator has no power, that, to use the words of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), is what is “true falderal”. That is how we are going to get to a final settlement. They may not like the way we get there—through arbitration—but don’t suggest that that there is no power at all for the arbitrator.

I listened to the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) when he said, “If you go for compulsory arbitration you are eroding a basic principle.” He said, “You are eroding the principles of collective bargaining.”

It is funny how we are only eroding principles on certain matters sensitive to the opposition; but when it comes—

Mr. Deans: That is nonsense.

Mr. Grossman: —to things as mentioned by the member for Ottawa Centre—

Mr. Foulds: That is what Cassidy is, yes.

Mr. Grossman: When his incredible positions on the Landlord and Tenant Act amendments and the Rent Review Act were before us, that wasn’t eroding any basic principles. No, that wasn’t eroding any principles, but today, because in one—

Mr. Cassidy: That was advancing principle as a matter of a fact, and you took half of those that we proposed.

Mr. Grossman: —drastic, serious set of circumstances when we have to get a settlement—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if the hon. member would return to the principle of this bill.

Mr. Grossman: Very good.

Mr. Makarchuk: He hasn’t started. How can he return?

Mr. Grossman: Finally, the principle has been referred to by members of the opposition as being one which fails and their amendment deals with setting some base for the

arbitrator to deal with. We know our friends in the opposition have been paying closer attention to what’s been happening than for them to come here and suggest that the arbitrator doesn’t know what’s happening and that there is no place for him to start. It’s a fraud on the public for the opposition to come here and say we here have to establish a base for the arbitrator to go to work. There is a clear base. Everyone knows the latest two positions. Everyone knows the last offer. That’s a base, and any arbitrator worth the money we are going to pay him and he is going to earn is clearly going to know the parameters within which he is going to have to reach an arbitrated, sensible conclusion.

Mr. Cassidy: Fine. Put the parameters in the bill.

Mr. Deans: Don’t be ridiculous.

Mr. Grossman: So the amendment is obviously hiding behind a suggestion that the arbitrator doesn’t know what’s been happening and he needs some sort of base to work on in order to do their usual two-way street double talk both ways. Let’s be winners on both sides of this dispute.

Mr. Cassidy: What is significant is that you left the parameters out this time.

Mr. Grossman: That’s why the amendment is an expected one. The legislation is a reasonable piece of legislation. It’s simple, it allows the parties to reach a settlement, arbitrated albeit yes, 30 days and away you go like everyone else to Ottawa, but to suggest that the amendment proposed by the opposition would assist this procedure is fraudulent and I am happy to say that our minister, consistent with the way he has handled these negotiations, is allowing a resolution to the dispute which will not have any deleterious effects on the schools.

I really can’t sit down without mentioning the fact that there has been some suggestion, both by individual teachers and parents, and by the press I suppose, that there will be less dedication in the classrooms as a result of this legislation and as a result of the strike. I have always rejected that, even to those teachers who have threatened or suggested there is nothing we can now do to avoid that loss of dedication. I think that’s inaccurate. I have had too long and close an association with too many teachers to anticipate it being within them to do that. It won’t happen. I am confident that when they return they will get caught up in that atmosphere. Well, I am fairly sure—whichever teacher blurted out from the gallery, thanks for that assurance.

Notwithstanding that attitude, I am sure that when they return to the classrooms, when the atmosphere of catching up has caught them, they will have that dedication which I experienced when I went through the system, which I know has been the case in the system right up until now. The teachers suddenly aren't villains, suddenly aren't people who don't care about the children. I know that's not the case and, therefore, I am sure that notwithstanding this legislation and notwithstanding what's happened, our educational system, as acknowledged through the election campaign by the opposition, will continue to be one of the finest in North America.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have made a lot of speeches in this House—

An hon. member: Too many.

Mr. Deans: Some might even say too many.

Mr. Foulds: Never, ever.

Mr. Deans: I rise right now wishing that there was a way that I could convince the members of the House to listen with a reasonably open mind to what's being said by everyone, at least to those things that relate directly to the principle of the bill, because I think that the government has arrived at one of the ways of resolving this matter, the dispute in Metropolitan Toronto. I don't think though that that is necessarily the only way. I obviously don't think that the decision they made is the best way.

I think the Legislature has an obligation, all of the members of the Legislature have an obligation, to look at the solution proposed by the government and to determine, first of all, whether it does what we all think should be done, and secondly, whether it does it in the best possible way.

That's what we did last night. After we received the legislation we sat down and we decided, first of all, whether the legislative proposal of the minister did in fact bring about the desired result as far as the schools and the children and the parents were concerned. We then decided whether or not that was the only way to do it; and then whether or not that was the best way to do it.

Quite obviously the way that the government has proposed will do that. It will open the schools on Monday; the children will begin again to receive a formal education in the high schools in Metropolitan Toronto, so

that it meets that criterion. And quite obviously it will resolve the dispute between the teachers and the boards, so it meets that criterion. But will it resolve the dispute in the best possible way? We happen to think that it doesn't meet that criterion.

We agree that the schools have to reopen. We agree that there has to be a way to resolve the dispute. What we agonized over and what we hope we have come up with is a solution that will somehow or other meet the various criteria and at the same time preserve the integrity both of the collective bargaining system in Bill 100 and of the teachers and the boards, not only at this point but for future negotiations, because there's much more at stake than just resolving this dispute.

We read the preamble to the bill and we decided that we could quite easily agree that it stated quite accurately what had taken place and what had to be done. We read the bill itself. We said it's too simplistic; that this is one solution but we don't think that that's necessarily the best one. Why did we think it wasn't necessarily the best one? Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker.

To begin with, we felt that on balance this arbitration that the government is setting up is unlike any other arbitration that it has set up in the Province of Ontario by way of legislation. It is setting up a judge to sit in judgement on the proposals of the parties, but one who will not have the final say in the decision as to whether or not it is compulsory or otherwise. So in fact whatever this arbitrator decides really will make little difference to the final settlement. We thought it would be wrong then to impose that kind of responsibility on an individual, to ask an individual to make those kinds of choices in the face of the circumstances that surround him.

We realize the collective bargaining process is a difficult process. We realize it sometimes takes years for the parties involved to build the expertise, to develop the various mechanisms that are necessary in order to bring about settlements in every case. But we have faith—faith in the elected board members and faith in the teachers—that given the proper circumstances, given the right atmosphere, that they could yet resolve this dispute.

The faith that we have is shared by a number of other people. It's not a blind faith. We're not isolated from the remainder of society in Metro or anywhere else in expressing that faith. The disputes commission members themselves expressed faith that there could be a negotiated settlement. Their

concern wasn't that it couldn't be negotiated, their concern was that it might not be able to be negotiated quickly enough to save further deterioration in the educational system. That is what they said. I quote from the minister's own statement, in which he is quoting the commission. He read:

Recent developments in the dispute indicate to us that the parties will not likely achieve such a settlement in the near future. While we do not rule out the possibility that a resumption of negotiations might produce a settlement at some future date . . .

That was the finding of the Education Relations Commission. They thought that, given more time, there was a likelihood of a settlement through the normal collective bargaining process.

We spoke to the teacher representatives—and I am sure I am not letting out any confidences—and they said that they thought, given more time, it was entirely possible they could arrive at a settlement; they even went so far as to say that they felt they were not really very far apart and that, given the opportunity, it would be possible for them to find solutions to the outstanding items and that a settlement would come about through the natural processes of the collective bargaining structure.

The chairman of the negotiating committee for the school boards said this morning that, notwithstanding any statements that he had made previously, he felt in fact there was the possibility that the parties could meet again and that they could come to a settlement across the bargaining table. We know this feeling is shared by a number of the chairmen representing a number of the boards that make up the Metro school system.

We are not talking from a position in isolation to the views being expressed by all of the people who are directly involved. The commission says that, given time, there can be a settlement. The board chairmen say that, given time, there can be a settlement. The teacher negotiators say that, given time, there can be a settlement. The only drawback now is, how can we, as a Legislature, then provide that time?

We have come to the conclusion, as elected members, that the schools must open. We have come to the conclusion, as elected members, that it is possible to arrive at a settlement. We have come to the conclusion that in order to ensure fairness, that the teachers can go back knowing full well that they will be dealt with fairly and equitably,

that if they are asked to return to work or, for this matter, told to return to work, that they should know at least in part what the conditions are that will surround the collective bargaining that will take place, what the likelihood is and in what ballpark the settlement might be reached. That is what we attempted to do.

We said, "Okay, the school system needs teachers in the classrooms, the children's education is in jeopardy, so we will say to the teachers, 'Return to work.'" But in return for that, we are saying that we, as a Legislature, having now imposed ourselves upon them in what might be considered the public interest, have an obligation to look seriously at what kind of guarantees we give them, that that return to work will not result in them losing economically that which they had already negotiated up to.

The boards have agreed that the offer of the 20th is fair, and so we are not asking the boards to pay more than they were prepared to pay. The teachers have said, "We're close to a settlement." So we said, "Okay, in that period during negotiation, the period we're now in, the settlement offered by the board should be put in as an interim measure, the negotiations concluded and a final settlement arrived at."

I say, in all fairness, that must be better than to come down with a heavy hand and to impose arbitration now and to be faced with the prospect of doing the same thing, board after board after board, across the province. Surely the message that goes out from Queen's Park today, to teachers and boards alike, has to be that we, the Legislature, are not prepared to meet weekly to solve your disputes; that we, the Legislature, are saying to you, the boards, duly elected by your own electorate, and the teachers as their employees, that you must sit down together and find solutions to the impasses that confront you, and don't expect us, also elected, answering to the same people in the Province of Ontario, to find a solution for you in each of these cases.

I think if we arbitrate them back, if we impose arbitration, then in many of the boards across this province—certainly not in all the boards but in many of the boards across this province—the collective bargaining process will grind to a halt. There will then be a sense among certain people whom I could name but won't, that there will be no further need for them to try to find solutions because this Legislature will do it for them. That's wrong and I want that understood. That must be wrong. We have to make it clear that that's

wrong. As my colleague, my friend in the Liberal Party, the education critic—excuse me, I don't know where he is from?

Mr. Riddell: London South.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, from London South. He says that we will undoubtedly be back to solve these other disputes. I don't want to come back to solve these other disputes. I don't want to set the ground rules for the resolution of those disputes.

I want to say this, it seems to us, having given a lot of thought to it and having worried about it for some days—not just yesterday but the days leading up to what we could see was inevitably going to happen—we are of the opinion that, first of all, the proposal that we have made would gain acceptance by the vast majority of teachers. Secondly, the proposal we have made is in keeping with the indications currently being expressed by the members of the negotiating committee for the boards in Metropolitan Toronto that a settlement could be reached. Thirdly, the concern of the teachers and the students that the educational system be once again in operation and that they not be jeopardized further is being met by the proposal that we make.

So what we're saying is that, of course, there are a number of options and, of course, the government has opted for the easiest option, but we tend to think that easiest is not always the best, and we think in this instance that what we're proposing—a little different from what we've normally done, a little different from what we've considered before in the Legislature—makes more sense in the long run for teacher-board negotiations than does the intrusion of this Legislature by way of compulsory arbitration.

I want to concede to the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) that, quite obviously, asking or telling the teachers to return to work is abridging the normal principles of collective bargaining, but I also want to suggest to the member for Sarnia and to the other members of the House that there are times in disputes where the public interest obviously has to take precedence. We are prepared to take that one step to ensure that the public interest be met while trying to guarantee, on the other hand, that collective bargaining will be allowed to continue and that we will do no further damage to the content of Bill 100 or to the future of Bill 100 or the way in which collective bargaining can be carried out.

Mr. Bullbrook: Collective bargaining is effectively finished in the Province of Ontario with the signing of that agreement.

Mr. Deans: Since that aside is put in, or that interjection is offered, I want to say that I regret most sincerely that the AIB is involved.

Mrs. Campbell: That's not enough.

Mr. Deans: I would really like—well, I'm not going to play games because, obviously, politically we could play all kinds of games. I don't want to do that. I'm honestly trying to get the members to listen to me; okay, really trying.

Mr. Bullbrook: We have been listening.
[12:30]

Mr. Deans: I agree that it's unfortunate that the AIB is involved. It's unfortunate that the agreement that was signed two days ago was signed before we met today, because we might have been able to influence the signing of that agreement in this debate.

Unfortunately, though, it is signed and the government has stated clearly that it is a matter of principle to them that they refer everything to Ottawa. We don't believe it is possible to change that principle here today, but we do think it possible to amend this legislation to make it more fair. That's the position we take.

Mr. MacDonald: Everything on wages but not prices.

Mr. Deans: With regard to the comments of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman)—

Mr. Martel: Now departed.

Mr. Deans: But not far enough.

Mr. Martel: No.

Mr. Deans: —I want to say two or three things. First of all, in all fairness to him I don't think he understands the collective bargaining process at all and knows very little about the way arbitration works. The arbitrator, of course, is entitled only to judge on those matters placed before him by the parties. He can't take into consideration things outside; he has to consider only what is before him. So therefore he can't be going in already knowing how he is going to deal with it, and if he or she is doing that, he or she is not going to be arbitrating properly.

Beyond that, I want to say about the phone calls the member is receiving, it's my judgement from speaking to members—and everyone makes their own judgments in these things and this includes speaking to the minister—that there has not been a great hue and

cry in Metropolitan Toronto with regard to this strike. There is a sense among the public that something has to be done and we're responding to that. But if it were simply on the matter of response to the hue and cry of the public, it's not as great as the hue and cry has been in many other instances. It really isn't.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that between 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock during the transit strike and at 6 o'clock and 7 o'clock during the transit strike in Metropolitan Toronto there were far more people who were expressing a great deal more disagreement and sense of upset than are currently expressing it in this instance. I just make that as an aside.

The minister himself said, as I recall, of 252 phone calls—it may have been 256 phone calls that he received; that was the heaviest volume as I recall on one day—but on the heaviest day of all it was 52 per cent in favour of legislation, 48 per cent opposed. That was in one day. So in fairness you've got to say, Mr. Speaker, that there was no great pressure from outside in terms of the normal pressures that legislators expect to have imposed upon them.

We believe that whatever the resolution of this strike is it must not only be fair but it must be viewed by the parties as being fair. The teachers and the boards have to appreciate that whatever the resolution is that it was the result of their activities; that they'll be able to live much more readily over the years with a settlement that they arrive at between themselves than they will be able to live with a settlement imposed from outside.

I put to the government that the position that they have put forward is so traditional in scope that it really doesn't begin to address the actual problem that exists. The solution we put forward might fail, but then so might the government's. The government's solution though, if it fails, fails arbitrarily. Our solution, if it fails, fails as the result of the failure of the parties themselves to resolve the dispute.

We're putting the onus where it rightfully belongs, on the shoulders of the parties involved. We're saying to the school boards: "You were elected, as we are elected, to fulfil your responsibilities." If the government is going to arbitrate—if the government is going to impose itself in that way—then it can't simply set up the arbitration and then back off. It can't do that. It can't say: "There's the arbitration. That will be the settlement," and then withdraw itself from the battle and allow it then to continue as if it had solved it.

All it solves by this is getting the schools opened. That's all it solves.

We would have solved the same thing. We would have arrived at exactly the same result with what we're asking the government to consider as an amendment. There is no question in my mind at least that if the government is going to say to those people: "Go back to work and we'll arbitrate a decision," then the government must go one step further.

The government must go one step further and say that since they have decided to move into the dispute and to arbitrate the final points in the dispute, then they are prepared to stand behind the decision of the arbitrator.

If the government is going to arbitrate it, then it has to be prepared to stand behind the decision of the arbitrator. It is going to appoint him or her; it is going to set up that person to make the decision, I presume. Having chosen that person, this government then must stand up today and say, "The person chosen by us to find a settlement has the full support of this government and whatever settlement that person finds will be supported by the government." That is the ultimate step. Is the government prepared to take that step?

Mrs. Campbell: Of course not.

Mr. Deans: The government would be living up to its political responsibilities all the way—

Mr. Martel: The government is appointing the arbitrator.

Mr. Deans: —by saying, "Not only are we prepared to thrust ourselves into the dispute, belatedly though it may be, but we are prepared to stand behind the decisions made by the person whom we appoint."

Mr. Martel: Otherwise, don't appoint an arbitrator.

Mr. Deans: Otherwise, allow them to solve it themselves.

The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) talked about his faith in teachers. I want to say to him, in his absence—I hope he is able to read; he certainly doesn't comprehend—

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deans: It helps; it passes the time, Jim.

The one thing I would say to him is that he doesn't show much faith in the teachers by the actions he is prepared to support. We have said for years that we thought that the teachers were capable—in fact, we had to have

faith in the teachers since we trusted them with so much of what was going to happen in this country ultimately, and that therefore the teachers did have the capacity to be able to resolve matters that affected their day-to-day lives.

The government is not showing that kind of faith now by taking this step. But it can show that kind of faith if it is prepared to adopt the position that we have put forward. We think it is valid. We think it not only can work but we think it will work. We think it meets every single one of the criteria that the government set out in the preamble to its bill. We think it shows the kind of faith that we have in the capacity of the parties to resolve the dispute. It shows that we believe them when they say that they can find a settlement, given time; it opens the schools in order that the children's education will be met; and it guarantees that the teachers, when they go back into the classroom, will go in, if not having won, certainly not with a feeling of having lost.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the leading spokesmen of all three parties in this House have now made it fairly clear where they stand on this legislation. There doesn't seem to be any doubt that all three parties, in one form or another, will support at least that part of the legislation which puts the teachers back in the classrooms next Monday.

However, let us not forget that that very act by itself is fraught with a certain amount of perilous implications. Let us realize that we are setting a precedent by doing this. We are setting a precedent at this point in time, knowing full well that very shortly in other places in this province we may have to deal with similar situations. We know right now, for example, that in Kirkland Lake a strike vote has already been taken. We know that in Peel county, one week from tomorrow, a strike vote will be taken. We know that farther along the line, one of the largest separate school boards of the province, in Hamilton, more than likely will be facing a strike vote within the next two or three weeks. We know that Sault Ste. Marie shortly will be facing a strike vote.

The point I am trying to make is that this particular piece of legislation, dealing with this particular strike in this locality, Metro Toronto, cannot be considered in isolation. It is setting a precedent. Let us be very sure that we realize that and that we accept the implications and the consequences of the vote and the decisions which we make here today.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, contrary to what has just been said, the number of phone calls and letters coming in from the public to members of this caucus—and I understand to members of the other two caucuses—shows a very high degree of public hostility, to say the least, in this whole matter. People seem to have reached an emotional pitch. The public seems to have reached a pitch that is almost unreasonable in this matter. Unfortunately, this one group of people at this particular point in time on this one issue has become the lightning rod, if you will, for this public hostility, this public unrest and this public frustration. That may be unfair; it may be unfortunate—but that is simply the way it is. The public is simply fed up. The kind of remarks that we are hearing—and, as I say, I understand that members of the other two caucuses are also hearing them—include: "Do not pass this legislation." The public opinion is very strong out there; let us also be aware of that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, both sides of this particular dispute—both sides, let me please emphasize that—

Ms. Gigantes: Did you say, "Do not pass it"?

Mr. Sweeney: —have accused the leaders of the other sides of irresponsibility. On both sides they have said to their particular membership, "Why can't you do something about those leaders?" If we step in at this time—and if I may use the colloquialism, the cliché—and get them off the hook, then that kind of feeling will continue ad infinitum.

I mention these kinds of points—not to suggest that I or members of my caucus are going to vote against this legislation—but just so that we can be sure in our own minds and just so that we can assure the public at large that we are equally conscious of the perils that exist in acting in this way and in passing this kind of legislation.

Ms. Gigantes: You are doing the popular thing?

Mr. Sweeney: We will show that we did not do it unthinkingly or unknowingly.

Mr. Wildman: Are you going to vote for it?

Mr. Sweeney: On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, let us look at the situation as it exists—the reasons why we must pass this legislation. We know 140,000 students in this city alone have been or will be, as of tomorrow, 37 school instructional days away from their programmes.

We know that on the basis of what the students themselves tell us, what their teachers tell us, what the directors of education tell us, that we have reached the point of no return—that something must be done in the interest of these students. More particularly, Mr. Speaker, there is a small group of those students—small, but in excess of 10,000—who are on a semester programme in this community's school system and who will have, as of tomorrow, missed almost 40 per cent of the programme. That 37 days is very misleading, but it does represent 47 per cent of the amount of time that would have been devoted toward the courses of those students on a semester programme. At this point in time, that 47 per cent is just about irretrievable.

For most of the other students in the system, it can be retrieved. But for that group on a semester programme I am personally not sure—based upon what people have told me, based upon my own personal experience.

In respect to the students and their parents, we must also realize that there is a cost factor involved in what has happened and what will continue to happen if we do not legislate at this time.

[12:45]

A number of these students have been compelled to enrol in private schools. A number of these students have gone to other jurisdictions to continue their education. A number of these students have had to go out and find work and probably will not return to classes even when the legislation is passed, and a whole year of their lives, productively in one sense, — I realize there are many ways of looking at it, but in that one sense at least they are paying a heavy cost, and we in this Legislature who are responsible for providing education to every student in this province have got to be conscious of that cost.

The other reason why we must pass this legislation at this time is because of the morale of the teachers in this province, and I use the word "province" since I am not talking just about Metro Toronto. It is particularly poignant to those teachers in this municipality, but what is happening has spread like a creeping cancer across the whole province. I have been in six different large municipalities in the last three or four weeks; I have made it my business to speak to teachers, and they feel that they too are tarnished by the same brush that is being applied across this municipality with respect to the public attitude toward teachers.

That must stop. An awful lot of damage has already been done, but surely the time

has come to put an end to it. It is going to take a long time to retrieve that damage, but we cannot let it go on any longer and we must do whatever we possibly can to retrieve it. Finally, a third reason why we must pass this legislation refers back to an earlier remark I made and that is the public hostility that presently exists. The very fact that that hostility does exist means that an end must be put to it in some way. The longer we let this drag out, the deeper and more intransigent it is going to become. The sooner we can relieve it, the sooner it can be resolved and the sooner that we can return to some form of normalcy.

I would like to speak very briefly to the NDP amendment. It is unfortunate that we did not have a chance yesterday to review this amendment with the amount of time and the depth and the study I feel it deserves. Therefore, I must admit that my comments are based upon a cursory, short reading of the amendment and an understanding of it which may not be as deep as it should be, but nevertheless that's what we have got to deal with.

I see two problems in the amendment. The first one is to return the teachers and students to the classroom and then return to the negotiation process. We have spoken to a number of people. The feeling that we get, which may be different from our NDP colleagues, but the very strong, definite feeling we get is that negotiation simply will not work; it simply will not work. As a matter of fact, as late as last night we spoke to the two highest placed teachers in the negotiation process and they admitted to us that they do not believe it can work, and the simple reason is that the trust between the two sides has been eroded so badly. Coupled with that, one of the dangers we are facing is that when we do get the teachers back in the classroom there is going to be some ill will; there is going to be some bad feeling. I hope it clears up quickly, but it is going to be there.

Ms. Gigantes: An arbitrator is going to solve it, eh?

Mr. Foulds: It is going to be horrendous. It is going to be destructive.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. Order.

Mr. Sweeney: If, at the same time, the negotiations which have now been going on for one full year as of tomorrow, I understand; a strike which has been going on for 37 days; negotiations which have had,

initially, a mediator and then a fact-finder and then three mediators and, even as of a week or so ago, a final vote of the teachers saying that there is no way that they can come to a resolution; when the chairman of the board says it cannot be resolved, when the teacher negotiator says it cannot be resolved, my main concern is if we put the teachers back and continue this kind of activity we are simply going to be reopening the old wounds and the wounds are going to bleed and bleed and bleed for months ahead. We can't afford that. We can't afford to do that. Arbitration is not a good way. I am personally opposed to it but, given these two choices, it is the better of the two.

Mr. Foulds: So to cure a cut you amputate.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

An hon. member: You're hitting them where they're soft.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the second aspect that my NDP colleagues have brought up is that when we go to this legislation and make an amendment, if in fact we deal with arbitration, that we start with the last board offer as the floor, if you will. That very fact alone makes a mockery of negotiations.

Mr. Deans: Why?

Mr. Foulds: Why?

Mr. Sweeney: The board has clearly said on several occasions, whether or not we choose to believe them, they have clearly said that is their final offer. That's not their floor. If we go in and say to an arbitrator: "That's what you must start with"; then where can they go? They can only go up beyond that.

Mr. Wildman: How many final offers have you had?

Mr. Foulds: Your party voted for that in the York county dispute.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sweeney: We are clearly taking the side of one of the combatants in this affair—

Mr. Foulds: Your party voted for it in York county when the board said it was their last offer.

Interjection.

Mr. Sweeney: —and that is not our job in this Legislature. Our job is to help the two

sides. Our job is not to take sides one way or the other in this affair, and making that kind of stipulation is very directly taking sides.

Interjections.

Mr. Sweeney: Finally, may I allude to the involvement of the Anti-Inflation Board in this particular settlement. The point has very clearly been made that the arbitrator who will be selected here will not in fact be able to make a decision. He will only be able to make a recommendation, and that is a key difference. The final decision will be made in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, we believe today, as we believed when this House prorogued in December, that that is not proper.

Mr. Shore: Where was the member for Port Arthur?

Mr. Sweeney: If there is one thing wrong with this whole bill, if there is one thing wrong with this whole process, if there is one thing wrong with the way in which the government has been involved in this, it is its abdication of being responsible for the final decision in this matter. Only the people of Ontario, only the elected representatives of the people of Ontario, can decide what portion of our provincial wealth should be devoted to an activity like education. Only we can do that, not the government of Canada. And if this government is at fault in any way it is in this matter and it will pay the price dearly.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is with a certain degree of satisfaction that I learn there is total agreement within this House, that the purpose of this bill is universally accepted. Because I don't think there can be any doubt in the minds of the parents—within the Metropolitan Toronto region at any rate and probably in the minds of parents throughout the entire province—and in the minds of the students who have been so severely affected by this conflict, certainly in the minds of those citizens of Metropolitan Toronto who do not happen to have children in the school system, and it certainly has been confirmed by the report of the Education Relations Commission, that the educational system in this area at this time is in severe jeopardy if this conflict continues any longer. We must, and I'm happy that all members of this House agree, end the conflict immediately.

The methods of ending the conflict, of course, are what are being questioned here at the moment. But it is certainly in the best interests of the students, it certainly would express our concern for the educational sys-

tem of this province, it would most definitely be in the best interests of all Ontario teachers, not simply the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto, if we provided an instantaneous, an emergency, an immediate resolution to this problem.

If I had any real conviction that the negotiation which had been carried out earlier could be prolonged, that the effective function of collective bargaining as attempted for many months in this dispute could in fact be enhanced, could be proceeded with, with any aspiration of success in the foreseeable future, I would most certainly—I would have to as the Minister of Labour—support that direction and that action. But we can have no such assurance. We can have no degree of confidence that in fact the disturbance, the hostility, the wounds, which my hon. colleague across the floor mentioned just a few moments ago, could be healed rapidly enough to provide any—

Mr. Deans: They are only bruises.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —successful conclusion to the resumption of collective bargaining—

Mr. Makarchuk: Have you offered them any assurance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —of traditional collective bargaining in this situation at this time. We must provide a rapid treatment, and the rapid treatment—

Mr. Deans: Bruises are painful, not fatal.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —which sometimes is painful—

Mr. Deans: What is?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —the rapid treatment in this case I believe must be arbitration with the development of a rational and sensible recommendation provided by an arbitrator of judgement and wisdom.

Mr. Deans: But the board says they can settle and the teachers say they can settle. Why don't you believe them?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Unfortunately, I gather that Mr. Deans has been listening to other than those—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will you refer to the hon. member as the member from his riding?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have heard very directly from some of the people who have been involved in the attempt at successful negotiations, and I believe that these wise negotiators, these wise mediators who have had a great deal of experience, probably know much better than I whether there is a chance of success—

Mr. Deans: But they say they can settle.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —in the continuation of the negotiations. It is, I gather, their conviction, their judgement, that to attempt to resume negotiations at this time would not only be illogical, it would be futile, and we must, I believe, resolve the problem immediately.

Mr. Deans: Whose opinion is that?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think the message which must go out from Queen's Park today to all of the citizens of this province, to the school boards of this province, to the teachers of this province, must be that we have provided from this place a very adequate vehicle for resolution of conflicts and differences between school boards and teachers.

We would anticipate, as we have anticipated in the past, that this vehicle would be used thoughtfully and carefully, ever mindful of the primary responsibility to the educational system, to the educational experience of the students of the province, and to the citizens of this province who provide the funds which support our educational system, and we hope that they will, in fact, in future use it wisely. We think they have attempted to, on this occasion, but it simply has not worked.

I would have to agree with my colleague from York South (Mr. MacDonald) that, in fact, one of the things that has happened as a result of this conflict is that we have pointed up a couple of the weaknesses of Bill 100 which obviously need to be examined and resolved. But we have provided the vehicle, it should be used wisely; but let them be, as well, made very much aware of the fact that if at any time in the function of this vehicle there is a failure, if the future educational experience of our students is put in severe jeopardy, if the entire educational system demonstrates the potential for damage which it does right at this point in time, that this government and this Legislature will act on behalf of those students, that educational system and the citizens of this province, that we will not fail to do so. We shall use each time that method which seems to be most appropriate to that situation.

Mr. Deans: And this is it, every time.

Mr. Martel: It is the only method you know.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order. Everyone has an opportunity to speak in this debate.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I can put it to members that the bill which has been presented by the Minister of Education is that which is most appropriate in this situation at this time—

Mr. Makarchuk: You have clobbered them in the head.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and may or may not set a precedent, but must, in fact, be exercised on behalf of the students of Metropolitan Toronto and their educational future.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps in view of the hour the next speaker might move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Mackenzie moved adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

(125 members)

Second Session of the 30th Parliament

Speaker: Hon. Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Member	Constituency	Party
Angus, I.	Fort William	NDP
Auld, Hon. J.A.C.	Leeds	PC
Bain, R.	Timiskaming	NDP
Belanger, J. A.	Prescott and Russell	PC
Bennett, Hon. C.	Ottawa South	PC
Bernier, Hon. L.	Kenora	PC
Birch, Hon. M.	Scarborough East	PC
Bounsall, E. J.	Windsor-Sandwich	NDP
Breaugh, M.	Oshawa	NDP
Breithaupt, J. R.	Kitchener	L
Brunelle, Hon. R.	Cochrane North	PC
Bullbrook, J. E.	Sarnia	L
Burr, F. A.	Windsor-Riverside	NDP
Bryden, M.	Beaches-Woodbine	NDP
Campbell, M.	St. George	L
Cassidy, M.	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Conway, S.	Renfrew North	L
Cunningham, E.	Wentworth North	L
Davidson, M.	Cambridge	NDP
Davis, Hon. W. G.	Brampton	PC
Davison, M.	Hamilton Centre	NDP
Deans, I.	Wentworth	NDP
di Santo, O.	Downsview	NDP
Drea, F.	Scarborough Centre	PC
Dukszta, J.	Parkdale	NDP
Eakins, J.	Victoria-Haliburton	L
Eaton, R. G.	Middlesex	PC
Edighoffer, H.	Perth	L
Evans, D. A.	Simcoe Centre	PC
Ferrier, W.	Cochrane South	NDP
Ferris, J. P.	London South	L
Foulds, J. F.	Port Arthur	NDP
Gaunt, M.	Huron-Bruce	L
Germa, M. C.	Sudbury	NDP
Gigantes, E.	Carleton East	NDP
Givens, P. G.	Armourdale	L
Godfrey, C.	Durham West	NDP
Good, E.R.	Waterloo North	L
Grande, A.	Oakwood	NDP
Gregory, M. E. C.	Mississauga East	PC
Grossman, L.	St. Andrew-St. Patrick	PC
Haggerty, R.	Erie	L
Hall, R.	Lincoln	L
Handleman, Hon. S. B.	Carleton	PC

Member	Constituency	Party
Henderson, Hon. L. C	Lambton	PC
Hodgson, W.	York North	PC
Irvine, Hon. D. R.	Carleton-Grenville	PC
Johnson, J.	Wellington-Dufferin-Peel	PC
Johnston, R. M.	St. Catharines	PC
Jones, T.	Mississauga North	PC
Kennedy, R. D.	Mississauga South	PC
Kerr, Hon. G. A.	Burlington South	PC
Kerrio, V.	Niagara Falls	L
Lane, J.	Algoma-Manitoulin	PC
Laughren, F.	Nickel Belt	NDP
Lawlor, P. D.	Lakeshore	NDP
Leluk, N.G.	York West	PC
Lewis, S.	Scarborough West	NDP
Lupusella, A.	Dovercourt	NDP
MacBeth, Hon. J. P.	Humber	PC
MacDonald, D. C.	York South	NDP
Mackenzie, R.	Hamilton East	NDP
Maeck, L.	Parry Sound	PC
Makarchuk, M.	Brantford	NDP
Mancini, R.	Essex South	L
Martel, E. W.	Sudbury East	NDP
McCague, G.	Dufferin-Simcoe	PC
McClellan, R.	Bellwoods	NDP
McEwen, J. E.	Frontenac-Addington	L
McKeough, Hon. W. D.	Chatham-Kent	PC
McKessock, R.	Grey	L
McMurtry, Hon. R.	Eglinton	PC
McNeil, R. K.	Elgin	PC
Meen, Hon. A. K.	York East	PC
Miller, Hon. F. S.	Muskoka	PC
Miller, G. I.	Haldimand-Norfolk	L
Moffatt, D.	Durham East	NDP
Morrow, D. H.	Ottawa West	PC
Newman, B.	Windsor-Walkerville	L
Newman, Hon. W.	Durham North	PC
Nixon, R. F.	Brant-Oxford-Norfolk	L
Norton, K.	Kingston and the Islands	PC
O'Neil, H.	Quinte	L
Parrott, Hon. H. C.	Oxford	PC
Peterson, D.	London Centre	L
Philip, E.	Etobicoke	NDP
Reed, J.	Halton-Burlington	L
Reid, T. P.	Rainy River	L
Renwick, J. A.	Riverdale	NDP
Rhodes, Hon. J. R.	Sault Ste. Marie	PC
Riddell, J.	Huron-Middlesex	L
Rollins, C. T.	Hastings-Peterborough	PC
Rowe, Hon. R. D.	Northumberland	PC
Roy, A. J.	Ottawa East	L
Ruston, R. F.	Essex North	L
Samis, G.	Cornwall	NDP
Sandeman, G.	Peterborough	NDP

Member	Constituency	Party
Sargent, E.	Grey-Bruce	L
Scrivener, Hon. M.	St. David	PC
Shore, M.	London North	L
Singer, V. M.	Wilson Heights	L
Smith, G. E.	Simcoe East	PC
Smith, Hon. J. R.	Hamilton Mountain	PC
Smith, R. S.	Nipissing	L
Smith, S.	Hamilton West	L
Snow, Hon. J. W.	Oakville	PC
Spence, J. P.	Kent-Elgin	L
Stephenson, Hon. B.	York Mills	PC
Stokes, J. E.	Lake Nipigon	NDP
Stong, A.	York Centre	L
Swart, M.	Welland	NDP
Sweeney, J.	Kitchener-Wilmot	L
Taylor, Hon. J. A.	Prince Edward-Lennox	PC
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.	Don Mills	PC
Villeneuve, O. F.	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry	PC
Warner, D.	Scarborough-Ellesmere	NDP
Welch, Hon. R.	Brock	PC
Wells, Hon. T. L.	Scarborough North	PC
Wildman, B.	Algoma	NDP
Williams, J.	Oriole	PC
Wiseman, D. J.	Lanark	PC
Worton, H.	Wellington South	L
Yakabuski, P. J.	Renfrew South	PC
Young, F.	Yorkview	NDP
Ziemba, E.	High Park-Swansea	NDP

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Hon. W. G. Davis	Premier
Hon. R. Welch	Minister of Culture and Recreation
Hon. J. A. C. Auld	Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet
Hon. R. Brunelle	Minister without Portfolio and Chairman of Cabinet
Hon. T. L. Wells	Minister of Education
Hon. G. A. Kerr	Minister of the Environment
Hon. L. Bernier	Minister of Natural Resources
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Hon. M. Birch	Provincial Secretary for Social Development
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Hon. A. K. Meen	Minister of Revenue
Hon. W. Newman	Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. S. B. Handleman	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Hon. F. S. Miller	Minister of Health
Hon. J. R. Rhodes	Minister of Housing
Hon. D. R. Irvine	Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
Hon. D. R. Timbrell	Minister of Energy
Hon. J. P. MacBeth	Provincial Secretary for Justice and Solicitor General
Hon. J. R. Smith	Minister of Correctional Services
Hon. M. Scrivener	Minister of Government Services
Hon. H. C. Parrott	Minister of Colleges and Universities
Hon. J. A. Taylor	Minister of Community and Social Services
Hon. B. Stephenson	Minister of Labour
Hon. R. McMurtry	Attorney General
Hon. L. C. Henderson	Minister without Portfolio

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Mr. F. Drea	Assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Mr. R. G. Eaton	Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
Mr. D. A. Evans	Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications
Mr. W. Hodgson	Assistant to the Minister without Portfolio and Chairman of Cabinet
Mr. N. G. Leluk	Assistant to the Minister of Culture and Recreation
Mr. L. Maeck	Assistant to the Minister of Education
Mr. D. J. Wiseman	Assistant to the Minister of Health
Mr. P. J. Yakabuski	Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

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OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Second Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, January 15, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

Does anybody have a question? The hon. member for Durham East.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, it makes it very difficult to ask a question with so many people missing on the government side.

Mr. Nixon: There are few NDP here.

Mr. Singer: Don't stall; just go ahead.

Mr. Eaton: Where's the member's leader?

Mr. Singer: Stephen has probably left for the day.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member doesn't have a question of any minister here—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I suggest that if the hon. member doesn't have a question of a minister—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There will be someone with a question, I'm sure, if the hon. member who is standing doesn't have one. Does the hon. member have a question?

Mr. Nixon: Let's try the Leader of the Opposition. I will bet he has got a question.

An hon. member: Hurray!

Mr. Singer: Well done!

Mr. Lewis: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Lewis: I had assumed the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) might wish to table the document he signed with Ottawa, or make a statement—he indicated that—and I wondered if that is coming.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is my understanding that the Treasurer had to go on this anti-inflation tour of his—

Mr. Cassidy: It is a political junket.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and that he will make available a copy of the agreement to all members later on this afternoon, in their mail boxes.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: I then have a question of the House leader, if I may, as the opening question. Does he think it's appropriate that the Treasurer should sign a document which commits the Province of Ontario to a specific course of action 48 hours before he knows that the Legislature will be in session and that there is such contempt amongst the executive council that there is no attempt before the orders of the day to explain why he did it, under what auspices he did it and what he intends to do from here on?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, without commenting on the editorial aspect of the question, the Treasurer acted quite properly on behalf of the government with respect to the agreement. The hon. Leader of the Opposition would recognize that it was agreed that the only order that would be called at this time would be the oral question period.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, by way of supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a supplementary to the member for Downsview.

Mr. Singer: Could the House leader tell us if either his colleague, the Treasurer, or the Premier (Mr. Davis), or anyone on the government side, ever got the opinion of the law officers of the Crown insofar as the legality and the vires of the ability of the government of Ontario to enter into such an agreement by virtue only of an order in council?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Further supplementary: Can the minister undertake to table those opinions? And if the Legislature isn't in session when they are available to either the minister or the Treasurer when he comes back from his tour, that these papers be made public, since there is a large body of informed opinion that believes that this transference of authority cannot be on the basis only of an order in council?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I can't give such an undertaking on behalf of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) or the Premier. That question may be redirected later when the Premier arrives.

Mr. Singer: Nonsense!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Secondly, I am here to tell the members that the Treasurer will see that copies of this agreement are given to all members later on today in their mail boxes.

Mr. Singer: Not the agreement, the legal opinions.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Is the minister responding by saying that he cannot guarantee to the House the provision of the arguments, which presumably accompanied the cabinet decision to do this by way of order in council?

Mr. Singer: As well as the opinion of the law officers of the Crown.

Mr. Lewis: Do we not have a right to share that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am saying that I don't feel I can give that undertaking on behalf of some other minister. The Premier will be here; the member can ask the Premier when he arrives.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Mr. Singer: Boy, in what contempt the minister holds this Legislature; what contempt!

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Cassidy: Where is the Premier? Why isn't he here?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bullbrook: I am wondering if the House leader could advise us under what

statutory authority the provincial minister was authorized, pursuant to order in council 48-76?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If the hon. member will give me the opportunity, I'll get him an answer to that before the question period is over?

Mr. Bullbrook: Fine.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Mr. Lewis: Yes. I would like to ask the House leader if the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is coming to question period?

Hon. Mr. Welch: My understanding is he is, yes.

Mr. Lewis: Does the House leader know whether he is on his way?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think he has been tied up with a certain American senator who is here.

Mr. Lewis: Oh yes.

Mr. Bullbrook: Does the House leader mind a point of order, a point of clarification?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No.

Mr. Bullbrook: Thank you. Was he asking me to deliver something to him?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, no.

Mr. Singer: How about the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth)? Does he know anything about this? No, he just sits and agrees.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of Opposition with his question.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: Because of time factors I want to move to other subjects. I assume we will get back to the Anti-Inflation Board now that the Premier is here.

May I ask the Premier: How did the government and the Ministry of Health arrive at and justify the decision to close down the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital — let me deal with them one by one—without any advance warning whatsoever to the community or to the staff of the hospital? And what is more, to do it on the morning of Dec. 19, with the Legislature adjourning on the evening of Dec. 18?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can answer the last part of the question. The Minister of

Health is here and would be delighted to answer the first part of the question.

I can only tell the Leader of the Opposition that the Minister of Health had scheduled a meeting with trustees and hospital administrators for Dec. 19. That meeting had been laid on for some period of time. It was not related to when the House might or might not finish its business. The Minister of Education had laid on a similar meeting, I guess two days before the House concluded, but that was also done without really knowing when the House was going to finish. There was no relationship between the two. As to the first part of the question, I am sure the Minister of Health would be delighted to answer.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Has the Premier been made aware of the enormous public anger and consternation throughout the community of Goderich, the universal objections of the whole medical profession through Huron county, and the general state of anxiety over the closing of that hospital; which was highly regarded in every single report made by the Ministry of Health? Is it possible that the cabinet might reconsider what was done, since it seems as though there won't even be a saving of money?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, these matters are always difficult whenever a government or a ministry is endeavouring to effect economies; and this is true in the health field as well as any other, there is no question that it causes some difficulties. I have had some representation made to me from people—I think I can say in Goderich although they may be just outside of Goderich—related to this matter. I would not want to hold out any hope there would be a change in decision or policy, but these representations have been made to me.

Mr. Riddell: A supplementary: Is the Premier aware that 10 or 12 years ago this government stood for equality of opportunity—whether we are talking in terms of medical health care or education—and that the closing of this hospital is setting rural Ontario back another 10 or 12 years? Why were these hospitals built in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly answer the first part of that question—does this government believe in equality and opportunity. The answer to that is, very simply, yes.

Mrs. Campbell: For whom?

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Health if I may: Is the Minister of Health aware of the astonishing and almost unprecedented tributes paid to the Goderich psychiatric facility over the years by the various councils on health accreditation, and the feeling that it was a model of its kind throughout this province? Why does he choose that facility to close down when it has probably greater community alcohol and drug addiction adolescent treatment and geriatric facilities than any institution of comparable size perhaps in this country?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first, I am aware, yes; and secondly, I would suggest that one needs to read the tributes paid to other facilities as well.

It is an excellent hospital; that is not the issue in the sense of its choice. We were looking around the province realizing that over the past few years changes in the type of psychiatric treatment had gone on. Many people who were in effect chronic patients in the past had been moved out of the hospitals, reducing them to roughly half the inpatient levels they were at previously.

We have 15 institutions around the province, most of which are very fine hospitals, most of which are running somewhere between 50 and 60 per cent of their original designed capacity. It seemed that we had one of two alternatives: either we could cut the entire system back, prorating a certain number of beds at every hospital, in which case a certain number of dollar savings would be achieved, or we could elect to close one or two or more hospitals totally as units and thereby effecting many more dollars in saving per bed closed.

Many of the services the member talked about, which are very fine, are not necessarily dependent upon a person being in the institution. The record of this particular hospital shows it has a very active outpatient treatment programme. The alcoholism programme, which is in limbo right now, I will be first to admit, in terms of need or where it should go, is there based on inpatient treatment. In Timmins, it is basically outpatient treatment.

One could argue whose philosophy was better. I am not going to get into that argument. I think it is a medical one rather than mine. I simply say that when we looked at the sector of the Province of Ontario we had four psychiatric hospitals in the southwestern region, two of which were very large and obviously we didn't have the ability to close them—St. Thomas and London—two of them were twins, and they were Owen Sound and Goderich.

Mrs. Campbell: Owen Sound and Goderich, yes.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In that case, after very careful consideration months ago, not within the last week or two or three—

Mr. Lewis: Not shared by the community.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I won't argue that with the member right now.

Mr. Lewis: The minister didn't tell anybody; that's no way to do things.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We can argue that; and I will admit to certain culpability in this area, okay?

Mr. Lewis: But what he does to the community in the process is something to behold.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is very difficult to deal with some of these things with the community in advance of the decision being made, and I admit there are better ways to do it than I did. I have learned a lot about doing it in this particular case.

Mr. Lewis: I should think so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: A lot. The next time around I think I will do it a little differently.

Mr. Lewis: I should hope so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Don't forget this is a provincial institution versus a public hospital. Don't forget that the employment picture in that community is not being dramatically altered in total. Don't forget that the buildings will continue to be used for a need that this House recognizes as essential, and those things were done following our decision to close the hospital and rather than building on a new site somewhere else. Those factors were all taken into account, and consciously; I thought we had done that bit.

Had I the opportunity to do it again, I would go personally. I would talk to the staff in advance of a public notice.

[2:15]

Mr. Riddell: Supplementary: Could the minister tell me what authority the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) has to take it upon himself to disclose information to certain Tory repugnants in Huron-Middlesex riding—

Mr. Singer: That's a good word, a good word.

Mr. Moffatt: He's the leader of them.

Mr. Riddell: —about the closing of this hospital when it was agreed at a cabinet meeting that nothing would be released until either the Minister of Health or the Premier released it? What business has he got in sticking his nose in it?

Mr. Spaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Somebody has got to represent them.

Mr. Riddell: Well?

Mrs. Campbell: Well?

Mr. Singer: Well? No answer.

Mrs. Campbell: It was a political decision then.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of privilege, that was not a political decision. I have three parties against me.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Ottawa East with a final supplementary on this.

Mr. Roy: In view of the minister's answer to the Leader of the Opposition about the fact that maybe the approach the minister took in Goderich might not have been the best one, is he prepared to share with us now the list of other hospitals that he has in mind to close; and again the criteria under which he is closing them? Is he prepared to do that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have been going around the province—and had it not been for this session I would have been in Windsor today—divulging to public meetings the criteria used to close hospitals; but not specifically the hospitals to be closed, for several reasons.

Mr. Singer: Lorne decides that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But I have made a promise, knowing that many hospitals in this province are sitting in a very nervous state worrying about whether they are to be closed or not to be closed. That arose from our debate on Chesley, if the member recalls, when I was asked a specific question. I answered it honestly. Perhaps one should never answer a question honestly, I don't know.

Mr. Roy: You didn't give us a list then.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But I did admit there were other hospitals.

Mr. Roy: Right.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was asked that question and I answered it. There are.

Mr. Roy: Why didn't you go all the way?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The promise I have made to the hospitals of Ontario is that during the month of February I personally will visit any hospital board where we are considering closure. It will not be an ultimatum. It will be a discussion during which we state why we think that hospital should be closed and there will be a chance to study the reaction before the decision is made. I personally am going, not other staff. At the end of the month, all being well, if my timetable stands up, no hospital will need to be worried if it hasn't been visited by me.

Mr. Roy: You are not going to be invited.

Mr. Reid: "The Happy Hangman."

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can suggest that no one wants to receive a call from the Minister of Health for the next while.

Mr. Roy: You are a good fellow but we don't want you in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: We can silk-screen some banners saying "Miller Is Coming."

Can I ask the minister, given the questionable saving of money, the response in the northeastern psychiatric hospital area in Timmins-South Porcupine, the reaction he has had from Goderich and his admission that the way it was done was perhaps inappropriate, is it possible for him to reconsider the situation or to provide the rationalization document, which I gather he has, on which the decision was based, because I have never seen communities so up in arms as they are about their psychiatric hospitals?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to very thoughtful arguments from the Goderich area on several occasions. The book isn't closed yet. I think the member heard the Premier say a few moments ago he did not want to give anybody any hope that their decision would be changed.

Mrs. Campbell: Nobody has hope who enters here.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But certain promises have been made to listen to a few more arguments; those promises will be met and

honoured before the decision is final. I personally will be in Timmins on the night of Jan. 19 and the morning of Jan. 20.

Mr. Reid: Not the kiss of death, the visit of death.

Mr. Nixon: Just like the Black Plague, your progress about the province. No wonder you sent the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson) there.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In any event, I will be meeting with people from the community then and I will be discussing their specific concerns. What I'm trying to emphasize though are the positive parts: You know, 15 locations in the Province of Ontario have a psychiatric facility.

Mr. Lewis: Not too many.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Hundreds do not have. Psychiatric care is now being given more and more in the general hospitals of the province rather than in the provincial institutions. We need to let the public recognize that our approach to care has changed, that the physical presence of a building does not necessarily mean the physical presence of good care.

Mr. Riddell: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, we'll allow one more supplementary.

Mr. Riddell: Did I understand the minister correctly when he said that further arguments will be listened to, and that the decision is not final as yet to close the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital, as is the Northeastern Hospital?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me say this, my decision was final—but there were promises made to see some people who felt they had the right to be heard, individuals not representing any group. They will be heard.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions?

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary and then I am finished. Why does the ministry say these kinds of things when the Ministry of Community and Social Services is already issuing press releases announcing the transfer to a mental retardation resource centre, when the minister has members of his staff interviewing the employees at the Goderich hospital for transfers—they have a form called a surplus staff form—and when everybody knows they're moving and he constantly suggests these glimmering hopes? Is the min-

ister or is he not final in his decision about Goderich?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, what I said was true.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Nixon: I would like to ask the Premier if he would table for this House, or make available for the members if the House is not in session, the legal opinion from the law officers of the Crown which supported the decision of the government to enter into an agreement on wage and price controls with the government of Canada, supported only by order in council 48-76?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't give an undertaking on behalf of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) in whose area this responsibility lies—

Mr. Bullbrook: Why not?

Mr. Shore: You can give an undertaking on behalf of anybody.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but I'm quite sure he would be prepared to share with the members of the House the legal advice we have received and upon which we have acted.

Mr. Singer: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker, since this is a matter which is going to be revealed this afternoon, and is of great concern to an awful lot of people in this country and many members of the Legislature, could the Premier perhaps arrange today to make available to us the legal opinion? It's a matter of the most serious importance in so far as it concerns the affairs of the Province of Ontario—

Mr. Bullbrook: And the teachers.

Mr. Singer: —and the teachers—and we would like to be made privy to the kind of legal advice the government purports to act upon.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if I may? I could provide the member for Wilson Heights and the member for Sarnia with the opinion of the Attorney General of Ontario, who furnished it to me some time ago.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am not prepared to accept in this matter or any other matter—

Mr. Lewis: Well, that's just pique!

Mr. Singer: —the opinion of the member for Riverdale as being conclusive. I would like to know the basis on which the Premier has formed his own opinion.

Mr. Renwick: If you meant the opinion of the Attorney General, I've got it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will not table the legal opinion prepared by myself.

Mr. Reid: That's wise.

Mr. Singer: Or by him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will only say this, the member for Rainy River or wherever says that's wise; I agree. However, I think it might stand up with the legal opinion of the members for Sarnia or Wilson Heights. It just might.

Mr. Roy: Don't be too sure.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I wouldn't be sure. I haven't been practising as recently as they have.

Mr. Reid: Just setting yourself up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We have no reluctance. I really don't know how it relates to the matter for which this session was called, but if the member for Riverdale has a copy I will endeavour to get it from him or from the Attorney General's office, send it over to the member for Sarnia to peruse and the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Bullbrook: I didn't ask for it, he asked for it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, the member for Wilson Heights? Delighted to.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary.

Mr. Renwick: I have it here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There it is.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary: The Attorney General is not here; the member for Riverdale is somewhat less than helpful by saying that he has the information because—

Mr. MacDonald: He has it.

Mr. Nixon: Fine. You can table it.

Mr. Deans: We all can.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, speaking to his point of order, he has a letter from his good old classmate, Roy McMurtry, everybody's friend—even Darcy McKeough's friend, we understand—but what we are interested in is the opinion of the law officers of the Crown on whom this government has based its decision to enter into an agreement with the government of Canada.

Mr. Renwick: Here it is.

Mr. Nixon: This surely should be a tabled piece of information, since the result of the legislation which we are presently considering at this special session will depend specifically on the legality of that agreement. That's why we feel it's essential that the information be made available.

PAPERWORKERS' STRIKE

Mr. Nixon: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask her for a report to the House on the situation pertaining to the woodworkers.

Mr. Samis: Pulp and paper workers.

Mr. Nixon: Pulp and paper workers, yes.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We have been meeting throughout the period of time during which we have been absent one from the other. I have met with some regularity during the Christmas vacation—

Mr. Deans: Since early this morning, you mean.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —again with the officers of the unions, or talked to them by telephone almost daily, and with the officers of the paper companies—

Mr. Bullbrook: That's not a legal opinion; it's a letter to the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick).

Mr. Singer: What a sellout for the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Minister of Labour has the floor. Order, please.

Mr. Singer: Absolute misdirection.

Mr. Nixon: The NDP giggles—

Mr. Singer: Principal Renwick.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk have any further questions?

Mr. Nixon: Sorry, Bette; please go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: Could we get on with the question period?

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of order. It's a "Dear Jim" letter.

Mr. Speaker: Right. Thank you.

Mr. Bullbrook: I have never yet seen a legal opinion that started, "Dear Jim."

Mr. Singer: Deliberately misleading the House.

Mr. Bullbrook: It started, "Dear Jim."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has a further answer.

Mr. MacDonald: You are interested in the form, not the subject; that is your problem.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as you know, there have been at least four votes taken on the latest offers of the paper companies since we last met, and all of those votes have been rejected by the unions. There is a set of negotiations going on right at the moment in the Province of Quebec which may be of some assistance in Ontario. A set of negotiations was to begin yesterday in all of the E. B. Eddy plants in the Province of Ontario, and the CPU Ontario branch asked for their deferment. They have decided they wish to wait until there is some possible settlement of the negotiations in Montreal. That's where we stand at the moment.

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: Can the minister give us any indication if there have been any special steps, or if there has been any progress made in negotiations with Abitibi, to get them back to the table?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, we have made some progress with Abitibi, as I am sure the hon. member knows. The one bit of progress we did make was—

Mr. Haggerty: Backward.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —to persuade Abitibi to pay the extra vacation pay just before Christmas. I am assured that Abitibi is willing to return to the negotiating table. I have not as yet been made aware of the date at which they are to return to the negotiating table. I think it will be in the very near future.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister if she can tell the House just where the inventories of the paper companies stand, because I don't believe the strike is going to be anywhere near settle-

ment until those inventories are down to zero.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I don't have precise knowledge of the inventories of the paper companies. I gather that they have been depleted.

Mr. Cassidy: You should have.

Mr. Laughren: The companies have not provided good-faith bargaining.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I know that certain materials which they ordinarily supply in fact are being imported from other countries to supply the companies to whom the paper companies usually sell. I really don't have complete knowledge of the present state of their inventories. I do have knowledge, unfortunately, of the human state of some of the families of the workers in the CPU.

Mr. Reid: Well get the companies back to the bargaining table.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk have any further questions?

ELDORADO DUMP AT PORT HOPE

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Health. Are we correct in assuming, from reading recent press reports, that the situation in Port Hope having to do with radiation pollution is far more serious than was indicated by the original reports when the House was still in session, and is the minister going to accede to the request from the local member, and others, that there be a full investigation to pinpoint the sources of the radiation and to undertake a planned cleanup?
[2:30]

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it depends upon how one interprets the word "serious." If one means in terms of the health of the people, as far as I can tell there is no serious problem there yet. It may be very difficult to convince anybody of that, but my experts tell me that is so. If one talks about the number of places where radioactive materials have been found, there are quite a few more than were originally known when we last sat in this House. Members may recall my saying at the time that it was our intention to borrow some equipment from Atomic Energy and to scan the town, in a sense, to locate whether there were other high radiation sites. This did show a number of dwellings in

particular that had a radiation count above the normal atmospheric count.

I understand we have told any private home owner of our findings. We haven't seen fit to make them public. I'm not sure whether that's legal or illegal. I think one could argue it either way and I would probably need several lawyers to come up with a consensus. I do think though that morally our responsibility, just as a doctor's is to a patient, is to the people occupying a private residence, where we tell them what their levels are, what risks, if any, we would think they are faced with and what steps should be taken.

It has not just been found in fill; it has been found in other materials. There would seem to be some evidence that not all of this fill or material was taken with the knowledge or permission of the company. I think what they hang their legal argument on is are they responsible in every case. Lumber, for example, that appears in people's walls apparently has a high radioactive level. So we would say in general terms that we know of no public place where a hazard exists. We have located a number of private homes with reasonably low but still above-normal figures. We have told the people and we're continuing our work.

As far as the investigation goes, I'm not averse to one. I think the question is whose responsibility is it and how should it be handled at this point.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: A public place would be that school. Does that school remain closed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I made the statement before we broke up that the school should remain closed until we remedy the problem. I would have to take advice from those people who know more about the problem. In my own heart, I don't think it would hurt the students to go back but I don't think the community is prepared to let it happen. I would have to side with the community, having discovered that—

Mr. Deans: That is a change.

Mr. Lewis: What about Goderich? That is a community too.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's a little different problem. The analogies aren't quite fair and I think the member is bright enough to figure that out.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary: Since the minister seems to be more concerned with the responsibility than with the liability of

those people and with a health hazard which may or not may be present, as he has admitted, is it possible that the minister will attempt to gather some sort of factual data with regard to the health of the people so that we'll know whether he is just taking an educated guess or in fact is basing it upon scientific information?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have had great exposure to people telling me how one would do that and one doesn't just simply do it today. It requires what they call an epidemiological study. In other words, one watches them through their lifetime and sees how many of them finally die of lung cancer. That's ridiculous. Our problem isn't to see what happened, academic though it may be; it's to prevent further contact, if we can. This is where my staff have carefully documented the estimated exposure figures and the estimated durations and have said that, statistically, no one should end up with lung cancer because of it.

Mr. Godfrey: Supplementary: Can the minister table the number of birth defects that have occurred in the vicinity of Port Hope during the last five years?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm sure I could and the member is welcome to peruse the information and see whether there are any other abnormalities. As a non-medical person, I obviously have to depend upon the advice coming to me from those people knowledgeable in medicine. I was intrigued to see that tests were being done yesterday on people, when in fact I'm told no tests are available for the symptoms.

Mr. Lewis: Bone marrow tests.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, but that is not for radon gas problems. I think one must get into this. I'm now trying to find out whether those people were sent because their doctor thought they had been exposed to radon gas and had some symptoms related to that or some other problems. At this point, that's private between that doctor and that patient and they have no intention of telling us. The press impression is that it was related to the radon gas. My experts tell me there is no known way that it is related.

Mr. Moffatt: A supplementary: On the last day of the previous session, it was agreed to by the Premier (Mr. Davis) that a study would be convened involving various ministries, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the federal

agencies, to do a thorough study of that particular situation and, indeed, expand it into a study of radioactivity throughout the province if necessary. Has that been started yet at all?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, if there is one area where we have a fair amount of accumulated knowledge it is in this field. I'd like to say I will be pleased to do anything useful.

Mr. Martel: It's a disaster area.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let's agree on what's useful. To date, no one has been able to show me what studies are going to remedy the problem except to get down to the nitty-gritty and get rid of exposure in the future.

PIONEER VILLAGE

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, I feel the question I have to ask today is of urgent importance to the whole culture of the Province of Ontario. I am speaking about a problem that exists at the present time at Pioneer Village, run by Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority over the last year.

Mr. Deans: Ask it.

Mr. Hodgson: The question I would like to ask the minister at this time is, would he have a meeting with the officials of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority—

Mr. Singer: He answered that on the radio this morning. He said, "Tough."

Mr. Hodgson: —and the members who are interested in keeping this facility open—

Mr. Reid: Thanks for the warning, Bill.

Mr. Hodgson: —with a view, and this is where the crunch comes—

Mr. Singer: He said "No" this morning on the radio.

Mr. Roy: That was a vicious question, Bill.

Mr. Hodgson: —with a view to helping these people out of their financial difficulties at the present time with the Wintario funds?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, there has been a tremendous amount of interest generated with respect to this wonderful activity in Metropolitan Toronto and I'm getting a considerable amount of mail on the question.

Mr. Nixon: The door is never closed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'd be very happy to meet with the officials of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority—

Mr. Singer: Yes, but not to give them money.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —in order to review government policy and to indicate to members of the authority and to others just how generous this government has been over the years.

Mr. Singer: Yes, but not in the future. That was in the past.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We'll allow one supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald: How can the government have its annual—and I'm sure it's going to be annual since they held it before the last election—visits of all those senior citizens to Pioneer Village if we don't keep it open?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't think there is any question about it closing. I think there has been some suggestion that because of the increase in operating expenses they might have to have a more modified programme there, but certainly not a closure.

HEALTH OF COKE OVEN WORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Is the minister aware that the Ontario health protection branch is currently doing threshold limit studies at the coke ovens at the Hilton works and that the union is objecting, at the moment, on the basis that there is a severe cutback in production in that department and it's going to mean tests which will not be accurate on which he might base his recommendations?

Mr. Martel: What else is new?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll be glad to look into it.

DRINKING DRIVERS

Mr. O'Neil: I have a question of the Premier in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). Has the Attorney General's department had under review the recent decision of Judge Glendenning of the city of Belleville, where first-time offenders for impaired driving have been sentenced to jail?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't answer for the Attorney General on that specific question. I will endeavour to get the information for the hon. member and pass it on to him.

Mr. O'Neil: As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I would ask your indulgence on this. The Belleville area has a very excellent rehabilitation programme for first-time offenders.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, is there a further question? I think not. One final supplementary from the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, when the Premier is considering that with his Attorney General, I wonder if the suggestion could be made that it really isn't up to the provincial judge on the criminal side to effect changes in the provisions of the Criminal Code; it's up to the Parliament of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I could only say this on behalf of the Attorney General, I have rather complete confidence in his knowledge of the criminal code of this country, how it is amended and how it is administered.

Mr. Singer: Some of the judges may not be as aware of that as they should be.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Once again without being provocative, I would suggest that he is somewhat more knowledgeable in that field than the rather extensive knowledge of the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Roy: Don't be too sure.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I am very sure. In that field.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Mr. Swart: In the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), I would also like to direct my question to the Premier. In view of the extreme concern expressed by all local government bodies with regard to the likely cutback in services and the increased property tax rate this year, could he tell the House whether the Treasurer or any branch of the government did any studies? If so, what are the results of those studies to determine the degree of cutback in municipal services that would be necessary if the province sticks to an eight per cent limit and if the municipalities go by the 10 per cent

guideline increase in taxation? Were any studies done—and what were the results of those studies?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't answer that in the particular sense for the Treasurer. I think part of the answer at least would lie with the municipalities. I think a lot depends on those areas where the municipalities themselves attach priority, where they decide to make their cutbacks; I think from my own discussions with a few municipalities that they want this opportunity to make their own decisions.

As to any study of a detailed nature, municipality by municipality, I can't say whether the Treasurer or his ministry has done this. I am sure there has been some study as to the overall figures and the impact, but I couldn't say whether it was broken down by each municipality—because here again you get into what the decisions and what the priorities of those municipalities may be.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a supplementary here.

Mr. Swart: Is the government prepared to see property tax increases on the average far in excess of 10 per cent this year and still stick to the guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is the intention of this government to stick to its policy on the amounts of money available by way of transfer payment to the municipalities, the school boards and to the hospitals. The question of the increase in mill rate will depend, to a very large extent, on the municipalities and the kind of priorities that they give in their recognition that we are in a rather tough period and certain programmes will have to be curtailed, reduced, or in some cases perhaps temporarily eliminated.

Mr. Cassidy: Like day care and children's aid.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We don't minimize for a moment the impact on the municipalities or the boards. But there is just no point in holding out any hope to the members opposite that we are going to increase the figures that we have announced. We will never solve the economic problems this province and this country face if every time we feel the heat we give in—and so in that way there is no solution to the problems that we face.

Mr. Roy: That's what you have been doing for the last 10 years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will allow a final supplementary, because the time has just about expired.

Mr. Lewis: It is your mismanagement.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If those guys were running the store it would be so badly handled that we wouldn't even have to worry about that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Rainy River with a final supplementary.

Mr. Reid: I would like to ask the Premier if he can give the House any indication of the financial and economic impact of the cabinet and the Treasurer going around the province meeting with local school boards, the cost to the province of these trips, and the cost to the local municipalities, in view of the fact that he could have sent a letter and told them what he was going to do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is not supplementary to the original one. I'll hear a question from the member for Victoria-Haliburton.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is that what your leadership candidates are saying?

BROWNDALÉ OPERATIONS

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: Is the minister aware of the problems in the Haliburton-Peterborough region of Browndale (Ontario), the recent firings and the possibilities that homes in that area will be closed down? Will he make public his own ministry's reports on the Browndale operations there? Will he consider a full investigation of the situation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the problems. I believe they are internal in nature.

Mrs. Campbell: Internal or external.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I believe it results from Mrs. Debbie Brown changing certain key staff. We are watching the programmes, because our real concern is whether the children are being properly treated. We realize that there will probably be a number of relocations of children in most cases back to other communities closer to the ones from which they came. We are watching it very closely.

As far as revealing internal documents is concerned, no.

[2:45]

Mr. Speaker: We will allow one supplementary.

Mr. Eakins: Does the minister agree with the apparent Browndale practice of having one of its operations rent, lease and sell properties and services to another part of the organization? Is it not true that his ministry has told other operators that they can't operate in that fashion and yet the minister has continued to allow Browndale to do this?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I don't know that we have ever told anybody else that. Secondly, we don't pay them on the basis of the cost of a home, we pay them for a per diem charge for services rendered the same as we pay all other organizations now. I don't care whether they are in a palace or whether they are in a modest home, that is their business.

CANADIAN SKI PATROL SYSTEM

Mr. McCague: A question of the Minister of Culture and Recreation: In view of the financial condition of the Canadian Ski Patrol System and its essential role in this province, would the minister consider financial support to the work of the patrol in the province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member I am very aware of the splendid work that is being done by the Canadian Ski Patrol System, but I am advised that the financial problems to which he refers are those of the Canadian association. The president of the Ontario division tells me they have sufficient funds to carry out their programme and we do, incidentally, provide an annual grant of \$5,000 to the Ontario section to assist with the cost of training their ski patrol members.

Mr. Speaker: We can have a brief question from the member for Cornwall.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Samis: I will try to make it brief, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Singer: That's long enough.

Mr. Samis: No no. I listened to you, Vern.

Can the minister tell us why the announcement to increase the minimum wage was made after the Legislature was adjourned before Christmas, why the increase doesn't take effect on Jan. 1 instead of March, and why the minimum wage in Ontario, even with the increase, is still below that of the

federal government, the Province of British Columbia and the Province of Quebec, both of which will be increasing them again this spring?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage was announced, I think, on Dec. 22 because that was the date on which it was finalized. Secondly, it was an incomplete report, as I am sure the member is aware, because we haven't as yet finalized the student wage, the wage for agricultural workers and the wage which is being considered for those people who work within the hospitality industry. It has been finalized as the general minimum wage and the construction minimum wage.

The second question I believe the member asked was, why was it not effective on Jan. 1. Because we feel that it is more responsible to give the employers of this province at least a three-month lead time so that they can in fact establish their budgets for the next year on the basis of their foreknowledge of the increase in the minimum wage. As I told the member before, we hope this will be done in a phased manner and that three-month lead time we felt was necessary for the general employers.

The third question the member asked was, why was it lower than Canada and BC. Because we, in our very responsible examination of the problem of minimum wage, have to look at the industrial mix of this province which is entirely different from any other jurisdiction in this country and particularly from the federal government's. We have a number of industries which are quite different from those in any other province which are directly affected by the minimum wage. Our competition for the products of these industries is not within Canada primarily, it is with the United States—with upper New York State and Ohio. I will tell the member right now that our minimum wage is almost double one of those and about two-thirds higher than the other. We have a very real problem with that kind of competition, but we do not adjust the minimum wage in a frivolous manner.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of order, before the orders of the day. I want to assure you and the Premier and my leader that the "Dear Jim" legal opinion doesn't include one of the most manifest objections that we have, and that is that the agreement was not subject

to or the result of statutory authority passed by this House.

My point of order is that the House leader said that before the end of the question period he would give me the statutory authority—

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would try; I haven't got it yet.

Mr. Bullbrook: I thought the question period was over.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is over. I said I would make an honest effort to do it.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTES ACT (continued)

Mr. Mackenzie: This bill is a disturbing one for many of us. I want to correct a statement made by one of the members across the way that the purpose of this bill, compulsory arbitration, has been unanimously accepted by all three parties in the House because I don't think that's the case. It certainly doesn't show much awareness of that member of the labour position of this party and its non-acceptance of compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Speaker: There is too much noise in the chamber. Will you cut down on your conversations, please?

Mr. Mackenzie: I also want to respond just briefly to some of the accolades that were tossed to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells). I am not trying to criticize him in any personal or bitter way. I think he has got a pretty serious department, a pretty major department to administer and while I may be a new member in this House I recognize some of the problems and responsibilities that go with that kind of a job.

But I do want to say as a trade unionist and a new member in the House that I sat quietly, although at time it was very difficult to do, over a period of several weeks prior to this teachers' strike taking place and heard the leader of my party, and the leader of the Liberal Party after him, speak day after

day about personally intervening or bringing them together or sitting down with them. I heard him—and I don't have the Hansards in front of me—say on more occasions than one that he didn't think it would be helpful, that there wasn't the immediate need, that they were dealing with it and that the parties were together. We couldn't seem to get through to him what was going to happen in this situation. Quite frankly, while his job may be done well in many areas, I don't think he did a particularly good job in terms of a very difficult and a very serious developing strike situation.

It reminds me a little bit of another new piece of labour legislation that was passed about a year ago in this House that authorized, among other things, the setting up of a disputes advisory committee to which we could refer or which would deal with particularly difficult labour situations or strike situations. I don't know in the year that it has been in that this committee has been used once. I do know that I myself have tried and that others have tried on two or three occasions that I know of or suggested that the disputes advisory committee be used in particularly difficult and sometimes lengthy strikes in this province. We haven't been able to make use of it. It makes one wonder what the legislation was put on paper for in any event.

I have also heard members in this House say that there was not much point in ordering the teachers back or asking the teachers and the board to go back into negotiations, that the parties had reached a point where there was just no room for manoeuvre. I am not sure that the members of this House have honestly thought out one of the major reasons why those negotiations were not bearing fruit. It is almost impossible, if one has done any collective bargaining, to reach agreement with intransigent management—and the boards certainly didn't help in this situation—if they know, given a showdown and a long delay, they can count on the government moving in and ordering them back to work. Really if you stop and think, Mr. Speaker, there is little wonder there was no real pressure on to settle, particularly also when we couldn't get the minister involved in the last few weeks.

I also think that one of the things that we have got to come to grips with in this House, and at this time, is what is happening to collective bargaining in this province. This concerns me. Some members said, "Oh, this is not an issue," or "Really, you're overemphasizing this issue." Let me tell you it's the

one issue right now that's bothering collective bargaining teams or negotiators for almost every union in this province and in this country. There is an anti-labour reaction, there is a reaction about big unions. I don't think it's fair; I'm not here to debate that. But that kind of atmosphere is there.

By accepting the federal price and wage control legislation in this country, we have come very close to destroying the whole principle of collective bargaining. That to me is one of the tragedies in Canada, that piece of legislation. It is so bloody unfair and I think people are beginning to see that it's unfair.

There's no question people want something done; that there's a fear of inflation. But it is unfair to bring in legislation, such as that federal legislation, which effectively controls what's easy to control—and that's the wages of people—without the other controls. They're not there, Mr. Speaker. It is very unfair to have this provincial government cop out of its responsibilities by buying that kind of a position. That's what it is in my opinion—a copout. We are very very close to the end of really effective collective bargaining. How in blazes can you sit down, even if the companies are willing to talk to you, and even if you're in a behind position with wages—as many, many workers still are—when they know that the legislation is there that stops them from getting more than eight per cent, or that says: "Whatever, you get, you're going to have to before that doggone board"?

With this kind of a scenario there was no way you were going to get effective collective bargaining. That's one of the things that, even with the position we have on this bill, I find some difficulty with. But I think that we've got to understand what we're doing.

It's not just the teachers; that's the other point I want to make. It's not the teachers at all in this particular situation. We have this concern I've talked about—about free collective bargaining, and whether there's an attempt to reduce the effectiveness or the possibility of free collective bargaining in this country.

Any move that causes compulsory arbitration or orders a group of workers back to work just adds fuel to those groups—and there are many, and it includes most management and most business groups—who do not want to see the prices go up vis-à-vis higher wage contracts. Anything that hits, that effectively stops a group, such as compulsory arbitration, is a threat. Whether you realize it or not, it is being seen as a threat by the labour movement right across this province and right across this country.

I'm constantly amazed at some of the positions I see coming out. I more or less expect them, I suppose, from the party across the way. But I'm amazed by a party that tries to appear friends of labour and by some of my Liberal friends and some of the bills they bring out and some of the positions they're taking on compulsory arbitration, or in denying the right to strike. This is going to effectively destroy the trade union movement, if that's the position that carries in this country.

I think for many reasons it is a mistake in legislating the teachers back. This is being watched by all of the organized workers in this country. What the government is doing is going to leave a legacy of bitterness. Let me tell you something else—some people seem to think that we're a little bit complacent; that this is not really something to worry about. Compulsory arbitration is one of the most damnable things that can happen in the labour relations field in this country. I think it's worse than strike breakers and many other areas that we've taken on. It does really cut at the guts of your ability to negotiate a good contract—and we just can't allow that kind of legislation.

I am also constantly amazed—and once again I suppose I shouldn't really be this surprised at the party across the way bringing in a bill as barefaced as this one; a party that usually is talking about private enterprise and individuality and freedom. Why is it—I'd like an explanation from some of the members—that when they're finally going to crack down, it's always working people or unions that are hit with this kind of legislation? That is what is happening or what seems to be happening across this province.

[3:00]

As an active trade unionist for many years, I took a look at this bill and said to myself, "There is no way I can support compulsory arbitration." That is the position of my party, and I am not afraid to stand and be counted on that. But I also feel, as an elected member of this House, that I've got a heck of a lot of responsibility to a lot of people and to constituents who may have political beliefs with all parties. I am also ready to accept that kind of a responsibility. If there is a road we can go, or a way that is a little better than the minister is suggesting, I am willing to take a look at it. I may not like it—I don't—but at least we are not inflexible. We are willing to take a stand if that's what we have to do, and I am proud to do it; but we are also willing to take a look at a way out.

Mr. Johnson: Next year?

Mr. Mackenzie: Very frankly, in my opinion, this is not the best way out. But let me tell hon. members that the reasoned amendment we have suggested, while it does contain still one of the most damnable features of the bill—that is, ordering them back to work—also says at the same time that they have a floor and that they are going back to the bargaining table. It is not something I am comfortable or happy with but, in the interest of making a positive recommendation, it is something I am willing to support. It makes one hell of a lot more sense than ordering those workers back to work with no say in what is going to happen. It is difficult enough with the AIB, but this legislation provides no say whatsoever as to what is going to happen; it is legislation that is compulsory and really tears the guts out of the whole collective bargaining system. To say that is the only alternative, I think the government, and the Liberals if they support them, are just dumb if that is the position they put. I would ask them to reconsider their position, and I am sorry if I feel that strongly about it.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, over the last few days I have, as have probably many of the members from Metropolitan Toronto and the outlying districts, received phone calls concerning this problem before us today. Considering all the phone calls opposing legislating the teachers back to work, the opposition seems to be predicated upon two premises: (a) that the students have already lost their year; or (b) that legislation would dictate the terms of settlement.

As a result of my inquiries, I am satisfied that the students at this point, if the schools are reopened, can salvage their year. As well, I recognize that Bill 100 has strengths and weaknesses and that its weaknesses seem to be relevant to the fact that it is powerless when there appears to be bargaining either in bad faith or when an impasse has been reached.

Negotiations have been fruitless in the outstanding area of monetary settlement, and there seems to be no alternative in the circumstances of this particular case but to protect by legislation those most innocently affected, namely the students.

Bill 100, while guaranteeing the right to strike, also provides machinery for collective bargaining. In the case at hand, bargaining has been going on for one year almost to the day and the parties are no nearer settle-

ment now than they were when they first began, particularly in the area of monetary settlement.

When negotiations have failed—and they have — then compulsory arbitration is the only apparent solution. Even in this regard we can preserve the vehicle of negotiation to some limited degree and we can strive to deprive neither side of its right of input into settlement, even in the area of compulsory arbitration. But we, as legislators, must not remove from the parties in this dispute their duty to negotiate, and it is only in light of this that I can support the legislation before the House which requires both parties to submit finally their agreements and disagreements and to allow an independent third party to assess the fairness of both submissions and arrive at a decision which becomes binding.

This morning, the Premier (Mr. Davis) indicated that if the parties had reached an agreement before this bill was passed, he would have the bill removed from consideration by the House. The very fact that we are here today discussing this may be an incentive to the parties to settle. It seems to me that the parties to this dispute must recognize that they have some responsibility in making the legislation work, and I'm referring to Bill 100, and over the past year they have not been able to make it work.

I am likewise intrigued by the preamble to the government bill, particularly by the verbiage which states "and whereas the public interest . . . requires that secondary school teachers return to and assume their duties". This statement seems to me to recognize the weaknesses in Bill 100 and at the same time could be read as a warning to other negotiators in other arenas of contention that apparent bad-faith bargaining or continuing inconclusiveness cannot be tolerated, particularly where there is hardship worked on innocent third parties.

As members of this House we accept as part of our responsibility the protection of those who are innocently placed in a position of suffering; and at the same time we must strive to be fair to all parties. My interpretation of being fair does not include the dictating of terms of settlement, particularly in this dispute between opposing factions, but rather I believe that a sense of fairness in these particular circumstances does require that the parties apply themselves in a final effort to come to a meeting of minds; and this be done in making final submissions to the independent third party or the arbitrator who will arrive at an enforceable

decision in the areas of unattainable agreement.

We cannot dismiss from our minds that each party involved here has been negotiating for one year and each party knows more of what the other party will accept than even we here. Keeping in mind all of those considerations, it is for those reasons that I give my support to the bill before the House.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, the fact that we are here today is an admission of a breakdown, a breakdown in a process which all parties in this House had entered into with high hopes. We had entered into a process whereby we extended to a large group of employees in the public sector the right to have a say in their wages and their working conditions; and with it the right to withdraw their services, without which we can have no true collective bargaining.

Bill 100 was adopted and put into effect and I think it is unfortunate that in its first year we have suffered the kind of breakdown of that process that has occurred in the city of Toronto. Bill 100 has worked in a great many other board areas, so I think one of the things we should be looking at is why this breakdown occurred here.

As a Metro member, I regret that the breakdown occurred here. I am aware of what it has done to our community, of how many people are concerned about the quality of our education following this breakdown. The parents are concerned about the future of their children. The kids are concerned about what will happen this year and whether they will get their year. The teachers are concerned about whether their just claims for catching up with other sectors of the community will be honoured. The trustees are concerned with what will happen to the tax rates, although in that respect I feel that the pressure on them should be relieved somewhat by the province assuming a much greater share of the costs of education, which would benefit the whole community and not just the property owner; the whole community can pay on an ability-to-pay basis more easily than the property owner.

I deplore the factors which contributed to this breakdown. I deplore the scare stories that came out about the fact that all students who weren't back by tomorrow would lose their year. I think they were completely unsubstantiated.

I deplore the media's vilification—that's a strong word but I think it seems to categorize some of it—the media's vilification of the teachers; their contribution to the mis-

understanding of the role of teachers in our community. I deplore the bitterness and the bad faith which was shown in some of the negotiations. I deplore the misinformation which came out in distorted ads. And I deplore most of all the cop-out of the government, the members opposite, on the whole question of the public sector and the Anti-Inflation Board. I think the government is hiding behind the skirts of the AIB in order not to have to discharge its responsibility to see that public sector employees in this province are able to close the gap between themselves and other employees doing similar work in the private sector.

I think the signing of the agreement two days ago before this House met was an insult to the House and that we should have had the opportunity to debate what was going to be exempt, because there are certain sectors that are exempt from the federal application of the anti-inflation regulations. There is no reason why the teachers could not have been included in those exempt sections. In fact, in my opinion the whole of the public sector should be under provincial jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Schreyer doesn't agree with that.

Ms. Bryden: People may say that when you're controlling inflation you can't have conditions that are different across Canada for the same people.

Mr. Foulds: We haven't got it in this jurisdiction. You just heard the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) say why the conditions were so unique in Ontario. Let's just argue about Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Wells: A very perceptive fellow.

Mr. Foulds: The Minister of Labour?

Mr. Samis: Peter Lougheed isn't locked in, though, is he?

Ms. Bryden: The logic as to why the anti-inflation programme for the public sector should be administered by the provincial government is overwhelming. The provincial government is responsible for the supply of funds for most of those programmes the public sector employees serve. The provincial government is responsible for the services those public sector employees provide; education health and so forth. The provincial government is really responsible in the last analysis for the tax policies which finance those public sector operations.

The Anti-Inflation Board is just not familiar with the conditions in each province in these very complicated fields of providing services to people under different provincial programmes. It is also completely bogged down in handling all the private sector contracts that it has. So I think the government is largely responsible for this breakdown in the teacher negotiations. Certainly we all know the intervention of the AIB in December had a great deal to do with the setback of any progress that was being made in negotiations.

Finally the provincial government is doing nothing to see that prices are controlled and it's prices which are fuelling the demands for wage increases. If prices had not gone up so much in the last four years the teachers would not be as far behind as they are and they would not need as big an increase, but the provincial government has again opted out completely on that and left it to the federal government. And we all know that the federal price control is a complete sham. The province could have set up its own price review board and could have controlled oil prices. It took the freeze off one month after the election. It could have controlled housing prices.

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Two months.

Ms. Bryden: I thought it was a month and a half. I'll stand corrected.

Mr. Foulds: Don't be corrected by him.

Ms. Bryden: So we have this breakdown and the question we must face is what do we do about it? We could decide that we will scuttle Bill 100 and that all disputes of this sort will automatically go to compulsory arbitration. Those of us who believe in collective bargaining find that route completely unacceptable because we know for a fact that the employees who are subject to compulsory arbitration in the hospitals and so on slip behind. They do not have the same opportunity to negotiate their own terms as the rest of the private sector.

Why should we have two separate classes of employees—those who serve the public sector and those who serve the private? On strikes in the public sector one gets much more reaction from the public because they appear to be much more affected. I don't know how many people realize that the pulp strike is going to have the newspapers closing down in a month or so and that we are going

to run out of Kleenex. Until that happens, people aren't aware that there is a very serious strike going on in the pulp industry, and so the public is not demanding compulsory arbitration there, but they are demanding it in the public sector, because they are much more aware of what is going on and how it is affecting them.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't be concerned by the fact that the public is seriously affected, but I think we have to look at the pros for compulsory arbitration and the cons. The pros are, of course, that the community is seriously affected if a strike goes on too long, that the kids are affected and that there appears to be a stalemate. But the cons are also compelling, and we must look at them as well.

There is the whole question of the death of Bill 100. If every teacher strike ends in compulsory arbitration, Bill 100 will be dead. It will be the death of collective bargaining, not just for the teachers, but for the entire public sector because the same pattern will be followed. It will be the death of collective bargaining, not just for the public sector, but for what are considered essential services in the private sector. And then we have to decide what is an essential service.

It will be writing off a year's attempt at new legislation and a year's attempt at collective bargaining. It will be writing off the possibility of looking at the breakdown and learning from what has happened and improving Bill 100 to make it work. I think that can be done. In my opinion, the cons are stronger than the pros because they involve the right of people in the public sector to have the same rights as those in the private sector. I think we should restrict to as small a group as possible the people we deprive of those rights. I agree that policemen and firemen probably have to be deprived of them. But we should have as small a group as possible; otherwise we have two classes of citizens.

Since we have come to this impasse, in deciding what we have to do, I think we have to accept certain facts. We have first to accept that if the schools are closed too long the community probably is harmed. If the kids are out too long they are probably harmed, and therefore, some action must be taken.

We have also to recognize that the teachers have a very strong case for a substantial salary increase simply to catch up. Since 1971—if we take 1971 as 100, the teachers' purchasing power is down to 91 by 1975. With the average industrial worker, if we take 1971 as 100, his purchasing power is up

to 104.5, so that the teachers have a very strong case just for catch-up. There is also a case for recognition of their contribution to the community. For many years teachers have contributed voluntary extracurricular services; they get no pay for this. They make a great contribution to the community and yet we are not prepared to pay them on the same basis as other people whose jobs require university degrees. I think we have to face up to this and recognize that they are entitled to the same sort of remuneration as people with comparable education in other jobs.

The next factor that we have to recognize is that the teachers should have the same rights as employees in the private sector and that the taxpayers' load is too great. As I have mentioned before, the way to solve that is for the province to get into the act more.

Since we have decided that this is a break-down and that we have to do something—the question is, what do we do? What is wrong with this bill? There are four things that I can see. First, the teachers go back empty-handed after months in the cold and the sleet on the picket lines; after nine months of legal collective bargaining, and exercising their legal right to strike, and after widespread recognition, by people from Mr. Hartt down, that they have substantial claims to increases beyond the 12 per cent in the guideline.

After looking at their entitlement to special consideration under the guidelines, they do fit the various criteria that were set forth for special consideration, such as that the last contract negotiations were prior to Jan. 1, 1974, and other secondary school teachers throughout the province are being paid more.

I think there are 22 boards that are ahead of the teachers in Toronto for one or more categories. The Metro boards are having trouble hiring enough teachers to meet their contractual obligations. These three factors alone entitle them to special consideration, but, there is no special consideration guaranteed to them in the bill.

Second, it is back-to-work legislation of a very unusual nature in that it contains absolutely no minimum settlement, no floor from which the arbitrators start. This is going to put the teachers back in the classroom with a very deep sense of insecurity and a deep sense of injustice that not even their minimum claims have been recognized.

Third, there is no proposal for rehabilitating Bill 100; there is nothing in the bill which will tell us what happens next year.

Perhaps we should be looking not only at Bill 100 but at the whole Metro education legislation here which sets up this six-board consortium for bargaining purposes; perhaps that is partly at fault.

These are the flaws in the bill and that is why we brought in our reasoned amendment, to correct them. It seems to me that the previous Liberal speaker should be ready to vote for our bill, because he was calling for back-to-work legislation with resumption of negotiations and that is exactly what we are calling for. We think this is the only way to see that collective bargaining is preserved; that Bill 100 is not buried with this bill.

In summing up, all we are asking the government to do by accepting the amendment is to recognize that this is an exceptional situation that requires exceptional treatment. We are simply giving more time for the resumption of bargaining but at the same time we are ensuring that the schools are opened so that the damage to the community and to the students, if it has been occurring, is not continued.

We are also recognizing that the teachers' claims for catch-up are at least as great as the final offer of the board, that that is not a ceiling and that negotiations are still permitted. It is also possible under our proposal for the variation of those terms in that in the negotiations the teachers could decide, if they did not like a certain term of the final settlement as well as another one, they could substitute the other one for it but the total package in money would probably amount to about the same. That sort of flexibility is possible under the interim settlement, and I think that should be recognized. That will speed up negotiations, because if there were certain clauses in the final offer that the teachers did not like, I think they could be renegotiated and still come within the interim minimum base floor. That, it seems to me, will speed up the whole process of getting a final settlement.

Finally, after this legislation is passed, I hope that we will take a good look at Bill 100 and the Metro education legislation to see how we can rehabilitate them so that collective bargaining does carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against this bill because I think it is very defective in settling this particular emergency and because I think there is a way to do it and to have the schools open on Monday morning.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House from one of the Metropolitan

Toronto ridings, I have been heavily and personally involved in this dispute since day 1, perhaps more than many of the other members of the House.

Since the strike first began, I have been involved in discussions and in receipt of telephone calls and letters from teachers, trustees, students and parents. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that has arisen out of this labour dispute that has amazed me—and it amazed me at the time we had another rather significant major labour dispute in the Metropolitan Toronto area that severely inconvenienced the public, which was the Toronto transit strike not too many months ago. The thing that utterly amazes me throughout this and that situation is the public virtue of tolerance, patience and understanding that has prevailed throughout. I think this is something that is deserving of recognition and full credit.

It has been suggested by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) that a great deal of hostility has arisen because of this labour dispute. I have to challenge that position, based on my own personal involvement and findings. Most certainly there has been frustration and concern expressed to me by my constituents but without exception, in talking to these people on a one-to-one basis, I have always found that rational, reasoned discussion has taken place. While there have been expressions of concern and frustration, they have not, in my perception, come to the point of outright hostility. I would like, in that sense, to put the matter back into a more proper perspective.

I think, however, we must not here today put the public virtues to which I have referred to the ultimate test and bring them to the breaking point by involving ourselves in a situation where there will be unnecessarily protracted debates and unnecessary delay to deal with an unusual situation, as has been recognized by this House being specially convened today to deal with a crisis situation.

I think, without exception, today I've heard speakers bring in the overworked phrase "cop-out" and the overworked criticism of the so-called sweetheart deal that the province has with the federal government in trying to deal with a national crisis situation. Throughout it has been used, I suggest, to put an unfair perspective on this whole debate here today.

We have to recognize that we're living with a national fact of life and that there is a federal programme of restraint in existence. To use that as a whipping boy in this

province for this government in having exercised its responsibilities, along with other provincial governments in joining that programme, I think surely is unnecessarily introducing a side issue that is not germane to the merits of the legislation before us.

Mr. Bullbrook: It'll be rather germane to the teachers when Mr. Pepin tells them how much they get.

Mr. Williams: I would suggest that the only time I can anticipate hostility arising in the public sector at large would be in fact if this House gave serious consideration to the amendment that has been presented to us today by the New Democratic Party. I think it would be an insult to the public who have exercised this restraint and the tolerance and understanding that I have spoken of, now to have this Legislature impose the base terms of settlement upon the parties to the dispute as a basis for further negotiations. It is totally inconsistent and I think it would be the straw that would break the back of the virtues which I have referred to and that so far the public have demonstrated so well.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) made use of the term "falderal" earlier today in his remarks on this subject. And I can only suggest that if we seriously pursue the NDP amendment as a legitimate alternative, then surely we are engaging in political falderal. I think the public can expect no less of this Legislature today than to deal with the legislation in principle expeditiously and decisively.

Mr. Mackenzie: Hit them over the head.

Mr. Williams: Either we agree, as do our Liberal opponents, that the principle is sound under the given circumstances, or those who oppose in principle the concept of the legislation as being the best of a not too happy experience should simply at this time stand up and be so recorded. But I think it would be inappropriate and disillusioning to the public to now find that the ultimate source of redress, the Legislature of this province, is embroiling itself in an unnecessary and protracted debate and discussion when the issue is so basic and straightforward and clear.

Accordingly, I suggest that this House should forthwith deal with the legislation before us. I am satisfied that with the logic that has been expressed both by the members of the government party and the members of the Liberal Party today, that this legislation will be dealt with expeditiously and brought forward to represent the most

equitable and fair treatment that can be imposed at this time under the given circumstances.

Mrs. Campbell: You know, Mr. Speaker, it is always good to sit and listen to debates, because the previous speaker has almost made up my mind that I must accept some kind of ceiling or floor for this particular legislation.

When I hear a member of this government say that we must take this responsibility, I want to know why he wouldn't have said the same thing about Bill 12 in 1974. In ending the York county teachers' dispute, it provided an interim salary increase. Or what about Bill 119? We referred to the transit strike, and again there was an award of an interim wage increase. But it is different here, isn't it? It's different when we abrogate our responsibility—

Mr. Williams: I must remind the member I was not a member of the House at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. George has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: I have the floor.

Mr. Deans: If her colleagues won't support the hon. member, we will.

Mr. Williams: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deans: Oh sit down. The member had his chance.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the member presently addressing the House that I was not a member of the House at the time the bills she is referring to were introduced and dealt with by this House.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Deans: It is not our fault he is a member now.

Mr. Williams: The speaker was referring directly to the previous speaker, Mr. Speaker; and as such I think I have a right to draw that to her attention.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. George has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, one would hope that a person prepared for this debate might have looked at the precedents before becoming involved in fatuous statements.

Mr. Deans: Absolutely.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, why are we here today? This is the important aspect—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the hon. member for St. George has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: We should have been debating this government's position on the Anti-Inflation Board and on the provisions of the agreement, which should never have been signed. It should have been brought before this House. Instead of that, we are here to discuss the matter of the teachers, and I say to you we are here because of the lack of leadership of the government for a period of years and, recently, the fact that there are governments who prefer to stay in power rather than to exercise courageous leadership—

Mr. Drea: Is that why you are running for leader?

Mrs. Campbell: —and the fact that this government ducked out and left the authority for the educational processes to the federal government. We recognize the fact too that perhaps we might not have had to be here today if the actions of this government had not so politicized teachers that they, in fact, recognized their own problems with this government in a way in which I'm sure would not have been the case some years ago.

We're here, too, because the official opposition lacked integrity, voted in favour of political expediency and became the Santa Claus who they professed they were at the time of the very significant debate on the Liberal amendment to the Throne Speech.

Mr. Good: Let's hear your applause over there now.

Mrs. Campbell: I want to remind this House that this party and, let us freely admit it, in an interregnum period, was not in the best position to force the government down. But I'm going to tell you, Mr. Speaker, the position we took was on a matter of principle and I will tell you now that this government will live to rue the day that they have placed the fortunes of this province in the hands of the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Why don't you say the federal Liberals? Are you afraid to say that?

Mr. Drea: She is running for the leadership.

Mrs. Campbell: I am not afraid to face facts, but the minister is.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Come on, let's hear you say it.

Mr. Drea: She won't say it.

Mr. Shore: I'll say it: Federal Liberals.

Mrs. Campbell: On the eve of the last election, they were worried about those treacherous Liberals in Ottawa; then they got into their pocket and put the teachers right in the pocket with them.

Mr. Shore: No wonder the minister hasn't been sleeping too well.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I sleep just fine.

Mrs. Campbell: Don't ask me, am I afraid? I have no fear of speaking what I believe to be the facts and the truth.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You don't realize the national situation in Canada at all.

Mr. Shore: Did the minister look at his last financial statement? He should look at his last financial statement.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The minister wouldn't take the five per cent decrease last year. Does he remember that?

Mrs. Campbell: I may not be privy to all of the facts so far as the federal government is concerned, but, believe you me, I am convinced that the federal Liberals have bailed out this government in its profligate spending and its needs to retrench now at the expense of many of our citizens.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is the other way around.

Mr. Drea: When was the last time "Lucky Pierre" did anything for anybody?

Mrs. Campbell: There is another reason why we are here. It is a fact—there is no question about it—that initially the teachers, through their leaders, did take an unreasonable stand, having in mind the economy of the day. But we have to remind ourselves that they took all the necessary procedures under Bill 100, including the fact-finder's report and that, in view of the legislation, they were entitled to look to that report.

One of my deepest concerns about this bill today is that we have seen the almost unanimous condemnation by the news media of the teachers. There has been nothing from the government's side to alleviate that situation. In my experience, it usually does take two to tango. We wonder about the board's position in all of this. I just mention that.

I know some of the facts of the teachers in my own riding. When I hear about some of the salaries, and I know what some of them are, it's an outrageous misrepresentation of the position of some.

[3:45]

In looking at my reasons for supporting the legislation to bring the teachers back in the classroom, I have to say to you, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe, as I think everyone else does, that the time has come when the students must get back into their classrooms. If I did not believe that, I would not be here supporting it in all likelihood. But more than that, I don't think it is good enough for me to say that I support putting them back unless I am sure that I am putting them back into an educational process.

As long, therefore, as teachers have been held up to ridicule and as long as this bill really is seen to be punitive in some of its elements, I have a grave question in my mind in trying to put myself in a teacher's place—and I'm not qualified to teach—however, let me take it I'm a moderate person, I have been caught in this series of circumstances and I am on strike; in some cases I'm locked out. I start to look at what is being said about me. I look at what students are doing too and I worry about the atmosphere in the classrooms. That bothers me.

I would hope sincerely that some of the suggestions or nuances are not correct, and I'm sure they're not. No government, I think, would orchestrate any demonstration in front of the Legislature. It just happened to come at a fortuitous time. If we are really concerned about the way in which education will continue, then we must, all together, surely do all in our power to erode the kind of criticism which has been made concerning teachers and the teaching profession; otherwise we are not going to achieve an educational system that will work, because there has to be mutual respect between student and teacher and the desire to get on with the job of teaching.

I guess what I am trying to say is that I don't believe we can make a teacher teach any more than we can make a mother mother. In the final analysis, it is because I have faith in the teachers, I have faith in the fact that they will go back and they will give it everything they've got, and don't let any member in this House legislate them back unless at the same time they have that belief in the teachers, because then we are just guilty of perpetrating a farce.

There is very little more I can add to this debate. I do point out the precedents and ask that they be considered by the government members. It is very tough really because I felt, as did others here, that it would be unacceptable to legislate teachers back unless there were controls through an anti-inflation board in the province. We fought for that precept and we lost, because the official opposition wanted everybody to have a merry Christmas and I have—

Interjection.

Mrs. Campbell: Usually I sit here and I listen to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) with a great deal of delight. I find him to be a most interesting speaker, although admittedly I don't always agree with the content. I wish all of those people who recommend, for instance "Go Ask Alice" as a reading book, would bring their students here to hear a person who has a recognition of the beauty of the English language. But I will say this, today I really couldn't believe what I heard; I couldn't believe what I heard. Never before would I ever say of this speaker, this delightful speaker, that he was both fatuous and—oh I could say of other occasions he was expedient, yes I could, but not fatuous, not ever before. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.

Mr. Moffatt: Now for teacher control.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation proposed by the—

Mr. Deans: Tell us about the travel agencies.

Mr. Drea: —Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) this morning. I think there are only two salient points to be considered. The first is that the Education Relations Commission has brought down very clearly that there is a situation where the educational programmes, educational opportunity and indeed the educational standing of approximately 140,000 high school students in Metropolitan Toronto, will be jeopardized unless there is a return to normal instruction in the school system; and quite frankly, since that report now is almost a week old, I would say as rapidly as possible.

Secondly, there is no possibility of a negotiated settlement.

Mr. Deans: They didn't say that.

Mr. Drea: The minister said it, and that is who I am quoting, the minister.

Mr. Deans: They didn't, and he didn't say that.

Mr. Drea: He certainly said this morning there is no prospect of a negotiated settlement of this dispute in the immediate future.

Mr. Deans: That is not what the member said.

Mr. Drea: That's what I just said.

Mr. Deans: I wish he would be more clear.

Mr. Drea: Look, I am not going to be—

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Drea: The member is from Hamilton. I am not going to get picky with him today; now stay out of this.

Mr. Deans: There is the first truthful thing he has said since he stood up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker those are the two salient points. The educational opportunities of 140,000 high school students are in substantial jeopardy and there is no prospect, immediate or long-term, of a negotiated settlement.

Mr. Davidson: According to you.

Mr. Drea: Anyone who does not believe this, I suggest is putting a very unfair mantle upon both sides in the dispute. Throughout the dispute, the OSSTF and the various boards of education, or the Metro board, whichever you want to refer to, have made it quite plain they did not want compulsory arbitration. They have always said—and I believe quite honestly—that they have worked toward a negotiated settlement.

Unfortunately, time has run out and that is confirmed by the Education Relations Commission. Therefore, the only alternative—and every party in this House today agrees with it—the alternative is the schools must reopen and must reopen immediately. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that the legislation introduced today by the Minister of Education should be passed extremely expeditiously. We are already at 3:55 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Foulds: Very good.

Mr. Drea: I would very much hate to see a debate continue on through Thursday night

and into Friday morning; perhaps into Monday.

Mr. Deans: Actually you are wrong again; we are four minutes to. It is amazing; you can't even count time.

Mr. Drea: Because we are playing with the educational opportunities of a great many thousands of young people.

It has been mentioned today that the action that will be taken by this House in legislating a return to work spells the death of Bill 100. I think that is an extremely pessimistic view. I think that Bill 100 is just as good a bill today as it was last spring and summer when it was debated and passed in this House. I do not feel that because there was a strike in one particular locality where time ran out, that it means that Bill 100 did not achieve its purpose across this province.

Neither do I feel that the introduction of this legislation today will make compulsory legislation binding in each and every dispute. I do not for the very simple reason that if it is going to be the attitude that compulsory arbitration automatically be imposed on every one of the other disputes that are either now in progress or being threatened then what you are saying is that one of the two sides in those disputes is not going to bargain in good faith because the time will run out and we will have to legislate them back. I for one feel that is far too pessimistic a view.

Mr. Deans: I am saying that you never seek other alternatives than compulsory arbitration. That is the easiest route and that is all you ever look for.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member for Scarborough Centre continue.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, for 59 days, or 36 or 37 working days—whatever way you want to take it, the duration of this shutdown of the high schools in Metropolitan Toronto—the Minister of Education and this government have considered every other alternative there is. The simple fact of life is that time has run out. If this was day five—if the schools had been closed for five teaching days—then I would agree with some of the positions put forward that this is premature and that negotiations might prevail. But negotiations are not going to prevail. They have been stretched to the very limit. They have been stretched beyond the ability—and I say this in all fairness to both sides—to come back now and within a very brief period of time, between now and Monday,

reach a negotiated settlement. Surely that's asking for the moon.

Mr. Deans: Nobody suggested that was possible.

Mr. Drea: Then the only alternative is to legislate a return to work—an end of the lockout in two of the systems and a return to work by those on strike in the other four—and that school commence at 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock on Monday morning when it is supposed to; that is simple.

Mr. Deans: We agree. We agree now with what you said.

Mr. Drea: That is what I cannot understand.

Mr. Deans: We have done that now.

Mr. Drea: I cannot understand this. Why the lengthy debate?

Mr. Deans: Well, sit down then.
[4:00]

Mr. Drea: No, I don't want to sit down and I will tell the member why I don't want to sit down because I don't understand it. I want to explain to my constituents exactly why you people are acting the way you do.

Mr. Deans: You won't be able to because you don't understand.

Mr. Drea: I don't want to have to inject further bitterness into this. Two years ago I spoke in this House when the first of these considerations came up. It was long before the York stoppage, just when it was being contemplated. I talked about the fact that the last thing any of us wanted in an educational system was bitterness and frustration and a lot of other things. In 1974 we discussed the return to work in the York regional dispute, and I am going to read some of those remarks a little bit later on.

Mr. Deans: Not to me you are not.

Mr. Drea: I said that the last thing we wanted was frustration and bitterness. I suggest to my friend just one picture in a newspaper this morning—and I am not taking any sides—indicates to me there is an enormous amount of bitterness and frustration in the school system that's going to be awfully hard to live down. I suggest that the previous speaker, the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell), may have touched upon a very sensitive and a very significant point in all of this, that just a return to work and a return of normal operations in the school system is

only the beginning. There is a great deal of bitterness out there.

It is all very well to suggest that the media should be censored. A government does not censor the media. We live in a free country and the media are perfectly entitled, whether we agree with it or we disagree with it, to bring certain points to the fore. Nonetheless, I think it has to be recognized, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, that there is a tremendous tide of resentment out there and that tremendous tide of resentment has now become part of the environmental situation. Students are going to find it at home where there is resentment and they are going to find it in school where there is resentment. I suggest that in the long run that is an awful burden for an educational system to have to assume.

As someone who has not only students but teachers directly involved in this, I am the last one who is going to bring any rancour or any more bitterness into this. It would be very easy to blame people. It would be very easy to blame statements, it would be very easy to blame positions; but we are beyond that. Time has run out.

I suggest that now is the time to be positive. I don't think, as I said before, that this is the death of Bill 100 and that this is the automatic introduction of compulsory arbitration into every single dispute.

After all, Bill 100 contemplated that it might fail, and I think that's why it is a very good bill. It contemplated that it did not have all the answers to the economic relationship between the teachers and the boards of education in this province. Bill 100 didn't promise a wonderland out there. It didn't promise an easy, simple solution to every dispute. What it did do, and I think is still doing, is it provided an orderly, stable method of collective bargaining.

And it went a little bit beyond that. It recognized that in this above all, in the essential services field, there is the time factor where time runs out. Bill 100 provided a mechanism through the Education Relations Commission to determine this exactly, in an impartial way.

Those who were in the last parliament will recall that we have been recalled here before for school disputes and there wasn't an impartial way of really finding out if time had run out. Bill 100 provided that. It provided an orderly mechanism, and in that regard Bill 100 has certainly worked.

I don't regard the failure of Bill 100 in this case to produce a negotiated settlement within the mechanisms provided in it as the

death knell of the ability to total collective bargaining in essential services in this province.

Bill 100 never really contemplated other essential services. That was another part of it. It contemplated the educational system and the particular and peculiar specialization and relationship of the teacher, the student, the board of education and the educational process. As such, I regard it as still intact and still extremely viable.

It is significant that one of the objections is sending back people to work without a basic increase or a floor from which an arbitrator can move forward—presumably forward; it's never mentioned that it could be forward or backward, but in our time it's always forward.

I draw to the members' attention that in similar situations—and it did not involve teachers, but it involved something as significant to the life of the total community as the high school strike in Metropolitan Toronto—the NDP in British Columbia legislated the pulp and paper workers and others back to work and there was no floor for an arbitrator to go on. That step wasn't taken very lightly out there because the pulp and paper dispute, which is nationwide, had intense ramifications across this country. Nonetheless, in something as significant as that and as recent as that, there was no floor, no built-in floor for the arbitrator from which he could go on.

I suggest to the members that the first time in this province when we introduced compulsory arbitration to legislate people in the private sector back to work—those in the elevator construction industry—once again it was a return to work, it was compulsory arbitration and there was no floor, no base settlement by the government from which the arbitrator went on. So this is not a precedent. The precedents are not only here in this Legislature earlier, but in other legislatures across this country.

I suggest to the House in this regard that the Minister of Education has done everything that is humanly possible to stimulate, to hasten and to try to obtain a negotiated settlement. I think it should be brought to public attention that the Minister of Education is not the employer in this case. Sometimes in disputes of this kind where resentments become very deep and very bitter, things such as demarcation lines between the authority of the Minister of Education and those of boards of education are forgotten by the public. There has been intense pressure by a significant minority, or a significant

number of the public in this case, for the minister long before this not only to order back the teachers but to get rid of Bill 100 on the basis of something like, "I told you so." I think it is to the credit of this minister that he has acted as responsibly and with as much integrity and with as much foresight in the case of this first test of Bill 100 as he did in the very prolonged discussions, debates, committee hearings and so forth that produced Bill 100 for this province.

Like the previous speaker, the member for St. George, I want to say to you that the thing that concerns me the most—and like her, I certainly hope it concerns every member of this House—is the emotional and the intellectual ramifications of this strike upon the individual student and upon the individual teacher.

Back on Dec. 12, 1973, there was a very interesting dialogue between myself and the then leader of the New Democratic Party, who is now the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis). It's on page 7125 of Hansard:

Mr. Drea: And once there is a strike in an industry, believe me, nothing is ever the same again in terms of human relations.

Mr. Lewis: That could be a very useful learning experience, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Drea: It may be a very interesting learning experience, but I don't want little kids to find out firsthand about the class struggle and what happens when they get mixed up in things.

Interjections by hon. members.

Mr. Drea: They can find out when they are 18, or 19, or 20. That is one of the privileges we ought to leave for a little while.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: The kids who walked out in support of their teachers in Northumberland and Durham were learning something about the way society works. It was a useful thing for kids to learn.

A year later, Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 1974—not a year later, in the next session, page 297.

Mr. Foulds: Which volume?

Mr. Drea: If you want it for the record, volume 1. I think the member for Port Arthur will remember; I think he and I were discussing this. On page 297:

Mr. Drea: I regret that I didn't hear anybody today, but I understand that the magic words were not uttered today. I'm still floored from December, because the proposition was put forward at that time that a strike is part of the learning process and it will benefit the children.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: I would suggest that on the basis—would the NDP members like me to

read some of the replies from their party? We can drag this out. No, I don't think they do. I don't think they do.

I don't want to stand here in 1976 and say "I told you so." I am one of the people in this party who publicly supported the minister all the way down the line with Bill 100 and I support him in what he is doing today. I am not interested in saying, "I told you so." What I am interested in is that the time has come where people have to put aside a little bit of this ideology and a little bit of this attitude that "the strike is part of the learning experience," and to take a realistic, objective, cold, hard look at the situation in Metropolitan Toronto where there are only two issues: One, is the children's education in jeopardy; and two, is there any possibility outside of compulsory arbitration for a settlement that will produce a return to normal school activity on Monday morning?

Mr. Foulds: And the answer to those questions is yes.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, there is.

Mr. Drea: The answer to No. 1 is yes; and the answer to No. 2 is no. And a combination of yes and no, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you, means that there is no honest vote—

Mr. Samis: What is this, new math?

Mr. Drea: —except one in support of the bill put forward by the Minister of Education and by this government.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will state his point of order.

Mr. Foulds: In the last sentence that the member has just spoken, he has impugned or imputed dishonesty to anyone who votes in conscience against the minister's bill.

Mr. Laughren: Shame.

Mr. Foulds: I think that is a charge that no member of this House should lay against any other member, and I am asking you to ask the member to withdraw it.

Ms. Gigantes: It should be withdrawn.

Mr. Kennedy: You are very edgy, very sensitive.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cornwall.

Mr. Samis: I will make my remarks fairly brief on this—

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, are you ruling on the point of order?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair didn't interpret that as you did, and I would think that the hon. member doesn't have a point of order at this time.

Mr. Foulds: He said there is no honest vote except in support of the minister.

An hon. member: Let's have Hansard read back.

Mr. Drea: I will say it again, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the point of order, I did not intend to impugn either the intellectual capacity or the personal integrity of the member for Port Arthur on this or any other issue. What I said was clearly intended to be that if one accepts that the answer to the first of the theses was yes and to the second was no, then the only honest vote that could be made was in support of the minister, and the member knew what I said.

Mr. Foulds: No, I am sorry, I didn't follow.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cornwall.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, now that you've arbitrated this dispute, I would like to speak in support of the position taken by our leader this morning, and not in purely partisan terms because I don't think it is all black and white in this issue. I think it's a difficult, complex situation and I think both sides in Toronto have to bear their share of the blame for the impasse that we are in, but I think what we have tried to do in very difficult circumstances is work out some solution to the problem.

There is a very real problem that the people of Toronto feel. We have tried to do something in our position to see that the need to reopen the schools and protect the educational interests of the students is answered. Our position answers that particular situation. We would favour having the teachers back in by legislation on Monday. All we are saying is, can the government go all the way in depriving them of their rights in this particular situation?

Our position is obviously a compromise, and any compromise is unsatisfactory at times, but for the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) to allege that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) was fatuous in his stand today I find a little difficult to accept.

Mr. Nixon: She didn't allege it, she said it.

Mr. Samis: Having been here just a little more than a year and having seen the Liberal Party in operation, I think the number of flip-flops I've seen taken by that party in various policies makes someone like Olga Korbut look like an Egyptian mummy in comparison.

That, may I suggest, is only in one year of observation, but there are other members here who have been here a full term and I would suggest the comparison could go beyond that.

An hon. member: Be nice, George.

Mr. Samis: Oh, I am trying to be.

Mr. Warner: Christmas is over.

Mr. Samis: What I am saying, and this is our position, is that it does answer the need of reopening the schools, but at the same time it does protect and preserve the collective bargaining process. It's a compromise. Obviously, it won't satisfy everybody, but it's a reasoned position in answer to a very difficult situation.

[4:15]

I think the government position in a sense is unfair because it is putting these people back to work and it is giving them the two-year clause. The member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) said there is no floor salary condition in previous compulsory arbitration situations. Does that make it right? May I suggest that the situation in BC did have some differences in terms of the overall economic impact of that strike and that situation and the whole bargaining process that preceded that decision. That's not to justify it, but there are some very obvious differences.

I don't consider the principle of collective bargaining to be so totally sacrosanct as not to be bereft of some possibility of limitation in emergency situations. But if you want to compromise, the compromise has to work both ways. You can't just ask the opposition to vote for compulsory arbitration and a return to work at the same time. There is no compromise on the government's side. It is very unfair to expect the opposition to totally compromise and sell out. Obviously, the third party feel quite at home with the government position.

I have the grave reservations that various members on this side in both parties have expressed about the question of the Anti-Inflation Board. I won't go into the constitutionality of the board, but it just strikes me that the act of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) yesterday in the impact on this

particular situation constitutes what could be the greatest abdication of constitutional authority in the history of Canada.

An hon. member: How do you know that?

Mr. Samis: If you look at the various stands taken by previous Premiers of this province and other provinces on the whole question of provincial autonomy, and if you see how the Treasurer of Ontario signed away our provincial autonomy yesterday totally to the federal government, it really makes you wonder.

Mr. Ruston: You voted for that.

Mr. Norton: What about Saskatchewan?

Mr. Samis: Obviously, there are differences of opinion across the country on this. To suggest that if we had an equivalent provincial board in any way—

Mr. Ruston: You are flip-flopping.

Mr. Samis: —is giving people an out, I think is not giving due credit to that particular position as adopted by the leader of the Liberal Party as well as our particular party.

I would like to add one other perspective, Mr. Speaker, and I would beg your indulgence in allowing me to make the comparison. This is not the only strike facing the people of Ontario and the government of Ontario. I happen to come from a community where we've had a strike for more than four months and a series of other strikes. Let me make a few comparisons with the strikes in the pulp and paper industry. Really it's not a strike and it shouldn't even be dignified by that. It's a lockout by the company and the other companies involved.

Let's make a little comparison. This particular strike affects over a dozen communities in southern, eastern and northern Ontario. This particular strike involved more than 10,000 employees who have been out on strike. They haven't been out for 38 days. They have been out in the case of Cornwall for more than four months and in the case in some of the northern communities more than five months. There has been a clear-cut case in this particular strike situation of bad-faith bargaining by one of the two sides, of which I would think in all fairness we can't accuse either side in this particular situation—maybe lapses but not a general policy of bad-faith bargaining.

Look at the impact of the two strikes. Compare this Metro Toronto strike with the pulp and paper strike. You start off with a

situation, for example, where the wages initially are much lower among the employees versus the teachers.

There is no strike pay whatsoever involved for these men who are out on strike. I reiterate, that they have been out four to five months. They didn't get 40 per cent or 20 per cent or \$15 a day. They didn't get a bloody thing. They had to stand up and fight for their strike and their rights, and they have been paying through the nose. No welfare, no UIC. They're not at the stage of cutting out luxuries or goodies or trips or anything of that sort. They're at the stage of whether they will be able to have meat on the table for the next meal or whether they will be able to pay for basic medicine. That's the stage these people are at.

I look at these two strikes—and I emphasize the point that I was a teacher—and I see what the government is doing to try to solve this one. I do give them credit, they're doing something, whether we agree with it or not. I contrast that with what they're doing in the pulp and paper strike. I make those comparisons as to blame, length, impact and cost.

My only comment is that I wish the hell the government would do as much and get as deeply involved in settling the pulp and paper strike as they are in this one; obviously not through the same method, but with the same degree of involvement, because the pulp and paper strike is hurting people far more than this one. Thank you.

Hon. B. Stephenson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister state her point of order?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I cannot let the last speaker's remarks pass without remarking that it is not a lockout in the pulp and paper industry. It is a strike.

Mr. Samis: That is not a point of order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would remind him that at least five of the locals within the last week have rejected, by vote, the last offer of the companies with whom they were negotiating. It's not a lockout.

Mr. Deans: You already said that.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, may I say to the minister that I'm not trying to allege she hasn't done anything. All I'm saying is that not enough has been done and, to me, a Minister of Labour should settle some things.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member did not have a point of order. The hon. member for London North.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, I will keep my remarks to a minimum, although I will say I don't quite agree with the second previous speaker, who is walking out of the House just now, when he suggests that time is of the greatest importance, that because it's 4:05 we should make a decision in a hurry. It seems to me that perhaps we should have been considering that as early as Nov. 12. I don't think another hour or two is going to hurt anybody and I hope the hon. member will recognize that.

I think one could become very cynical at times to understand why we're here today. There is no question in my mind that this is a serious matter and that it's affecting the young people of Metropolitan Toronto. I must also say that the decisions we make here indirectly are going to affect the young people throughout Ontario.

I believe, however, that this bill has to be supported. I believe it's a compromise. With the greatest of respect I don't believe, as—and I'm sure the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) deserves all the marks in the world for integrity and hard work—but I don't think he deserves all the marks that were alluded to this morning for a sincere effort in trying to solve the problem. I don't agree with that.

Without getting into the aspect of debating Bill 100—and there is much that can be debated on that—I don't believe one had to be too imaginative to realize what would happen once the Anti-Inflation Board came down with its rulings and once this government made the decision—and we'll probably be discussing at some future time the constitutionality and all kinds of other legal aspects of that decision—which I think is the wrong one, to join with the federal government.

Once that decision was made, I think it became pretty apparent, whether or not the government wants to accept it, that Bill 100 could not function in the normal terms in which it was expected to function; we did not have to wait until Jan. 14, 15 or 16 to recognize that. It just seems to me that that became very clear, particularly if we believe in the process of negotiations—and certainly we should—and before we prorogued in December, at least, we should have recognized that nothing better was going to come of that and we wouldn't have had to be here now. I suggest, therefore, that there is nothing that the government has anything to

be proud of in that respect. Once we recognized that, we also would have recognized that the whole process was in partial jeopardy.

The government could well have been proud, however, in my opinion, had the minister and the Premier stated to the boards of education and the leaders, as our leader has stated: "Look at the circumstances. The circumstances have changed. The circumstances are not the same. We believe in this Anti-Inflation Board and we're going to follow it. Let's not debate that at this moment, but the circumstances have changed."

Had they, in their wisdom, and I think good judgement, gone to meetings starting Nov. 12 and continuing every day right up until today, they might have been able to do something at least to recognize that there was a circumstantial change.

All I'm saying is that we are supporting this bill. We believe there has been some damage done to the students but I suggest there could have been a lot less damage had the government taken its position seriously at the time that it should have done so.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, it was roughly a year ago when I, as a member of this Legislature, was defending the bill as we knew it then, Bill 274, which removed any vestige of a right to strike in the teaching profession. I felt very strongly at that time that the teaching profession should not enjoy the luxury of the strike weapon where the educational process might be put in jeopardy. Subsequent to that, of course, as we all know, and we have been talking about it for some hours now, Bill 100 replaced Bill 274 and took a different tack altogether, imposing as it does a whole series of procedures and events which must occur one after another before one eventually gets to the stage where the strike, the concerted act of withdrawal of services could take place.

I think it fair to say that it was made abundantly clear by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) at that time, and by many of us, that we expected the bargaining process that would go on up to the point of, and probably following any strike action, would have to be responsible—responsible action by the representatives of the teachers involved and responsible action on behalf of the boards of education.

I must tell the House, Mr. Speaker, that it came to my attention as early as July of last year—that makes it six months ago now—as early as July that there were people saying

there was just going to be a strike, that it was inevitable.

Now I am not going to stand in my place today and suggest that that was a deliberate attempt by either of the parties to take the process right through to the 37-day period we have just seen. Or whether, on the other hand, it was more a form of defeatism on the part of the parties, or some of them, that regardless of the various steps in this mechanism that had been built into the process by Bill 10, all of those factors would still lead us down to the inevitable position of a strike. All I know is, as we all know, that we did see a strike come about.

We anticipated the possibility of a strike with the appointment of the Ontario Education Relations Commission and instructed them to advise us when they considered that any further continuation of the use of the strike weapon would be to the irreparable prejudice and damage of the students.

Mr. Speaker, they have now told us that. It is essential that we get the educational process back to shape. And I am pleased to see that all parties have recognized that this is the case.

I think in the last two or three weeks the views of at least my constituents—and I suspect that it is far more widespread than just that—seem to have polarized. Recently I have been in receipt of a number of telegrams, a host of letters and scores of telephone calls. I suppose it is also fair to say that some of those people who communicated with me have urged that we do nothing. Let the teachers freeze, so to speak.

But we did not feel that was the way to go. I think that all members here have concluded that in the interests of the students—since their interests are paramount in this—that we must legislate the teachers back. Indeed, I know there are some teachers who have spoken to me as recently as today, but over the last few weeks, who have been urging that course of action too.

There have been some who have suggested, though, that by going this route we are caving in; and I am suggesting that that really is not the case. I think the legislation proposed by my colleague is very firm legislation. There will be no more professional development days for the balance of this year. That gets, as I understand it, at least another 10 days or so of active teaching. That is equivalent to two full weeks.

I think that all the students—certainly all the conscientious students—and all the con-

scientious teachers are going to welcome that. They are going to consider that these are important days and it is imperative that the time be caught up. The legislation is going to get things back in time and I am confident that it will get it back in time to salvage the year for all the students.

[4:30]

There is one other point too you must recognize, Mr. Speaker, and that is that we are proposing this for a two-year term. There has been some suggestion that perhaps it should only be for one year. I suggest to you that the parties themselves were bargaining on the basis of a two-year term and it was only the latest offer from the board which was for a one-year term at a little over 24 per cent. It seems to me it is pretty obvious that a two-year term would carry with it a great deal of stability and would be welcomed by everyone. I think when the teachers' representatives have had a chance to resolve the issue over the next 30 days with the arbitrator and have been to the AIB they too will be satisfied that they have labour peace for two years and not just one.

When we recognize that they would have to start as early as a couple of weeks from now, perhaps earlier than that, with next year's negotiations if we were to legislate this on a one-year basis, we can see how seemingly futile this would appear to so many of us who would see as close at hand as next September another strike looming on the horizon, and we just don't want that. Two years is a very reasonable period of time for this legislation; and as I have emphasized, it happens to coincide with the period the teachers themselves and the boards were bargaining for in the first place.

In closing, I just want to say that I am heartened by the reaction I have heard today and I sincerely hope, and indeed I expect, that the teachers and the students, once this is history and they get down to work on Monday, will get right in there and will make up for the lost time before the end of the year so that the students will not have been prejudiced one iota in their learning experience.

Mr. Laughren: I rise in opposition to this bill which will impose compulsory arbitration and legislate the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto back to the classrooms.

I think that this step by the government looks attractive in the short run, and indeed it probably is, but I think that in the long run it will do more harm than it will good.

I know the short-run arguments that collective bargaining has ground to an impasse and that the students' education is in jeopardy, and I partially agree with that. But I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to ask yourself what kind of educational system do we have where an interruption of two months places the educational career of the student in jeopardy? I would ask you too what kind of educational system we have where we have young people, young adults who have spent nine, 10, 11 or 12 years in the system and who are indeed young adults—as a matter of fact, most people seem to be mainly concerned about those people who are going on into post-secondary education—but what kind of education is it when those people are so dependent upon their teachers that they cannot pursue studies on their own for a relatively short period of time?

I have always thought that a secondary school education was supposed to prepare students for a post-secondary education. As a matter of fact, it is a small percentage of students—less than half, certainly—who actually do go on into post-secondary education. I never thought that a secondary school education was to give students a predetermined package of information which would allow them to cope with life. I have never believed that and I don't believe it here and now.

I know that the utterances of the media and by people here today would lead people to believe that was the purpose of our secondary school system. I happen to think that students are more resilient than we give them credit for. I think they have a greater capacity to be challenged than the system presently challenges them and I think that should be kept in mind.

I have taught at the secondary level and at the post-secondary level and I have never been impressed by the theory that there was a set body of knowledge that had to be imparted to students while they were in the secondary system. I don't believe that is true. I think it is the educational experience that really is the key to whether or not one has successfully educated people in the secondary system, not a set body of knowledge. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that at the post-secondary level it is certainly the capacity to learn and the will to learn and the inquiring mind that determines success or failure at that level of an academic career. The set body of knowledge is not nearly as important as many other factors which I think are being ignored by the government.

I find it passing strange that the government moves to save the academic careers of students after 38 days when they have had 32 years to remove the influences of poverty from the ability to learn for students in this province. Is there anyone who would deny that there is a very direct relationship between the economic conditions in the home and the success of those people in our educational system? The government hasn't concerned themselves with that in 32 years, but in 38 days they literally froth at the mouth because of a strike.

Mr. Speaker, it is an absurd solution to a very serious problem. We know that the teachers in Ontario are dissatisfied, not just in Metropolitan Toronto. There are problems on the horizon elsewhere in the province, and maybe the government should start to ask itself why it is that there is this dissatisfaction. Is it simply a case of not being able to live on the salaries that they are earning now in the educational system? I don't think that's the reason. It is not the reason at all.

This government will not address itself to the more comprehensive problem. Secondary school teaching is a very difficult life. It is a very difficult job. I am sure I have heard the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) say himself that teaching in our school system is very difficult. I do not believe that either the legislation that forces people back to work or legislation that imposes a settlement is the answer. Neither one is the answer.

I wonder if this government really understands the trauma of a strike, what it is that strikers go through when it is a prolonged strike. The problems of finances, the family problems, the whole question of security of the family unit is at stake in a prolonged strike and strikers do not prolong a strike unduly.

A couple of minutes ago the member for York East, the Minister of Revenue for this province (Mr. Meen), referred to a strike as being a luxury. Well, I wonder when was the last time the Minister of Revenue was on strike and enjoyed the luxury of living either on strike pay or no pay at all; and it's obvious that he never has.

I think if the government thinks that the strike was about to be prolonged unduly, they should ask themselves why. Was it not because of the noises this government has made now for many a week that they were about to legislate the teachers back? That, of course, in itself is destructive to the collective bargaining process. If the teachers and the boards realized that there was no

legislation around the corner, I would suggest the dispute would be resolved very quickly.

As a matter of fact, just this morning the chairman of the Metro Toronto board indicated that a settlement was possible. We know that the two sides are not that far apart but if there is going to be legislation imposed on them momentarily, there is very little incentive to settle.

I would ask the minister what he thinks the effect of this legislation is going to be on those other disputes across the province, disputes that are just coming up now? There is Kirkland Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma; and probably others that I am not aware of. I would ask the Minister of Education what he thinks the impact of this legislation is going to be on those disputes? If he thinks that it is not going to have any effect, I would suggest he is sadly mistaken.

What happens if a strike elsewhere goes 38 days? What if it goes 40 days? What if it goes 42 days? What does that say about the government's concern for those students as opposed to the students in Metro? This is setting a very bad precedent. The minister is laying a foundation for Bill 100 that is on shifting sand if not quicksand.

I think he is going to do irreparable damage to Bill 100. I think that Bill 100 is not a bad bill, and there was very real effort in that bill to make things work, but I think that he has given up too soon. There was no limit in the bill on the length of a dispute or a lockout or strike, and what in effect he is doing now is establishing a limit. It's obvious one couldn't put a limit in the bill, that would be ludicrous. But now the government doing the same thing, in effect, by legislating the Metro teachers back after 38 days.

I am opposed to this bill for two reasons. One, it legislates people back to work; and two, it imposes compulsory arbitration upon them.

I would say that collective bargaining is in enough trouble in this country without any assistance from the Ontario government. There is no other protection for workers other than collective bargaining. One need only listen to the utterances of the Minister of Labour in Ontario (B. Stephenson) to know that the workers in Ontario have precious little protection from the government. Now we see this further erosion of collective bargaining in the province.

I'm saying to the government that it should not be legislating these teachers back and it should not be imposing compulsory arbitration upon them at this time. It's no

accident that the Anti-Inflation Board is making rulings now that are unpredictable, and I would suggest terribly unfair. Do we really think, considering the fact that in the last 10 years the bottom 20 per cent of income earners in Ontario earn less now than they did 10 years ago, that this is the time—I'm not talking to the Minister of Education now but to the whole principle of the Anti-Inflation Board—that this is the time to rule on that bottom 20 per cent? That's what we call distorting the distribution of income, and a pox on the federal Liberals for that.

I would say, given the rulings of the Anti-Inflation Board, given what it does to collective bargaining and given the lack of protection for our workers in the Province of Ontario, it's hard to stomach the obsequious subservience of this government to the Anti-Inflation Board. We know that the arbitration in this case is going to go to the Anti-Inflation Board and that they'll be the final judge.

In closing, I stand, as I said at the beginning, adamantly opposed to this bill because it imposes compulsory arbitration and because it legislates working people back to the job.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to begin by reminding myself that the purpose of second reading of a statute is to discuss the principle of the bill. I understand the principle of this legislation to be that we will deprive the Metropolitan Toronto secondary school teachers of the right to strike that we gave them under Bill 100. I understand that, at least on a temporary basis, we are legislating—since the minister negatives by the shaking of his head—at least on a temporary basis we are depriving them of the right to strike or at least to continue a legal strike, a right we had given them under Bill 100. Would that be more correct? I'm wondering if I might address the minister through the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Wells: To open the schools; to take the necessary steps to open the schools.

Mr. Bullbrook: To open the schools. Well then, perhaps realizing that the minister doesn't want dialogue, to open the schools and direct the teachers by law to undertake their professional responsibilities. I characterize that, perhaps improperly, as depriving them of the right to withhold their services, which I characterize, perhaps improperly, as the right to strike.

The point I want to make here is the obvious anomaly that should come to the attention of every member of this House, that is that the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto will be at least on a temporary basis de-

prived of what we considered a fundamental legal right that they had under Bill 100; and yet at the same time their colleagues in their professional responsibility throughout the remainder of Ontario will continue to have the so-called right to strike.

The point I want to make to you, Mr. Speaker, is this isn't an amendment to Bill 100. The fact of the matter is, we had better understand now that eventually we are going to have to come to grips with the extension of Bill 100 throughout the Province of Ontario, because either there is essentiality in their professional undertakings or there isn't essentiality.

[4:45]

I have had colleagues of mine in my caucus talk to me in the past relative to Bill 100, that essentiality of the provision of education to our youngsters is a question of time. It's really not going to hurt them if they only miss three days' school, or five weeks in Windsor. The fact of the matter is, we've come to the conclusion today that at some time we must make an arbitrary decision as to when students are being adversely affected.

I want to say, as the parent of a grade 13 student at the present time on the semester system in the city of Sarnia, I don't know how she could possibly qualify in any way for admission to post-secondary education in the Province of Ontario, having missed that length of time on the semester system and having been deprived of that right to know under the semester system.

The Education Relations Commission says that that now, I suppose, is in jeopardy. The fact is, it was in jeopardy from the very beginning. We who attempt to rationalize our responsibility otherwise do ourselves a great injustice; but more important, we do them an injustice.

I want for a moment to talk to my colleagues in the New Democratic Party and try to explain to them why I cannot accept their reasoned amendment. I compliment them on the mental gymnastics that they must have gone through. There must have been significant blood on the floor of that caucus room yesterday, I am absolutely certain of that. But on the other hand—

Mr. Renwick: Absolutely none.

Mr. Bullbrook: —it shows a great ingenuity and a great integrity of purpose. I am not going to adopt the words of the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) that they try to come down on both sides of the issue. I don't think that is the motivation. It is a happy collateral

circumstance that they do come down on both sides of the issue, but that I truly believe is something that happened not as a result of their intention.

The fact is that it sounds good to speak for a half an hour about the sanctity of the collective bargaining process, which, perhaps improperly, I understand to be that you are entitled as a matter of right to withhold your services from your employer and the employer is entitled as a matter of right to withhold any payment for those services. The problem that we have, of course, in this particular situation, and in most public-sector collective bargaining situations, is that there is a third party involved—namely, the public; and so directly in this one, the students. But there is that reciprocity.

I couldn't focus on the difficulty until the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) spoke about the NDP amendment. He used the phrase, quite properly, "the resolution of the problem." The essential problem here is negotiation. The essential problem that faces the teachers, as I understand the problem to be, is the question of their remuneration and their benefits, and the other obligations that they have from a professional point of view. Although we put them back to work we don't resolve that problem, and I see—perhaps in error—but I see from the little knowledge I have had of the collective bargaining process, that there is a certain fracturing or imbalance there. It's a precedent I certainly wouldn't want to see ever involved in the private sector. I surely wouldn't want to say to a union, "Go back, and settle while you are working," because were I management I would just wring my hands with joy for that type of proposition. Because I would never settle in good faith, may I tell you. I would never settle in good faith in that situation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's what Barrett said.

Mr. Bullbrook: One has to dispose oneself, I think a little too generously and charitably, to the school boards of Metropolitan Toronto, to think that they might come to an equitable and just conclusion in those circumstances, when really the problem has been solved by the Legislature of Ontario. That's why I see the necessity, if the government is going to put the teachers back to work, there must be some attempt at an objective evaluation of what remuneration and other rights and duties are to be concurrent with that return to work. That brings me of course to the essential and from my point of view, the

most fundamental aspect of our discussion, because we are not, Mr. Speaker, doing that.

The NDP amendment is forthright in this respect; it doesn't attempt to do it. But we attempt to do it. We go through a charade of appointing under this statute a compulsory arbitrator who has no ultimate power; that's the charade. That's why for 10 weeks I've been vitally interested, not only from the point of view of the teachers, but from the point of view of the police, from the point of view of the firemen, from the point of view of the municipal employees.

More important—and I think the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) touched upon this three months ago—more important from the point of view of the public servants of the Province of Ontario, the people who must directly negotiate with this government, on behalf of the people of Ontario, for their just reward, because of an agreement executed two days ago we now abdicate that responsibility in connection with all the people who serve us—"we" being the people of Ontario.

We did it through an agreement that we entered into two days ago with the government of Canada, executed now by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) which in effect says—and the public must realize this and the teaching profession better realize this—that no matter what the arbitrator says, it will be Jean-Luc Pepin at Ottawa who decides what the teachers of the Province of Ontario eventually and the teachers of Metropolitan Toronto immediately will receive for their remuneration. Yet it's our constitutional responsibility under sections 92 and 93 of the British North America Act that we make those decisions, that we delegate those powers, that we retain control and, most of all, that we accept the responsibility.

Just think of the absolute chicanery of what we're doing. We're saying to teachers, "You've got to go back to work"; and we're saying, "We'll go through a charade of compulsory arbitration, but eventually it will be Monsieur Trudeau and his men who will make the decision as to what you're paid." I'm not prepared to do that.

With the teachers, I say that we must have complementary legislation, we must have complementary administration; we must have supplementary legislation and supplementary administration. It's our responsibility so to do. We cannot abdicate that responsibility to Ottawa unless we want to say to Ottawa and the House of Commons, and to my colleague from Sarnia, let him undertake the responsibility of putting the teachers

back to work. If he's going to tell them what they're going to be paid, let him put them back to work. But I tell you, Mr. Speaker, if I have to do it, as I have to for the benefit of the students, I want to make sure that it is within my responsibility, that I retain that jurisdiction. That's all I've asked for, that's all I continue to ask for and I think that's the only reasonable thing. We can't have it both ways, but I'm very much worried about the whole question of the agreement itself.

We had some byplay this afternoon with our colleague, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), who is without a doubt—and I don't embarrass him I trust—a person of extremely great knowledge in matters generally of law and also in matters generally of the constitution and I know in very scattered—

Mr. Singer: Wait. Wait for the next line.

Mr. Renwick: I'll wait.

Mr. Bullbrook: —very scattered discussions that he feels more deeply I'm sure than I do about the matter, because he has given us the benefit of a letter that he wrote on Oct. 30, 1975, to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and on Oct. 30, 1975, he got an opinion from the Attorney General. It was interesting, of course, today in the question period, we asked for an opinion from the law officers of the Crown. We didn't ask for the opinion of the Attorney General. The Attorney General is a very good lawyer; I know him by reputation to be extremely capable counsel. I don't think he's a constitutional lawyer; no more than am I a constitutional lawyer. I sought advice on this matter from others much more knowledgeable than I. But as I look at that "Dear Jim" epistle, I must say I had to say to you, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I've never seen a legal opinion, even though my name is the same as his. I've never seen one come to me: "Dear Jim"; never. Not even the bill comes to me "Dear Jim." They just send it in the most dispassionate, objective fashion as lawyers always do.

Mr. Renwick: That's how we constitutional experts deal with each other.

Mr. Singer: So that's what you were doing this afternoon.

Mr. Bullbrook: I see. Isn't it marvellous? I want to say to the House when Lewis is romancing Davis and Renwick is romancing McMurtry, we really feel like the jilted third party over here. It's getting to be an almost

incestuous relationship between these two. I mean, who in his right mind a year ago could envisage a true establishment man like Darcy being part of a government that would pass that rent review legislation? Could anyone in his wildest mind think of Darcy doing that? Goodness gracious, I imagine the people in Chatham won't let him inside the city gates.

If I might digress for a moment, that rent review legislation has to be really something. I had 22 calls on Monday; 22 of them. They say to me, "Who do we complain to?" I said, "I don't know. Lorne hasn't appointed anybody as a rent review officer." I told every one of the 22 callers, "I want to bet you something. Whomever he appoints will be from Petrolia. He won't dare appoint somebody from Sarnia. He'll get one of those real knowledgeable urban persons from Petrolia to come in and tell us what the Sarnia rents should be."

I don't know what was going on this afternoon about the psychiatric hospital in Goderich. I didn't know Lorne was involved in that, either internally or externally. I had no idea; believe me I didn't.

Mr. Reid: He knows it from the inside out.

Mr. Bullbrook: He knows he has power in southwestern Ontario. There is no doubt about that. I thought it was just my bailiwick he ran. They gave him a testimonial dinner about a week ago and I read about it on my way back from a short vacation—an unduly short vacation, but I read about it. He was saying, he was "very proud of the growth of his riding to 117,000 people." I don't know whether that's a Freudian slip or not. He even included my riding with his riding.

Mr. Eaton: He looks after it for you.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's right, and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, he does one heck of a job. I won first by 1,200; then 6,000; then 8,000. If he keeps this up for me I'll break the 10,000 bracket. He's just great.

I want to stop and I haven't begun. My colleague, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) is going to be more specific, but I'm going to say this, if I may. I believe the agreement to be illegal. The agreement is illegal. The best they can hope for is to rely on the peace, order and good government clause in a section of the British North America Act to legalize, in the most peripheral fashion, the signing of this agreement. I want to say that that is the only hope they'll have before a court—the only hope they'll

have. They'll rely on the national capital case.

I don't want to be dealing, as I might be, before the court of appeal in citing these, but let me say this: In the preamble to Bill C-73, the federal government in its great wisdom wrote as follows, if I may, Mr. Speaker:

Whereas the Parliament of Canada recognizes that inflation in Canada, at current levels is contrary to the interests of all Canadians and that the [and this is interesting] containment and reduction of inflation has become a matter of serious national concern.

What they were trying to do there, I believe, is attempt in a very peripheral or collateral fashion, as I say, to invoke the possibility of constitutional vires under the peace, order and good government clause.

But aside from an expansion of the matter from the point of view of case law, I want to say this: There has been an expansion, by decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada, of the right of the federal government under this section of the British North America Act to somewhat invade provincial powers. In the national capital case I speak of, they felt that that legislation was intra vires of the federal government to give it the right to expropriate at the national capital. But the key ingredient there, from the point of view of the court decision, is that in every decision on which the hon. Attorney General and his law officers rely, the provincial jurisdiction was at best concurrent. In essence, sir, I want to say, if I may, the pith and the substance of the legislation did not in any way invade the provincial jurisdiction. Here it does, without reservation; in the private sector it does without reservation.

[5:00]

But let me point this out to you, Mr. Speaker, if I may. Peace, order and good government for the sake of public awareness could be best exemplified by going to war. We declare war. And I tell you, when we declare war, what we don't do. We don't let Quebec opt out. We don't let Ontario opt in. We don't let Alberta opt out and let Nova Scotia opt in. But that is what this statute does.

If it is going to be peace, order and good government on which they rely, why do they put a section in that permits the provinces to opt in or opt out? How they are going to be able to validly argue that before the courts I don't understand.

But more important than that aspect of it, right in their statute, they exempt the pro-

vincial public sector. They exempted that sector from the application of the statute.

In effect what they are saying is: This is a national emergency and you can get in if you want to or get out if you want to, but also it is such a national emergency that no provincial jurisdiction, no municipal jurisdiction—for example, no fireman, no teacher—will be subject to this unless the province wants to make them subject to it.

I am going to quietly say this to you in my respectful opinion, as I said before, the best that they can hang their hat on is peace, order and good government and they are going to have to come up against those particular arguments—I trust very shortly by CUPE—because I trust somebody is going to take this matter to court and have the courts interpret it.

The second thing is this: the question of delegation. And the Attorney General in his "Dear Jim" letter says this isn't a question of delegation. I want to read to you for a moment, Mr. Speaker, the covenant in the agreement. On page 4, section 2, of the agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the Province of Ontario it reads as follows:

Canada and the province hereby agree that the federal Act and the national guidelines shall apply to the provincial public sector.

Well, it is absolutely trite law that you can't delegate your authority. What they tried to do is this; they tried to get around it. It has the Spencerian hand of Rendall Dick in this agreement, believe me it does.

Listen to this. This is a recital, and I want to tell you, as a lawyer, recitals are not taken into consideration in the interpretation of a document by the courts, but they decided that they would sneak this in:

And whereas it is understood that neither Canada nor the province shall be deemed by reason of having entered into this agreement to have surrendered or abandoned any of the powers, rights, privileges or authorities vested in it under the British North America Act, 1867, and any amendments thereto or to have impaired any of such powers, rights, privileges and authorities.

They put that in. What they are saying is: By the way, as we are going along here surrendering all our power—for example, the power to establish, the obligation to establish, the duty to establish, a just payment to the teachers of the Province of Ontario—while we are abdicating that, we are really

not abdicating it. That is what the recital says. But the fact of the matter is the section I read to you before is not an administrative section.

The third thing is this—may I just reinforce this? There is no equivocation in what I say. The body of case law—basically the Nova Scotia interdelegation case—but the body of case law is without impairment in this respect. You can't delegate your authority. The federal people can't give us their authority. The Province of Ontario cannot give its authority to the federal government.

It can be assimilated into a provincial statute. This is what I want understood if I can. If the government wants to do that which it feels it must do—and that is, not accept its responsibility—it is again absolutely paramount that it enact legislation and adopt, if it wishes, the general guidelines into a provincial statute and then appoint the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa to administer, and administer only, the provincial statute. The key word is "administer." The government can't give over to Pepin the right. All it can do is give him the ability to administer.

But the government hasn't done that. What provokes me more than anything else, before I sit down, is the arrogance of this—more than anything else, Mr. Speaker, the arrogance of executing that document pursuant to an order in council. During the question period I asked, and you were here, I asked under what statutory authority was that order in council passed. My friend the House Leader said, "I will get it for you." I still don't have it, because it ain't there.

Mr. Singer: Of course not.

Mr. Bullbrook: There is no statute. But I close in saying this—to the public, to the teachers, but more important to my colleagues here: This happens to be a parliamentary democracy, and we as a Legislature are part of a parliamentary system, and we don't go around surrendering basic constitutional rights; we don't go abdicating basic constitutional responsibilities, legal or otherwise.

Forget about whether the opinion given to me is correct or not. It is absolutely fundamental that the government understand that we are not in the United States of America. There are 125 of us, Mr. Speaker—you included—who have a responsibility to make a discussion available to the public, to decide whether we want to opt in or opt out. It was stupid of the federal government ever to put section 4 (3) into that Act. They never should. If it was a national emergency it was a

national emergency and they had an obligation to direct from Ottawa and not play footsie.

I record this: The arrogance of the Prime Minister of Canada to call the 10 Premiers on Thanksgiving afternoon as if it was some type of ad hoc arrangement, as if he was going to announce somebody was getting married, and to say to them, "Have some lunch. Here's what we are going to do."

Well I don't think you operate a co-operative federalism that way; I hope you don't. It causes me great concern that we acquiesce in this type of executive order. We are a legislature and we demand our right to legislate. The government should have come to us and said, "Now, here is what we feel is necessary." If it was a question of confidence, so be it. Nobody wants an election; obviously I don't. I don't know whether Lorne does or not, but obviously I don't.

Mr. Stong: No way.

Mr. Bullbrook: I ask that if it happens again—because I think the government is going to lose in court and it is going to have to come back here and give us our shot anyway—but I ask that if it happens again, if matters of this nature come up again, I ask all colleagues to recognize that it is our right to debate; it is our right to decide whether we want to administer.

It is very important. One other speaker—I don't recall, but it might have been the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis)—touched upon this. The reason we are able to supplement—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think this is out of order.

Mr. Bullbrook: Did you say I am out of order? I am sorry, did you say I was out of order? I am just about finished.

Mr. Singer: Who said that, the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy)? Was that the Minister of the Environment?

Mr. Bullbrook: I will only be about two minutes more. Why be offensive at the end of the speech? It is only at the beginning that you are offensive.

Mr. Singer: He used to have one of the justice portfolios for a while, didn't he?

Mr. Bullbrook: I am very serious about this. I am very serious in this respect, that if this ever happens again I invite, truly, the members of the cabinet to persuade the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) and whoever

otherwise misguides him, to recognize that legally or not we should have the right to make a decision.

I want to close by saying this, so that the teachers understand and the public understand: We are better equipped than Ottawa to make a judgement as to what the teachers' salaries should be. Aside from the constitutional aspect of it, we are better equipped to tell municipal employees what they should get. We are better equipped to tell our firemen what they should have. Finally, we have the responsibility to do so.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation to send the Metro Toronto secondary school teachers back to work on Monday. As you are aware, the riding of Scarborough East, which I represent, is within Metro and there have been about 30,000 students in Scarborough affected by this strike of some 1,800 teachers in the borough's 22 secondary schools.

I have had many letters and telephone calls from parents who have been distressed by the strike. I have had a number of letters as well, some of them considerably bitter, from teachers, and I believe that one of the most telling aspects of the mail is that all of the letters are emotional.

The teachers, however, were seldom explicit. Their letters range from a plea "not to promote paranoia in the pedagogue," and that is a quote, to a plea for me to accept responsibility. The parents, on the other hand, were much more exact. They wanted this Legislature to order the teachers back to their classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is going to take an enormous quantity of goodwill on the part of all of the parties to ease the system back to where it should be. The young people were the ones with the most to lose in this strike, but they will fortunately be caught up in the rhythm of their school events. It will be up to the parents, the board members and the teachers to work toward a new spirit of co-operation. I know that the boards and many of the teachers are already devising ways to help students to catch up with the classes they have missed. Surely this attitude of helpfulness will assist in creating a more relaxed and less emotional atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of this government to ensure that the education system is available to our young people. With this legislation, we have reaffirmed our responsibility to the students and to the taxpayers who pay the costs for these services.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes. That is the title of this piece of legislation. I think it would be much better be entitled "Strike-breaking Legislation, Volume 5," or something like that, because this government in its antics during the past term has without doubt retarded the free collective bargaining process more than any government this province has seen in the past 50 years. Almost at the slightest provocation, this government will go through the routine of rhetoric and claptrap to find a scapegoat to pin the blame on for their inability to govern the Province of Ontario.

The problem we are faced with today is wider—much, much wider, Mr. Speaker—than the problem facing Metropolitan Toronto. We know, for instance, that various other school boards across the Province of Ontario are negotiating and are in positions to take votes and all of the information we have is that we are going to have a continuing series of disputes right across the province, not only in the educational field but in other fields as well.

There is a restructuring in society that has been going on over these past few years. Anyone who reads headlines in any newspaper in Canada, or in fact around the world, must understand that the pecking order as it prevailed over the past 50 or 100 years is being challenged. Lo and behold, whenever this government sees any of the groups trying to get out of their established place in the pecking order, it comes down hard on their necks. I am thinking in terms of the TTC subway operators who were forced back to work when they chose to try and better their role in life. I'm thinking also of the elevator construction workers who for no reason that I have yet been able to find out were forced back to work.

Certainly the government can dig up excuses. They can dig up excuses to substantiate any of the moves that they seem so inclined to make. But they are the true defenders of the establishment. The status quo must remain and this government, with the help of the party to my left, has been getting away with this type of legislation over the past four or five years. It's typical Tory legislation.

[5:15]

If one sits around here and listens long enough one eventually finds out how this government thinks. I was quite surprised to hear the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen)

who said, just 10 or 15 minutes ago that the right to strike was a luxury. What kind of claptrap is that? Does he not know how the right to strike was won in Canada, in North America, in fact right around the world? What was the cost, the human cost, in workers, people who have to live on wages? Luxury implies that it is something granted like a Christmas present. Well, this government, particularly this Tory government, has never granted anyone a luxury in their life as far as the wage earners are concerned. The right to strike was fought for and it was won, just as the teachers fought for and won the right to strike.

He also mentioned the iniquitous Bill 274, which made it illegal for teachers to strike. How many times have I seen the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) on the boob tube telling the people of Ontario: "Well, if you don't give them the right to strike they're going to go on strike illegally anyway."

That's how much this government thinks about the bargaining process. If the government had not been threatened with illegal strikes in the educational sector, then Bill 100 would not be on the books. And it has no right to take credit that it granted the teachers the privilege in Bill 100. It had no other option because it was faced with illegality.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if this back-to-work legislation, this compulsion by this government, continues as it seems to have done in the past few years, the day will eventually come when even back-to-work legislation will be defied. There is even thought of that now within the Metropolitan Toronto school board dispute. In fact, resolutions have been passed by the OSSTF, and I understand that the head of the OSSTF is calling a vote to determine whether in fact they will accept this legislation once the government has forced it through the House, with the help of its kissin' cousins over there on my left.

Mr. Bullbrook: If he's doing that, that is arrogance of the worst kind. In other words he is suggesting that perhaps they won't abide by the law, is that it? And they wonder why they are in disrepute.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Sudbury.

Mr. Germa: The bill is deficient in very many forms, and I was interested to hear the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) bring us up to date on the ramifications of handing over the teachers to the Anti-Inflation Board;

without any qualms whatsoever this government has seen fit to do that. They do it because they're abrogating their responsibility; and they've consistently done this to try and shift the blame on to some other person. I think this short-term solution for a very narrow sector of the economy is not in the best interests of the people of Ontario.

When Bill 100 was brought in—the minister brought it in, kicking and screaming—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh, no; no.

Mr. Germa: —it was evident right from the beginning it was the threats of the school teachers to do an illegal act which forced this government into bringing this legislation in—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Repetitious and wrong.

Mr. Germa: —and to elaborate—

Mr. Martel: The minister had to convince his own colleagues; they didn't want it.

Mr. Germa: —to identify how sincere the government was, in Bill 100, they made sure that it had written within it a self-destruct mechanism, so that our compulsory arbitration and back-to-work legislation was dictated within the elements of Bill 100. That is about as much faith as this government has in the free collective bargaining process. That would indicate to me that it has no faith in it whatsoever.

What this is doing to the bargaining process is eroding the true spirit of good-faith bargaining. As long as various groups, including school boards and including teachers, can rely on this government to come along and force an end to the dispute, then the government can rely on them not to come to a negotiated settlement.

The government also seems to think that the very fact of opening up the doors of the schoolroom is in fact going to open up the doors of education. I think it's quite evident to everyone here that we have a large group of embittered, beleaguered and disillusioned school teachers, and just by forcing them back into the classroom does not indicate to me that the government is in fact opening up the doors of education.

The destruction to the students, of course, has to receive consideration, but there is a body of opinion that believes that the point of no return has not yet been reached. Certainly, the board set up under Bill 100 made this recommendation, but there are other alternatives in order for a student to make up his school year. There is no law that I know

of which says the schools cannot run in the month of July, for instance, so that the period of panic really hasn't arrived as of this moment. If that is one of the motivating influences which brought this government to this decision, then I think it did not consider all the alternatives available.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Then why your amendment?

Mr. Germa: The amendment, I was coming to, Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think you really did have trouble in caucus.

Mr. Germa: I think the government should not misread, in the amendment, the position of the New Democratic Party.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Do you agree that the schools should open on Monday? That it is an urgent situation?

Mr. Germa: The amendment was trying to make better a bill which is totally unpalatable; that's exactly what the amendment was doing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Germa: It was trying to make a thing palatable which we just couldn't swallow, and that's precisely what we are doing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, you are choking over what you are doing.

Mr. Germa: The two principal clauses in the bill—

Mr. McClellan: The Premier should be choking too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could the hon. member continue without any interruption, please?

Mr. Germa: The two principal clauses in the bill, Mr. Speaker, are still not acceptable to the New Democratic Party. Compulsory back-to-work legislation is not acceptable to this party, and compulsory arbitration is not acceptable to this party.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Just vote against it, don't amend it.

An hon. member: You've accepted it.

Mr. Germa: We have not accepted compulsory back-to-work legislation, as will be demonstrated when we vote at second reading.

Mr. Nixon: Oh yes, you have.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh yes, you have.

Mr. Germa: The New Democratic Party is opposing this legislation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Your amendment says they've got to go back to work on Monday.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I was quite fascinated in listening to the words of the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa), and I just wanted to refresh my memory as to what that reasoned amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) said. It said, Mr. Speaker, "We want the schools to open on Monday."

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is compulsory.

Mr. Singer: Yes, and it's compulsory, and they have to be there. But it also said, "We are not going to arbitrate a pay solution; they are going to negotiate for an indefinite period." How does one tie that in in any way with the comments made by the hon. member for Sudbury or some of his other colleagues? How many ways do they think they can have it? Do we believe the leader, or do we believe the member for Sudbury, or do we believe the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick)? Which one?

Mr. Renwick: Wait until the vote.

Mr. Singer: It's very, very hard. I am going to get to it. All right, let me quickly get to the member for Riverdale; he is anxious, he is anxious.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Put the boots to him.

Mr. Martel: The member for Wilson Heights is looking for a reason to vote for compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Singer: I am not looking for a reason. I say this, and I am happy to be—

Mr. Martel: There never has been a time when you haven't.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wilson Heights will continue.

Mr. Renwick: You're quoting from what your colleague calls absolute chicanery.

Mr. Singer: The member for Riverdale is going to vote against it, is he? He's going to vote against them going back, eh? He's going to vote so that the students will not be able to go to their classes on Monday? He's going to vote in the way—in the words of the member for Sudbury—that there is no rush. It can be done in July or August or September,

and it doesn't matter one hoot. That's what he's voting for. If that's what it is, then let the people of Toronto know about that. We're voting in the way that my leader indicated—

Mr. Renwick: When the question is put, we will vote no.

Mr. Singer: We're voting so that the schools will open again on Monday.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is one very serious matter that I wanted to deal with at some length—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: —and I hope that the hon. member for Riverdale will pay some attention. Frankly, I was surprised at him this afternoon—

Mr. Renwick: I have been waiting all day.

Mr. Singer: —when he introduced in his peculiar way this "Dear Roy," "Dear Jim" series of letters. Now, I join with my colleague from Sarnia in saying—

Mr. Renwick: Mention the date of that letter will you, Oct. 30, 1975.

Mr. Singer: I know, I know. Why are you so sensitive? Be patient. I haven't said anything nasty about the member yet, but it's coming.

Mr. Renwick: We tried to deal last year with the problem that you're dealing with this year.

Mr. Singer: I don't know why he's so sensitive.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we get on with the principle of the bill? The member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Periodically Mr. Speaker, the member for Riverdale gets all upset because of his guilty conscience. He's going to have cause to be upset when we're through, but I just want to lay the background. I think, sir, you're entitled to know why I think the member for Riverdale created, probably inadvertently, a wrong impression in the members of the House this afternoon.

The member for Riverdale wrote a very good letter, because he's a very good lawyer. He wrote a very good letter raising a number of important constitutional questions with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), and he sent that forward on Oct. 30. This after-

noon when we were trying again, my colleague from Sarnia and I, to get some answers from the government as to the basis on which this was being done, as to the basis on which there could be no definite commitment as to the finality of a salary to be determined by an arbitrator, because they have set that aside. They've got this phoney agreement with Ottawa. We were trying to find out how and what the legal basis for it was. Then, in all his dignity, the member for Riverdale rose and waved aloft the "Dear Jim" letter. The "Dear Jim" letter, when you read it with the "Dear Roy" letter, is no answer at all. The "Dear Jim" letter is a con game and the member for Riverdale was prepared to accept it. He accepted it in the spirit that his leader made his speech this afternoon, and the member for Sudbury got up and attacked him and moved the amendments.

Mr. Renwick: You draw conclusions, I will draw mine.

Mr. Singer: Now, there are no answers, Mr. Speaker, in the letter that the Attorney General wrote to the member for Riverdale to the questions that the member for Riverdale asked of the Attorney General—and we go to the same spot. What basis does the government have for entering into this arrangement with Pepin and his friends and saying it is binding on us without even coming to the Legislature of the Province of Ontario and asking if they can do it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member get to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Singer: Oh, Mr. Speaker, I am on the absolute principle of the bill. The principle of the bill that we are concerned about is this: Since there is no undertaking, understanding, commitment or statutory provision that the salary to be determined or the terms to be determined by the arbitrator are going to be final, we are entitled to say—and we're going to say at some length as we've been saying—that the reasoning behind it has to be explained; and that this government is acting illegally and that the whole thing is going to blow up in their faces. Now, that's the point. That's the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

[5:30]

Let me read to you a few words given in the legal opinion my hon. colleague, the member for Sarnia, referred to a little earlier:

Our advisers have told us that the province can validly incorporate those sections of the federal Act establishing and defining

the functions of the Anti-Inflation Board. Alternatively, the province can't enact specifically that the federally-constituted board will be responsible for monitoring prices, profits and income increases and that the federally-appointed administrator will be responsible for the enforcement of the Act. Note that the provincial Act, in this case, would be nothing more than an incorporation by reference of the federal Act.

We haven't got a provincial statute, so there can be no incorporation by reference.

What have we got and what did the member for Riverdale cop out on, because he knows better than this? We've got an order in council for which we asked the authority. The House leader promised my colleague from Sarnia, and I heard him, that we were going to get the statutory authority for that. I hasn't come forward this afternoon. He promised it in the Premier's name, and the Premier hasn't produced it. We have an order in council which allowed the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to sign a document that puts us in this absolutely untenable position.

Mr. Renwick: But you have my letter and you agree with that.

Mr. Singer: I am saying—if the member for Riverdale will listen, if he will be patient, he knows what he did this afternoon. He tried to lay a false smokescreen and he didn't get away with it; it's too bad, because he knows better than that.

Mr. Speaker, the conclusions are:

The province may enter into an agreement with the federal government to have the Anti-Inflation Act apply to the bodies specifically exempted from its application by 4(2). However, such an agreement would not be valid in the absence of provincial legislation adopting the federal Act. [We have none of that.] The technical means of adoption or incorporation by reference are varied as are the means of employing the administration machinery set up by the federal Act for provincial purposes.

It's fascinating to note that in one of the cases to which we have been referred, and which "Dear Roy" has missed in his letter back to "Dear Jim," is the case called the Attorney General of Nova Scotia and the Attorney General of Canada v. Lord Nelson Hotel Co. Ltd. Fascinatingly, in that case, which went before the Supreme Court of Canada in May and October, 1950, the Province of Ontario was represented by C. R.

(Cliff) Magone, a very fine lawyer who did an excellent job, an outstanding job, for the Province of Ontario. C. R. Magone acted for the Attorney General of Ontario in the argument of that case.

What do we have in that case? We have five judges of the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously agreeing that there can be no interdelegation between Canada and the provinces of the powers reserved in section 91 and section 92. You can agree until you're blue in the face but you can't do it that way. The words that the people in Ottawa put into this agreement, and their recital, as mentioned by my colleague from Sarnia, doesn't change it one whit. If the government wanted to do it properly and legally, then it would have done it as suggested in this memorandum of law, the concluding portion of which I read to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I think you might be interested in a few words in this judgement, just a few. Here's a chief justice who says—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member take his seat? I've been scanning this bill and I see no reference to the referral of this bill or decision, or the outcome of it, to the Anti-Inflation Board. We've allowed a full discussion to go on—

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, come on, you can't do this.

Mr. Speaker: —but if you can point out to me where it is in here, we'll allow it; it's an interesting legal background—

Mr. Singer: No, Mr. Speaker, you miss the point.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please—but I don't see any reference to it in this particular bill. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: There is nothing in the bill about the Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, you've got to put this in context with the absence in this statute of the finality of the arbitrator's decision.

There can be no finality in the arbitrator's decision—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're dealing with this particular bill, and what happens outside—

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, that is what the whole trouble is.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In my opinion, and I know the hon. member is more learned in the law than I am, I can find no reference to the Anti-Inflation Board. It seems to me that's outside the purview of this particular bill.

Mrs. Campbell: No, sir; no way.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to what this provides as the method of determining the final working conditions and the fact that there is no statement here that they shall be binding either on the boards or on the teachers. It's written in that way because it has to be bound by what the government believes is the law; that is, the rulings of the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Singer: That is why it is put that way and that is what the minister said, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that is outside the jurisdiction of this particular bill.

Mr. Singer: Not at all, Mr. Speaker, it is not outside. Listen with me to what the minister said when he introduced it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think if the hon. member would proceed with the principle of the bill, it would be much better.

Mr. Singer: I am talking about the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, and I have to do this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: I am the only one you have begun to descend upon in this way.

Mr. Renwick: Because there is no Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It has been a very interesting discussion and we do allow a straying from the principle of a bill to a certain extent, but it seems to me we are dwelling far too long on something which I can't find in the bill, quite frankly.

Mr. Renwick: Name him.

Mr. Roy: That is why you didn't find it in the bill.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the member please get back to the principle of this bill?

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I am on the principle of the bill. If you will recall what the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) said in his explanation—

Mr. Makarchuk: Throw him out.

Mr. Singer: Yes, all right; throw me out; go ahead. I think you should, Mr. Speaker. If you will recall what the minister said in his introduction, he justifies that portion of his remarks by making reference to it. Let me read to you what the minister said:

This strike has been unusual, even unique, from the start. It began in the early period following the announcement of the federal anti-inflation programme and following Ontario's announcement of its intention to opt the public sector of the province into the programme.

The minister started it. He had to explain his bill, and there it is. Now I can surely explain it. It is my right and my duty to explain why the minister is wrong.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You are debating the agreement.

Mrs. Campbell: Then why didn't you put a floor into it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: It has nothing to do with the agreement.

Mrs. Campbell: Why didn't you?

Interjections.

Mrs. Campbell: You know why.

Mr. Renwick: Don't you see the connection?

Mr. Singer: In fact, on page 5, the minister says:

Even though the expressed demands of the teachers seem clearly in excess of the federal anti-inflation guidelines, even allowing for any special considerations that might apply, the teachers chose to exercise their legal prerogative to strike. The whole exercise had a sense of futility—

And he goes on.

Surely Mr. Speaker, when the minister is excusing government response by referring to the anti-inflation guideline we have a right and a duty to explain why they don't apply and how the government is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the people of Ontario. And that is what I intend to continue to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: On a point of order, I think it is quite just and right to refer to the relationships and effects of the anti-inflation programme on the processes that have led up to us being here today. It is a fact that this government has opted in and there is no question that the monetary portions of a decision of the arbitrator under this bill, will have to be reviewed by the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you. That puts us right in order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But, I don't think that passing any comment on those should lead us to a total discussion of the agreement that the Province of Ontario has signed. If the hon. members want that, let them have a debate and ask for a debate or move some kind of a motion on the agreement.

Mrs. Campbell: That's the whole thing.

Interjections.

Mrs. Campbell: We were going to get it before Christmas and we didn't get it. We were promised it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would submit that there is nothing in the principle of this bill concerning that.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, the minister has established my very point. He says we are doing it because we are caught up. I say they don't have to be caught up. They are being illegally caught up. I am quoting the authorities for it. I think it is high time we in this Legislature began to question arbitrary, irrational and unusual actions by a government—

Mr. Wildman: Illegal and weird.

Mr. Singer: —which governs or purports to govern by orders in council. What does it need the Legislature for? It's a terrible burden. It's a nuisance. Why doesn't the government do everything by order in council?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not right.

Mr. Singer: Yes. If the government can sign this agreement by order in council, it could have ordered the teachers back to work by order in council. It doesn't need the Legislature. It doesn't believe in the Legislature. It is arrogant and cocky and it ignores the law; that's its problem.

I want to tell you about the law, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is important that we tell you about the law. I am a lawyer and I love the law and I think we have got to run this Legislature by the law that applies in this jurisdiction and in Canada.

Mr. Makarchuk: Vote against it.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, let me tell you this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we are wasting quite a bit of valuable time. We have allowed the hon. member and other members to continue in this vein as background to the bill, just as there is much more material and background to the bill, but there is really no reference in this bill to the Anti-Inflation Board and the matters pertaining thereto.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh no, not now.

Mr. Good: The minister can talk about it but we can't.

Mr. Speaker: So, if the hon. member can tie it in very briefly we will allow him to continue.

Mrs. Campbell: Well, make a ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, but we would ask him to get to the principle of the bill as quickly as possible.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: No, order please.

Mr. Singer: Well, if my words are not adequate, I am sorry. If I cannot impress the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature with the importance of the government acting legally, then I guess I have failed in all my years of public life in trying to get one simple concept through.

I am charging that this government has acted illegally and improperly; that this statute needn't have been written in the way it is, but the government has drawn a smoke-screen across the trail in saying that we are bound by a piece of paper that is legalized apparently by an order in council for which there is no authority.

I think that is an important point, and a point that has to be made and repeated and repeated and repeated so that everybody in Ontario understands that we govern by the rule of law and not by the rule of men.

I think that is important. I can't think of anything more important, Mr. Speaker, that we can talk about in this Legislature; and I want to tell you what some of the judges of

the Supreme Court of Canada have to say about changing jurisdictions backwards and forwards between Canada and the provinces—between sections 91 and 92.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. We will allow the member to continue if he is not too lengthy, in commenting on the hon. minister's introductory statements, but please get to the principle of the bill as soon as possible.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh let's get on with the debate.

Mr. Singer: All right, Mr. Speaker. I will quote instead of 20 quotes that I have from this judgement, just two or three. I will quote first of all from the then Chief Justice of Canada, Mr. Justice Rinfret who says that the members elected to parliament or to the legislatures are the only ones entrusted with the power and duty to legislate concerning subjects—no, no—that in each case members in parliament and in the legislature are the only ones entrusted with the power and the duty to legislate concerning subjects exclusively distributed by the constitutional Act in each of them.

Mr. Roy: That's pretty clear.

Mr. Singer: What could be simpler than that Mr. Speaker? What could be more applicable of this statute than what the Chief Justice of Canada says in this case? And he is joined by his four colleagues who unanimously agree with him.

In case it might have slipped anyone's attention, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) or the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) who isn't here, I again draw to their attention the fact that Cliff Magone, that famous Ontario civil servant and good lawyer, was there on behalf of the Province of Ontario.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we would not be in this difficulty if the government had, in good faith—and I accuse them of not having good faith—in good faith and in good conscience had said: All right, the government in Ottawa wants us to be within certain guidelines; there are ways we can do this legally and there are other ways where we can try and con the troops, and that is what we are doing.

Maybe we can even get Jim Renwick not to make a fuss; he has written a letter and that's the end of it. That's exactly what has happened.

But I say that we here in Ontario are entitled to have whatever control of salaries

and wages and collective agreements and profits and professional profits and so on, brought here and legalized, authorized by the vote of a majority of this Legislature and you haven't done that. You have this phoney order in council that isn't worth the paper it is written on.

I was very happy to hear this morning that CUPE—and the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) knows about CUPE, he advised them to stay out of Brown Camps—CUPE is about to challenge us in court and they'll win. They will win.

I am surprised that the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) hasn't joined with my colleague the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) and me in making this point; and I am shocked that there isn't a law officer or a legal official of the government sitting on these benches who is able to answer us on these points.

I say this, Mr. Speaker, yes, we shall vote for the return of the students to the classes. But there is a great fault in this legislation. It leaves the teachers hanging in abeyance until somebody goes to the Supreme Court of Canada and gets this thing thrown out. And therein they have caused all this trouble that so worries, with good justification, the teachers in their bargaining position.

I say we are going to make the best of a bad situation. The law is clear. The law is abundantly clear and the government, as late as this afternoon, reneged on the promise made by the House leader to my colleague that it would give us the authority that it had for passing the order in council. If that's the way government in Ontario operates, do away with the Legislature. We are excess baggage, we are redundant, we are meaningless. They can do everything by order in council, so why worry about Bill 1 or Bill 100 or labour relations? Just retire to your ivory towers and pass orders in council.

[5:45]

Mr. Wildman: I rise in opposition to the bill and in support of the reasoned amendment. It is interesting that our colleagues in the Liberal Party have stated that they think the New Democratic Party wants to have it both ways, and yet we just heard the minister—well he would like to be the minister—the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) state that the government had acted illegally but that he was going to vote with them, and the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) states that the arbitrator has no power, and that arbitration is a charade I

think he said, and yet he is going to vote with the government.

Mr. Roy: Why didn't you vote with us when we wanted an anti-inflation board provincially?

Mr. Wildman: The last speaker dealt with the Anti-Inflation Board. I would rather deal with the problem of compulsory arbitration in this bill.

Mr. Roy: Why didn't you vote with us?

Mr. Mackenzie: He is talking about his party, the Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Wildman: The reason I stand to take part in this debate is that this, as I said in the emergency debate we had earlier, is not just a Metro dispute but rather a province-wide problem, because in many other areas, as other members have mentioned, teachers have voted to strike. In my riding, the high school teachers in central Algoma are in a legal strike position—

Mr. Roy: He is out of order.

Mr. Wildman:—and if this bill is passed, this bill ordering Metro teachers back with compulsory arbitration, I am very concerned what effect that will have on all of these other disputes across the province. If we say to the Metro teachers that the last step in Bill 100 is compulsory arbitration then we are saying that to all the teachers and all the boards in the province, and that will have a tremendous effect on the ability of those boards to negotiate settlements or on their willingness to negotiate.

I just want to point out that we had concern for students, just as I think every other member of this Legislature has, and for their education. That is why we suggested that perhaps the schools should be opened but that we should oppose compulsory arbitration and we should find another method for settling the dispute, especially in view of the fact that the representatives of both sides have said they are not too far apart and that they could reach a negotiated settlement. I think that even if they can't, we should give them the final opportunity to try again to do that.

By saying that compulsory arbitration is the only answer, the government and the members of the Liberal Party who oppose it but are going to vote for it will find that they are causing a tremendously difficult problem for all negotiations, not just in education but negotiations throughout the province. I would urge the members of the party next to us

here to rethink their position and to realize that if they want the schools open they don't necessarily have to vote for compulsory arbitration. They can vote to have the schools open and also for the support of the collective bargaining system. I hope they would rethink their position.

Mr. Roy: I would like to say a few words on the bill. Of course, all parties are in agreement with the reopening of the schools and having the students back in the schools.

My colleagues have dealt with the fact that not only has the government taken it upon itself to relinquish its responsibility in the public sector and throw it all off onto Ottawa—in other words, any problems in the public sector are off to Ottawa—they've done a similar sort of end run when it comes to balancing their budget or cutting their deficit. That's not on the principle of the bill, but it might be of interest to you, Mr. Speaker. The Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough) budget is going to look better next year because he's shoving it all on the municipalities. That's what I call the lack of leadership that we've been getting from this government since September of 1975—they're shoving it onto Ottawa or onto the municipalities.

I want to say to my colleagues to my right, the NDP on the approach and the criticism that they're giving us now, we say it's illegal and we're backing this principle. We put forward a motion of non-confidence here. We wanted a provincial board here, within provincial jurisdiction, because we felt at the time that if we were going to be in a position to put people back to work we should have been in a position to tell them at what level. We were prepared to say that in areas such as education, health, justice, which since Confederation have been within this jurisdiction, this government should be the one to decide what historical factors and other things were when deciding wage levels. If my colleagues on my right say that we're being inconsistent, they are the ones who are being inconsistent. If they really felt that there should be a level and they're suggesting a level now, why don't they vote with us when we put forward this non-confidence motion?

Mr. Renwick: Because we don't believe in your federal counterparts' wage and price control guidelines.

Mr. Roy: They postured here for weeks, saying that there should be a provincial board, but when the crunch came they were not prepared to accept it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: That's right, they rejected it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member would speak on the principle of the bill and proceed, please.

And could we have fewer interjections? Thank you very much.

Mr. Roy: The point we want to make is that we are being inconsistent.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: I mean consistent. We have said throughout that there should be a provincial board. We are saying now that the agreement between the province and the federal government is illegal. And my colleague from—is it still Riverdale?

Mr. Renwick: Yes.

Mr. Roy: Really he should be the first one to applaud the approach taken by my two colleagues from Sarnia and Wilson Heights.

Mr. Renwick: I agreed last September. I told the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry).

Mr. Roy: He should be the first to realize that we don't transfer jurisdictions—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the member speak to the bill through the Chair?

Mr. Roy: I was pointing that way.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: You just feel I should have a better angle.

The position of this party, and I think this bill highlights it, is the fact that we, as a Legislature, have to put the teachers back to work, but we as a Legislature cannot determine the level and that's where the inconsistency lies. How the minister could sit there and take that type of approach is typical of the type of leadership that's been lacking in this province for some time. How could they possibly say that they're sending them off to Ottawa? They have evidence, the case law, the precedent is there, that the agreement that they've entered into with the feds is illegal. There is no precedent for it.

It's one thing to have a lack of leadership, but it's another thing not to be able to follow the rule of law. That is what is lacking in this whole approach. I think it's going to be a sad state of affairs in this province, when in fact the scenario could be that the teachers under compulsory arbitration get a certain level, the Anti-Inflation Board makes a decision, and then a court case is taken and

the whole thing is written off as being illegal to start with. Then where are we going to be?

That's the type of responsibility that they're not prepared to accept, and that's the type of responsibility that my colleagues and I have been trying to put forward in this House today. That's why we feel that originally we should have had the support of the people to our right in establishing a provincial anti-inflation board so we could act consistently throughout in disputes such as this.

Mr. Bounsall: I rise to oppose this Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes in the way that it is written, and to support the reasoned amendment put forward by our party. I have had various concerns over the way in which negotiations across the province have taken place under Bill 100, but clearly, in the Toronto situation and the action which the government has taken in introducing this bill, in my mind one concern overshadows everything else, and that is the compulsory arbitration aspect of this bill and the detrimental effect that it inevitably has upon collective bargaining.

I am opposed to compulsory arbitration—not per se, not dogmatically, except that whenever it has been introduced there has been a detrimental effect upon collective bargaining, and I am very much in favour of collective bargaining. By and large it works; it's the only solution we really have to dispute between labour and management in this country. There is nothing else on the horizon to replace it, and we must do everything we can to encourage free and full collective bargaining.

In any dispute, whenever compulsory arbitration has been applied—as has been this government's practice; and in many cases far too early, without really thinking upon the effects that it has upon the parties involved—it has had a detrimental effect upon negotiations, and an effect which I would think takes some years to correct. When you apply a solution in a binding way, decided upon by a third party, which is what happens in compulsory arbitration, what you have avoided is the meeting of the minds between those two parties which is so necessary for the continued working together of those parties. That meeting of the minds never occurs, and that is what is bad about any non-negotiated settlement, and what is bad about any compulsory arbitration with its binding solution imposed upon any group of workers.

That final coming to grips with all the problems that are outstanding does not occur, and in most cases at this stage of negotia-

tions there are very few outstanding. We can talk about them inevitably being two or three main points, and maybe three or four subsidiary points at most. This final meeting of the minds, this final coming to grips by both parties, realizing that a solution must finally be reached between them and no others, is avoided and is completely negated.

Having said that about compulsory arbitration and collective bargaining, which could be applied to any dispute, let me give the House what again is my overriding concern as compulsory arbitration has its effect upon this particular dispute and other disputes in the future with respect to teachers and boards. That is the government, by bringing in this particular piece of legislation at this point—a very bald piece of legislation that by and large simply, in this labour relations aspect of it, imposes compulsory arbitration—says to the teachers and boards across this province: “We have written another clause to Bill 100.”

Bill 100 is the bill that grants teachers the right to strike, and gives to the teachers and the boards very careful procedures to avoid the final breakdown of negotiations, procedures to avoid the strike situation. Now this government has written a clause that says: “Should everything fail and should you go on strike, we are serving notice that your strike can last only 38 days. Your strike, no matter when it occurs, between a teacher and a board, is going to last 38 days, plus or minus a couple of days.”

I can't think of anything more detrimental in the first real strike under Bill 100; and it will become clear to boards and teachers in this province. Sure, here's the legislation, but they are now writing another clause saying: “The longest we will tolerate you being off work is 38 days.”

What this inevitably produces—and this is where my real concern is—is that no one from here on need take Bill 100 all that seriously. They can continue on and go through all the actions of the bill, one side or the other—it's usually one side, but it could be both sides—and not negotiate in good faith. They know that should a strike eventually occur, that this government, by its action at this particular time in the first operation of this bill, will blow the whistle after 38 days.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Bounsall: No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have further remarks to make, but this isn't the appropriate time at which to make them.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Second Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, January 15, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTES ACT (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose at 6 o'clock, I believe the member for Windsor-Sandwich had the floor. Will you continue?

Mr. Bounsall: Before supper I was attempting to indicate in very clear terms my feelings about the bill introduced by the government and why I felt I could not in any way support it. It devolves mainly on the point, which I feel very strongly about, of compulsory arbitration and how that destroys the collective bargaining system.

The introduction at this time of this bill in the first dispute between teachers and school boards that has gone to a strike, having followed the provisions of Bill 100, to me sets the precedent of our saying there is another clause to Bill 100 which was not there in the original bill. It is one which says that after 38 days of a strike, plus or minus a day or two, the government of Ontario will legislate the teachers back to work. So we have a bill which very carefully tries to avoid a strike in negotiations between teachers and school boards; tries in every way in that bill through many avenues in which a negotiated settlement can be reached. But if, as sometimes happens, negotiations are not concluded and an agreement has not been reached under the bill, and the time in the negotiations arrives at which a legal strike can occur and that strike occurs, then we are very clearly saying that it can last only 38 days.

I see that as extremely damaging to the whole of teacher-school board negotiations since one party in a given instance, or perhaps both, will hold off doing any serious negotiations because they know that they will go on strike and in 38 days will be back to work by our action. To me, that is very detrimental to the free collective bargaining process in which the parties must come to a conclusion. Having come to a conclusion, they understand why they have arrived at that conclu-

sion and have a basis on which they can continue to talk and negotiate for future years.

However, if a settlement is imposed upon them through the use of compulsion, through the use of an arbitrator who thrusts upon them a decision—a decision which in many cases makes neither party very happy, a decision in which inevitably one party feels or both parties feel that the arbitrator did not understand what was at stake in some of the clauses or in some cases one or both parties, do not even understand why the arbitrator made the decision that he or she did, and they must operate under those unusual condition or conditions which do not please either of them for at least, in many cases, another year.

In labour relations it is that situation one must try to avoid; and it is one in which, not only in this case but I see it as a precedent for future cases, we are getting ourselves into a situation which, in the initial short-term instance or in the long term as regards negotiated settlements arrived at over the years, is not going to be in the best interests of either party, the students in the classroom or the public of Ontario. It is on that basis that I have really severe reservations about the bill—reservations that in no way lead me to support the bill and, in fact, would cause me to vote against this bill on second reading on that principle alone.

If I could make a few further remarks, I viewed with interest the whole involvement of Bill 100 and the events leading up to the introduction of that legislation. Unfortunately, when it was brought before us last spring, I was involved in a series of labour bills before the House and couldn't attend all of the sessions of the committee, but I kept in close touch with what was going on. I thoroughly approved of that legislation. It clearly gave the teachers the right to strike, which is an important right in our society, a right which of course no other legislation had denied them but a right in which it was not absolutely clear in the minds of teachers and the public that they had. In addition, there were very careful procedures in the bill, very careful stages by which that situation might well be avoided.

One of the things that intrigued me most in that legislation was the fact-finder and the role of the fact-finder. Our hope at that time, and it was expressed by persons other than myself, was that that fact-finder, when appointed was to come in and have a very careful look at the arguments from both sides, bearing in mind the situation that teachers are or should be in, in the community and in the Province of Ontario, relative to all other workers, and bring down what he thought would be a good reasoned position that hopefully would be satisfactory to both parties but one in which the fact-finder could carefully justify in terms of the facts presented to him, the conditions in Ontario at the moment and the relative position teachers should be in, in the Province of Ontario, relative to all other workers in the Province of Ontario.

I must say, even though this is the first fact-finder—and perhaps we should not expect, with the first situation that arose under this bill and with the first fact-finder appointed under this bill, that it might not work in the way it was intended to work or that we hope it is intended to work in the future—and I must go by reports that appeared in the press at that time, the remarks made by the fact-finder, Stanley Hartt, with respect to why he found the facts he did, disappointed me. They did not meet the standards which I had thought, many of us had thought, he should be observing in that particular job.

His comment was, "I made a decision and gave a solution which I thought the teachers could accept." That's all very well. But if the comment I read on more than one occasion was true—whether or not it was simply an off-the-cuff remark by Stanley Hartt, I don't know—if that was true, he, as a fact-finder, did not quite live up to the intent of the legislation or at least to our expectations as to how a fact-finder would operate under this legislation and present facts to the public in terms of the situation under dispute.

I might make one point here, that there are various things occurring under Bill 100 through this set of negotiations which lead me to think that there could be some changes in Bill 100. One of the other reasons that I was particularly enthusiastic about the fact-finder was that should a fact-finder be used and he presents his report, one of three things would inevitably happen. The board and the teachers concerned would look at the fact-finder's report and say to themselves: "Okay, there is an unbiased outside view of our negotiations. Neither of us accept it because we feel that we can improve upon that solution through negotiations between ourselves." They would go back with that in mind.

The fact that an outside person viewed their situation objectively and brought in certain findings would be helpful. There would be parts of it that would be acceptable to both parties, but other parts they could negotiate over and change to a situation that would be more acceptable to both of the parties. That may be the most ideal response to the fact-finder's report.

In other situations, for example, the teachers might accept the fact-finder's report and the board reject it, or the board accept the fact-finder's report and the teachers reject it.

The intent and the enthusiasm about the fact-finder's report, as it relates to those two situations, was that it would be made very clear to the public which side had rejected the fact-finder's offer and which side at that particular point in time was being myopic—and that it should become very clear to the public.

Again, what slightly disturbed me in the past situation was the teachers saying they accepted the fact-finder's report and the board saying that they didn't accept that report. To me, at least at that point in time, we could say of the board and its negotiators that perhaps they were being myopic. That never did get through clearly to the public, because the teachers under those circumstances felt that they had to strike. They took their strike vote and struck, and the whole thing was cast as a strike by the teachers against the board. In terms of acceptance and rejection of the fact-finder's report, what you really had or should have had—if it reflected the situation at that time—was a lockout by the board and the public feeling turned at that particular point in the negotiations on the party that was most to blame for the negotiations being at that stage at that point.

So, I think we may well consider an amendment which clearly indicates at some point, based on the response to the fact-finder's report, which of the two parties at that given time was more myopic than the other, if you like, or less responsible than the other—or at whom the finger of the public should be pointed in terms of the person who did not conclude the collective bargaining negotiations at that point; one which clearly calls at some time upon the board to actually lock out the teachers, rather than the teachers having to resort to a strike when it is the board which clearly rejected what should be an unbiased third person report about the situation having had all of the facts presented to them.

I think that under Bill 100 we would be strengthening it in terms of what the public

would see is happening, if at some time we amended the legislation to include and cover that point. I am not going to get into the merits and demerits of both sides, that is futile; I am sure there is merit on both sides and some lack of merit on both sides. I am not party to all the ins and outs of the negotiations and how they proceeded at a given point.

[8:15]

Let me say that there is justification in this first situation of thinking that perhaps Bill 100 and its operations and the situation giving rise to it may be a bit of an exception. This is the first time through it to this particular stage—that is, a strike occurring. It is the first time you have had a fact-finder. I would hope further fact-finders appointed under Bill 100 would have a look at what a fact-finder should, in fact, be doing and at least try to bring forward the best solution, and, in fact, if this one has, at least make no comments to the press other than to tell what he tried to do and not make comments to the press of that being a decision that he thought one of the particular sides would accept. So there is something to be learned by further fact-finders from this experience.

This is the first time we have had the staff on the Education Relations Commission, and it was only filled out to its membership of five quite a short time ago, so there are some things in this whole situation, it being the first time through, that may cause us to feel the whole situation is unique but not unique enough, not unique enough I say, for this government to apply compulsory arbitration and end collective bargaining possibilities with the meeting of the minds that must occur under that situation and to avoid setting what will be in people's minds a precedent for all future negotiations as to what will happen if the strike in a situation such as this lasts beyond a certain time.

In response to this, we placed a reasoned amendment. We in this party have felt that it would be useful to have the teachers back in the classrooms, to have the children back in the classrooms, although I must admit I do not buy the simple-minded argument that a loss of 38 days at this time to students in our system is particularly critical. I say that because although we have in our Schools Administration Act—I am not sure which Act it is—a clause that indicates there is a certain time at which schools close in the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) well knows that he has the full power and authority to bring in amendments to that Act to cover a given situation.

The whole conduct of education in the Province of Ontario is a provincial matter and directly a responsibility of ourselves and this Legislature. The minister could certainly bring in a bill indicating that the required number of school days as laid out in the Act be fulfilled before the students and teachers are allowed to finally depart the classroom. This may well mean that when an agreement is reached we may well be talking of school days in July or school days over into August, whatever is determined to be the proper length of time to complete what is thought to be the critical and appropriate areas of the courses for the students in those courses. I can see no great problem with that.

As for the persons the media have asked about admission to universities and colleges, let's not kid ourselves. I come from the university background field. We are still on the basic income unit that is paid to the university per student. We haven't gone off that system yet to any great degree, and I say that if qualified people turn up in the month of September for admission to a university, even if they are as much as a couple of weeks late for the starting of that university, they will be accepted at our Ontario universities and colleges because they need that basic income unit funding if nothing else.

All that the administrators were commenting upon, when asked about admission of students, is really that in essence they would not be accepted into the sort of pre-acceptance procedure which they themselves have set up in order to rationalize the students across the universities in Ontario and to avoid a gigantic rush at the end of August each year. Of the 140,000 students in Ontario, that's all the number of students we are talking about—that portion that happens to be in grade 12 for the colleges or grade 13 for the universities; a small number of students, in fact, who fit that category and could easily be handled even as late as mid-September, or even the end of September if that became the case, by the colleges and universities admissions people in the Province of Ontario.

So to say that it had gone too late by 38 days at this particular time of the year does not hold water with me. There are things we can do about it and one is to extend the school year—which we have the power to do in this Legislature and the minister knows it—and that would have no detrimental effect, at least for quite some time, on admissions to colleges and universities. It's just a spurious argument. It's an argument which people can make in their own minds only when

they're fixed on the idea that by June 30 our schools must be clear. For labour relations in the future between this particular board and its teachers, and the collective bargaining system implications for all the other boards and teacher groups that are confronting us, the damage is extreme. It is well worth the particular situation of teachers going into July rather than having the situation which we have before us.

It is for that reason particularly that I can support the reasoned amendment which would cause the school board and the teachers to have to sit down again seriously with no particular time limit—which again they could let run out if they didn't want to negotiate in good faith—and negotiate a settlement between them which they would understand.

It's giving them, if you like, a last opportunity to really get serious. At this stage in the game to tell the teachers and the board negotiators: "Look, we'll return the teachers to school, but, by heavens, by our amendment you have to get down and be serious about negotiations," to me has a lot of merit to it. It's equivalent to—and I would like to see this happen—locking both sides into a room and throwing away the key and not letting them out until they have reached a settlement. That would have been good for both sides and, hopefully, produced a settlement understood by both. Those are the reasons I can enthusiastically support that section of our reasoned amendment, Mr. Speaker.

There's reason to believe the chairman of the board when he was reported today—I believe this morning or last night, I forget which now—as saying that he still felt that a negotiated settlement could be arrived at. We have not got, therefore, the negotiators for both sides, or either side, coming out and saying there is no more hope for further negotiations. We have the chairman of the Metro board saying that he felt a negotiated settlement could still be reached. We are expressing our confidence that with a few more weeks of being required to bargain a negotiated settlement could be reached.

Turning to the other part of our reasoned amendment, that which imposed minimum terms and conditions on the settlement, it's quite incredible in this first example of a group of teachers and a board going through the Bill 100 legislation—and having delays because of an incomplete Education Relations Commission, for example, and the newness of the whole process—that when we get to a point where the government has decided that the time has gone long enough, when they come in to put them back to work, we do not

have minimum conditions in the legislation. Minimum conditions, I point out to the government and to the other members of the House who were not here at the time, were imposed in the not-too-distant past where in the bill putting the York county teachers back to work there was a minimum scale clearly laid out as a base above which the arbitrator started.

We also gave a base increase to the TTC workers in 1974 in the legislation, so we are not setting any precedent here by providing a base for negotiations above which whatever is going to happen can take place, by collective agreement or otherwise. Above that, it has become in the last two instances before this House the rule rather than the exception. In these exceptional circumstances involving the first group to go through the Bill 100 procedure, it is simply not responsible on the part of the government not to put that in the bill. It's completely irresponsible on the part of the government not to continue that rule in a bill of this type. In fact, if I didn't know the minister better, I would say it was incredible. He has had a couple of examples of it in the recent past and it's just a little bit surprising that this time in this particular situation he should choose not to take that particular step.

Our reasoned amendment provides a minimum settlement. It's one which is based on the board's last offer and that seems to us to be very reasonable. It's an offer which the board at least by its offering has said it can afford to pay. I understand from the small amount of contact I have that the negotiations are not very far apart, in fact. We are dealing with four main points and maybe one main subsidiary point.

It has become clear already from the presentations back and forth by both sides in the dispute, that there is not that much money still involved. I have heard the figure \$585,000 of a difference between them at the moment, which works out to about \$70 a year per teacher. I am not sure whether that \$585,000 was directly the difference between the board offer and what the teachers may be offering as a counter proposal. If that was the case, and it is my understanding it was, it is not very much money per teacher in these particular negotiations that would be insurmountable to reach an agreement. Placed in terms of students in our system, it works out to something like \$4 a student. To me that is not insurmountable.

I think again on another point of our reasoned amendment where we knock out the two-year term, that follows our reasoning in

that, if the board and teachers are to go back to the negotiation table and negotiate in good faith, that should be part of the negotiations. Even in the minister's concept of the bill, if he continues and enforces compulsory arbitration in this situation, that should be a matter for the arbitrator to decide, having come into possession of the facts from both sides and finally getting the whole complete overview and listening to their arguments as to why it should be one versus two or two versus one or whatever length of time they are proposing to him in terms of what both sides would see to be the most equitable.

I do not see why the government should persist in tying the time of this particular agreement. In the case of the two years in this bill, we would not be so presumptuous as to say to tie it to one. This is a matter which would be left to both parties if they can continue to negotiate or at least left to the arbitrator. We find this again a stubborn attitude and approach on behalf of the government.

There is one other comment I would make. One might be tempted in some sort of a reasoned amendment or considering the whole facts of the bill to say something about the Anti-Inflation Board and its effect. It certainly had a delaying effect upon this bill. The government was reprehensible in allowing, in my view, the interference of the Anti-Inflation Board to occur in the way that it did, to affect the negotiations in the way that it did and, in my estimation, to slow down the negotiations at a particular point, when it had an opinion of Jean-Luc Pepin which could do no other than hinder the negotiations for at least some short period of time.

I do not like to see the Anti-Inflation Board mentioned in this particular legislation, basically because I do not approve of the whole Anti-Inflation Board concept. To give them legitimacy by mentioning them in our reasoned amendment is more than I could personally do.

[8:30]

However, with the government's commitment to the Anti-Inflation Board and bearing in mind that Bill 100 is the minister's legislation and that he has produced through his actions, his appointments and his legislation this particular stage that we have arrived at, I would think he would have had no alternative but to speak in his own bill or to make a public commitment at the time of introduction of this bill to see that any settlement arrived at was not detrimentally influenced by the Anti-Inflation Board and that's an obligation which he should feel very strongly

on him. We don't even want to legitimize our feelings about the Anti-Inflation Board by mentioning it in any of this stuff, but the minister, who likes to talk about it and likes to hide behind it and all the rest of it, having arrived at this stage in the negotiations, the least he could have done, with his fond feelings toward the Anti-Inflation Board, was to ensure that in this particular settlement the decision was not going to be influenced by a person and a board which have no contact and no experience in dealing with educational matters or board/teacher negotiations in the Province of Ontario.

In conclusion, we oppose the bill, and the clauses which we have put into our reasoned amendment I can support fully.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to this bill before the minister replies? The member for York-Forest Hill.

Mr. Singer: What? There is no such riding.

Mr. Speaker: I'm so sorry. The member for Armourdale.

Mr. Givens: I accept your apology, Mr. Speaker. The ways of democracy are mystifying and amusing, and I must say that this evening I was amused as I was driving, both back home and down here, as the newcasts were coming over the air and the newscasters were spinning their web of intrigue and drama in soap opera fashion as to whether the Legislature would indeed pass this legislation which was hanging like the sword of Damocles over the throats of the teachers tonight. Will they indeed force them back into the classroom on Monday morning or will they not? It was really amusing, because outside of the fact that so many of us are guilt ridden in this Legislature where we feel we have to get up to make speeches, we could have passed this bloody bill at 11 o'clock this morning and nobody would have known the difference.

Mr. Nixon: Let's just have one more speech, Phil.

Mr. Givens: Which will be the only important one that we will hear tonight. So they make it sound as if a big drama is being enacted today—will they or will they not order these poor teachers back to school Monday morning?—and we know, you know and I know, that it's a foregone conclusion that they will be ordered back. As I say, it could have been done during the first hour of debate and everything would have been over.

I suppose we're guilty about earning our pay and we feel we've been away for such a

long time that we have to justify drawing our breath and our pay so we have to make our speeches. Why should I be any different?

Since this is probably the biggest audience of Tory faces that I have seen in such a long, long time, I'm going to take advantage of it and I'm going to punish them. I'm going to make a speech.

Mr. Nixon: Tories are hard to find these days.

Mr. Givens: Tories are hard to find these days.

Mr. Singer: They even come to the Legislature now.

Mr. Givens: I expected and I thought when we enacted Bill 100, which the Liberals were in the vanguard of pushing, that if the world knew, posterity would judge us accordingly for pushing Bill 100. I expected that when we enacted Bill 100 somehow this would give rise to statesmanship, that this group of people whom we were trying to help, the teachers—this elite of intelligent, educated, smart people—would somehow, when the crunch came, measure up and they would show us a degree of statesmanship in the field of labour relations which had heretofore never been shown, and that somehow if we enacted Bill 100 we would see something in the field of labour relations that we have never seen before. But, alack and alas, we saw what unfolded and we saw what happened—they behaved no differently from any other power group. They stuck out their hand like everybody else and wanted more and more. Management, on the other hand, acted the way management acts everywhere and said: "Nothing doing." They decided they would teach them a lesson. So we saw no statesmanship. We saw no difference. We saw nothing different from what we see in any other labour relations confrontation—and so I was disappointed.

What particularly mortified me with this group of teachers, from whom I expected so much and was so sadly disappointed, was the night that we had this confrontation in front of the Legislature and the Premier (Mr. Davis) appeared. The leader of the Liberal party (Mr. Nixon) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) also appeared. They spoke to this group who teach our children, who are so highly educated with their massive degrees and their pedagogic degrees and their degrees that they have hanging on their walls back home. And when the leaders of a democratic government—freely elected by the people—came out to talk to them, the teachers booed them and they jeered them

in a manner which was absolutely despicable. I'll tell you, if there was ever a time when I was turned off, I was turned off that night. Those boos and those jeers still ring in my ears as we sit here tonight dealing with this piece of legislation. They knew what happened that night—

Mr. McClellan: Are you a pedagogue or a demagogue?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Givens: Those teachers should have been able to realize that night when they were booing and jeering the democratically-elected officials of the people of the Province of Ontario, that there would be a time when they would have to come back to this Legislature with respect to legislation—and this is the night. I am really surprised that there has been a lack of vindictiveness and that there has been a lack of punitive action with respect to this legislation as I have heard it described in this chamber here today, as a result of that night. What gets me is that we—and, yes, I say this very feelingly—having stuck our necks out the way we did as far as this particular party is concerned in pushing Bill 100, and having stuck our necks out as we did in that motion of non-confidence, which risked putting this Legislature out of business and the possibility of an election—and we took that chance because we firmly believed that the Province of Ontario should have a provincial anti-inflation board to deal with the matter of the teachers rather than sending it up to Ottawa—we were punished by the teachers who came down here that night and who booed our leader to the echo. It indicated to me that they were ill-informed and that they behaved like boors and like working slobs and they wanted to be just like any other group.

Hon. J. R. Smith: What do you mean by "working slobs"? Explain that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Givens: So what happens, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Bain: At least they make an honest living.

Mr. Givens: When you choose to live by the sword you've got to be prepared to perish by the sword.

Mr. McClellan: You are, aren't you?

Mr. Givens: So now we have an arbitrator—and quite frankly I'm scared by arbitrators. I remember what happened when Metro Toronto had the garbage strike and an arbitrator came down and unloaded the garbage in Toronto and gave them an award which covered them not only with glory but with all kinds of money. I don't know, the teachers may do twice or three times better than they would had they done through negotiations with the arbitrator. I don't know what they're so scared about. But, frankly, an arbitrator scares me—because I would rather choose bread and water by negotiation than choose an award by an arbitrator. I don't know why the teachers let it go as far as they did, which shows how smart they are.

Mr. Davidson: Why is the onus on the teachers?

Mr. Givens: I can understand my friends to the left, who are over to the right temporarily in this House, when they move the motion that they do, because what this means is the unvarnished truth of why we are here today and why we are doing what we are doing today.

The meaning of the exercise today is that the teachers have lost the strike or we wouldn't be here today. The fact that the government has brought in this kind of legislation—without a floor, without any parameters, without any indication of any settlement, without any basis from which an arbitrator can work—means they are starting from square one, where they could have started six weeks ago. Never mind that we are leaving settled the things that were supposed to have been settled in the past; the matters that have been determined by negotiation could have been settled weeks ago.

It's the do-re-mi we are talking about that hasn't been settled which is the essential issue of the day. What that means is that the teachers have lost the strike, and the reason they have lost the strike is that they haven't been able to elicit any measure of public support at all. When everybody is against them—the media are against them, the public is against them, the parents are against them, and the kids are against them—maybe it is because they are wrong.

Mr. Kennedy: Could be.

Mr. Givens: Have you ever asked yourself that? Maybe they are wrong.

Mr. Breaugh: Why don't you go back to Forest Lawn?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Givens: You are going to lose.

Mr. Martel: You are not even for real tonight.

Mr. Givens: You came down from the snow in the north on your skis and you are going to lose. So go back to Happy Valley and the pollution.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Armourdale has the floor. Would he continue, please?

Mr. Givens: Mr. Speaker, I would say it is baloney to rationalize; and we don't want to flagellate the poor teachers—

Mr. Martel: What are you doing?

Mr. Givens: We don't want to flagellate the poor teachers, so we rationalize by saying—

Mr. Martel: I can see why Trudeau got rid of you in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Givens: There is the Sudbury kid.

Mr. Martel: You tell them where you are, Phil.

Mr. Givens: Did the member get his raise in pay lately?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Givens: Has the Sudbury kid talked to Jean-Luc Pepin about his pay raise lately?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Armourdale has the floor.

Mr. Givens: That was one worthwhile thing I thought the member was going to accomplish and he didn't even accomplish that. He is about as useless around here as an udder on a bull.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Givens: He knows enough about agriculture to know how useless that is.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Armourdale has the floor.

Mr. Martel: The hypocrisy prevails.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Armourdale is making his remarks.

Mr. Givens: I see the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) is back.

Mr. Good: How are things in Tel Aviv?

Mr. Givens: How are things over there, Mr. Attorney General?

Mr. Roy: Any hockey violence?

Mr. Givens: Did you settle anything?

Mr. Ruston: Did he ride a one-pointed camel or a two-pointed one?

Mr. Givens: Did you have any bodily contact over there?

Mr. Speaker: Could we get on with Bill 1, please? Thank you.

Mr. Givens: I only want to ask him one more thing: Have you got any regards from the PLO for me, Mr. Attorney General?

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, to get back to the essentials of the bill, after all is said and done, with all the leadership, with all the conniving and with all the brains and all the intelligence which this group is supposed to have, and which I thought they had, what have they gained?

Mr. Davidson: You are referring to the Legislature.

Mr. Givens: Not a blessed thing. They talk about bitterness in everybody, including my sweet friend from St. George (Mrs. Campbell). There should be no bitterness but there is bitterness and there will continue to be bitterness on the part of the parents. Like so many others, I have received scores of calls from parents, from pupils—

[8:45]

Mr. Mackenzie: How many is that, Phil?

Mr. Givens: —and from teachers who are bitter. People are bitter and will continue to be bitter, and they threatened that they are going to do this again 1½ years from now and if they do the results will be the same all over again.

Mr. Bain: You will step on them.

Mr. Givens: History will repeat itself. So they have learned nothing apparently, and there is the threat of defiance. The chief negotiator says, "If the Legislature decides to send the teachers back to the schools on Monday morning we will determine by vote whether we will obey the law or not." The

nerve of it all! Whether the law of this province will be obeyed or not.

Mr. Davidson: Did you wear your seatbelt this morning?

Mr. Givens: Yes, I did, as a matter of fact.

Interjections.

Mr. Givens: The only trouble that I find with the seatbelt legislation is that they don't make them long enough, like they used to.

Mr. Breaugh: That is because you are a lot taller that way.

Mr. Givens: So, anyway, what the teachers have accomplished is that they have indicated they are a striking group just like the industrial groups are, and I think that they have lost the professional standing that they use to have.

Mr. Bain: Yes, they are workers.

Mr. Givens: They are not the professional group that they used to be and there is no use pussyfooting around—so we have another industrial group on our hands. If they choose the road of defiance—

Mr. Davidson: What is wrong with the industrial worker?

Mr. Givens: There is nothing wrong with them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will please ignore the interjections. Order.

Mr. Givens: Don't masquerade under the guise of being a friend of the worker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Armourdale continue with his remarks on the bill?

Mr. Givens: Don't kid anybody. Don't con the troops that you are something high-class when you are not.

Mr. Deans: Who decides who is high class? You?

Mr. Givens: If anybody determines that there is going to be an act of defiance and if this legislation decides, as the newcasters were saying today, shall they, will they or won't they pass this law, we know that we are going to. It is about 8:50 p.m. right now and I suppose within the next half hour we will be passing this great law.

Mr. Warner: Only if you stop talking.

Mr. Givens: If they decide to defy the law of the Province of Ontario then I think they

will be bringing down upon their heads the overwhelming umbrage of the ill-will of the people of Ontario for ever and a day.

I say that we should pass this law without further ado now that I have stopped speaking, because there is nothing else that is more relevant to say.

Mr. Deans: I hope you are applauding because he is finished, not because of the content.

Mr. Bain: I think this debate, in contrariness to the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens), should go on for a good length of time. The only reason I could think that we should have ended it all at 11 o'clock is we wouldn't have had to listen to the member for Armourdale.

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: I am totally amazed. I must admit he has reached a peak; he has been better than the rest in that game of divisiveness. I am amazed at the lack of compassion from somebody who preaches compassion on one occasion and on another occasion will step on people the first chance he gets. If he is not willing to put himself in the other person's position and take a good look at what they are asking for, try to understand their situation, then he will constantly bring down edicts from on high and he will constantly tell people what is good for them and if they don't live according to his rules he will come down hard on them.

Mr. Norton: Come on, let's deal with the principle.

Mr. Bain: The only thing he forgot to say is that he could bring in the OPP—

An hon. member: Let's deal with the bill.

Mr. Riddell: Speak to the bill.

An hon. member: What kind of nonsense is he handing out?

Mr. Bain: The only thing that he forgot to add is that he could bring the OPP the way they have done against other members of labour in this province through a long history.

Mr. McClellan: It's a fine Liberal tradition.

Mr. Martel: Maybe you could hire Driver Pool.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Timiskaming has the floor and I hope he addresses himself to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker, I promise I will address myself to the principle of this bill as much as any other member in this House. This bill goes beyond just the teachers. It's a bill that has repercussions for all working people in this province whether they are organized or unorganized. The present economic situation in the country means that we are facing difficult times but the way the present government and some of their allies would have it turn out is that the brunt of these difficulties will be borne by the working people. The corporations will continue to reap their profits. When it is all over—and let's hope the government's anti-inflation programme will be over some day—the working people will end up in a worse position than they are right now.

I will not go on at any great length, but I would like to cite one example that illustrates for me the root cause of inflation. We are always told that wages are the main cause of inflation. If one looks at a house which cost \$25,600 in 1969 and sells for \$35,800 today, he will find that's a \$10,200 increase. What accounts for that increase? Well \$6,430 of that is due to rising profits, land speculation and interest. Only \$950 is the result of increased labour cost. You are not going to tell me the main reason for that house increasing by over \$10,000 is labour. That is just not true but you continue to try to push that one on the public.

Mr. Norton: How does that relate to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Martel: The guru of grunts.

Mr. Bain: I mentioned to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands that I wish to deal with this bill not in isolation as some members opposite would like to do but in a total framework. There needs to be protection for working people in this province.

I notice that the government has not risen to the occasion with such great haste to end the pulp and paper strike. Oh, no, leave the workers out because in that case management doesn't want anything done about it. They wouldn't want to interfere with the pulp and paper corporations because they are out to break the new Canadian union, so they will let it go on and on and on and on and on. If one reads that contract that was offered the workers, each line of it promises something and the following line takes it away. If they had voted for that contract under those conditions and gone to work for that, I think they would have had a hard time holding their heads up, and that's why those people went out on strike. They were forced to go out on strike. If the government

wants to make things fair in collective bargaining in this province, why doesn't it put the same obligations on corporations as it is trying to put on the workers?

Mr. Norton: Is the member advocating we should legislate them back to work?

Mr. Martel: It is a class society up there.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Timiskaming just ignore the interjections from the other side and deal with the provisions of Bill 1, please?

Mr. Bain: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Coming to this particular situation that we find ourselves with here in Toronto and for which we have brought forth Bill 1 to try to resolve, we see a situation that has resulted in a strike. The Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) was asked many times before this strike took place—I can remember a full week in which he was asked every day—what was he doing to try to resolve the situation. Every day he said: "It hasn't run its course yet. I don't want to intervene prematurely."

He didn't seem to have the same deal of concern at that time as he has right now. So we have Bill 1 and he wants to put the teachers back to work. But what is he willing to offer them? Almost nothing.

Mr. Martel: Nothing. There is no floor.

Mr. Bain: They go back to work and they are going to—

Mr. Warner: Just \$7,800.

Mr. Bain: —be subjected to compulsory arbitration. The government doesn't even have the courtesy to put in a base.

Mr. Martel: The government's last two compulsory arbitration bills contained that, by the way.

Mr. Johnson: The member for Sudbury East is not talking now.

Mr. Bain: It just goes to show that we speak and assist one another. We are not divided like others. The government doesn't even have the courtesy to say that if the arbitrator decides in favour of a settlement higher than the Anti-Inflation Board allows that the government will go and try and make the case to the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa. Or it doesn't do as it did in the little agreement that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) signed with Mr. Trudeau; it doesn't say that it will get involved and exempt this particular contract.

I wonder why the government allowed the liquor licences in this province to go up 500 per cent for special occasions. The government likes to get a lot of revenue, why doesn't it subject itself to the same guidelines to which it now wants to subject the teachers and other working people?

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: I must agree, as a teacher, that there does come a point when the students are in jeopardy of losing their year. I want to just add one thing—and maybe the members opposite don't realize this because, of course, I don't expect many of them have ever been out on strike. They seem to think that people like to go on strike; they think it seems to be a fashionable thing that people do when they have nothing that is exciting in their everyday lives.

I will guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, that no teacher went out on strike or will ever go out on strike in this province with a good feeling about it. I know teachers who've taught for years and years, and only a few years ago would never in a million years have gone out on strike. The government forced them into that position—

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: —and they feel a tremendous amount of frustration.

They are, on one hand, trying to obtain a decent standard of living using the only avenue the government has left to them, that of a strike. That's the only avenue it has left to working people. Mind you, it tries to curtail it as much as it can, but they still have that one safeguard left.

They're also torn, on the other hand, with their obligation to their students. Teachers feel a tremendous amount of dedication to their students. If it wasn't for that dedication to their students, I would guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, most of them wouldn't be in education any more because the government has made it darned hard for them to stay there.

Now, in this particular bill we have tried to take—

Mr. Johnson: It's tougher to stay out on strike.

Mr. Bain: I'll wait and listen to your comments when I'm finished, I'm sure they'll be very interesting.

In this particular bill we feel that although it's necessary for the teachers to go back into the classrooms, we feel that it's also necessary there be a fair piece of legislation that

would send them back. And the government has not provided that. We, in our reasoned amendment, have attempted to do that. We would guarantee that the last offer of the board was the base. We would also guarantee in our amendment that both parties would negotiate again, and that there would be open some avenue of a settlement that would be acceptable to all parties.

Mr. Norton: Did you ever think what effect it has on the rest of society?

Mr. Bain: In this case, I think the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) is right. He is saying what the government perhaps is thinking. It will not give the teachers a reasonable condition under which they will go back to work because it wants to put them in an untenable position. I would suggest that if the education system in Toronto is salvaged, it will be because of the teachers and their dedication to their students, not because of this government's bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate in this debate? You used to be Sandwich-Riverside.

Mr. Burr: You don't recognize me, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Kennedy: You look familiar, Fred.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Burr: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to speak briefly, without recrimination, without name-calling, without blame-placing, just to try to clarify one or two of the issues before us. We have been called back here today to pass a bill which makes two proposals. They are in the explanatory notes and I wish some member would read them, because they are very clear.

One proposal is that we shall settle the outstanding matters in dispute, and when we look into the inside, we find that it is to be done by compulsory arbitration. The other point in the explanatory notes is that we shall legislate the teachers back to work.

[9:00]

Now we in the NDP have said no to (a) part and yes to (b) part. We have said no to (a) part because we have what we think is a much better solution. So we have said the government is half right, and by 10:30 this morning the second point, putting the teachers back to work, was settled. It was eliminated as an issue, and yet two or three hours of verbiage have been spent on an issue that was settled around 10:30 this morning.

The remaining issue is compulsory arbitration or something better.

An hon. member: Better or just different?

Mr. Burr: Something different, which we think is better.

Now the difference lies in whether the settlement is to go to compulsory arbitration, to which all three parties profess to be very reluctant to resort, or whether there is a better alternative. We believe there is a better alternative.

Anyone can draft a compulsory arbitration bill. We spent a considerable time trying to come up with a bill that would look toward next week. It has been said and taken for granted that there is going to be bitterness and frustration. Our purpose, I think our main purpose, was to soften this bitterness and frustration, to make conditions next week better.

We believe that the teachers' returning to work under compulsory arbitration is not conducive to the rebuilding of the educational atmosphere in the secondary schools of Toronto. To the contrary, it is conducive to continued bitterness and frustration. On the other hand, a return to work, if tied to a return to the bargaining table, we feel would be genuinely helpful in the restoration of the necessary rapport between teachers, students, parents and the various communities. This is a rapport of utmost importance in the next week or two.

If members of the Legislature would like to require the teachers and the boards to use the final offer selection provision of Bill 100, and set a time limit, that at least would be better than the compulsory arbitration method. The short-term benefit of our proposal, continued collective bargaining, includes teacher morale, classroom atmosphere and community reconciliation. The long-term benefits of our proposal, continued collective bargaining, are also very important and they are considerable.

Collective bargaining in good faith would not be hampered in other disputes that are on the horizon and actually close at hand. As will be the case, in some instances there will be some school boards, not many I hope, that will take this attitude in the event of a strike or in the event of the threat of a strike.

This is the first time, by the way, I have heard striking referred to as a luxury. That has been replied to, though, so I shall not expand on that.

Mr. Martel: Aren't we lucky? We gave them that privilege.

Mr. Burr: But such school boards would know that the Legislature would take them off the hook by legislating compulsory arbitration after about 40 days. This knowledge, or the belief in this theory, would weaken the collective bargaining process significantly, fostering similar situations that will require government action, perhaps on frequent occasions.

If the Legislature were willing to adopt our proposal—back to the desk and back to the table—the negotiating teams or boards and teachers would then know that the members of this Legislature held in high esteem genuine collective bargaining and wanted speedy settlements instead of prolonged stalemates.

The present government proposal before us—back-to-work legislation combined with compulsory arbitration—will make it easy for all kinds of public bodies to forget about good-faith bargaining and rely upon the Legislature to win their negotiation battles for them.

As I see it, voting for Bill 1, with its compulsory arbitration, is tantamount to adding to Bill 100 of last year a clause which says in effect that after about 40 days of strike or lockout the Legislature shall be called and shall legislate an end to the strike or lockout and a settlement shall be arranged by compulsory arbitration. Those who vote against our reasoned and reasonable amendment will be voting against sending the teachers back to work and back to the bargaining table. Now it would be dishonest for us to claim, when they do that, that they voted against sending the teachers back to work, period. By the same token, when we do not support the bill, we will be voting against sending the teachers back to work under compulsory arbitration, and it would be dishonest for anyone to say that we were voting against sending the teachers back to work, period.

Let us be quite clear about the two votes. The back-to-work issue, as I said, was over at 10:30 this morning. The issue now is compulsory bargaining or continued good-faith collective bargaining; and, Mr. Speaker, I support return to work with continued collective bargaining.

Mr. Foulds: There are two principles in this bill, both of which I find great difficulty in dealing with.

The first principle deals with the return to the classroom, the back to work aspect of the legislation. The second principle—and I want to underline these two key principles because it is relevant and something that I'll be saying later in the speech—the second principle is that the bill imposes compulsory arbitra-

tion. I think it is important to separate those two principles, which we have tried to do in our reasoned amendment.

The minister's statement, I think, set a healthy tone for the debate, and at the risk of incurring the wrath of the *Globe and Mail* once again—

Mr. Samis: Risk not.

Mr. Foulds:—I would compliment the minister for setting that tone, because I think whatever position we take in this House, in any of the three parties, I think what we must attempt to do, as clearly as possible, is re-establish a healthy climate in the educational system in Metropolitan Toronto. That is not going to be easy, and this legislation does not make it easier.

One of the things, that I found disappointing in the minister's opening remarks, however, Mr. Speaker, is that his defence of Bill 100 and of the Education Relations Commission was not more vigorous than it was.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That comes in my next speech.

Mr. Foulds: Good; because I want to say very clearly that I find myself in the peculiar position from time to time of having to defend the minister against his own colleagues. We had to do it, as I recall, on Bill 100 itself from time to time.

Mr. Martel: How many times did the member take them around the corner to talk to them?

Mr. Foulds: I suppose it is a somewhat compromising position to find oneself in, but if it serves the educational betterment of this province then I am prepared to do that.

Nobody at the time of the debate on Bill 100, not even the minister, not even the education spokesman for the Liberal Party or for the New Democratic Party at that time, claimed that Bill 100 was perfect. Nobody claimed we would be entering upon a new Utopia in teacher-board negotiations. What we claimed, and what I still fervently believe to be true, is that teacher-board negotiations would be regularized and would be improved, and hopefully that would result in an improvement in the educational system. And it has done.

It is true that with this experience probably some amendments need to be made to Bill 100 and probably the Education Relations Commission needs to define its role and the roles of its functionaries, such as the fact-finders more stringently and more precisely.

But I put to the minister that at about this time last year we had three strikes either upon us or about to be upon us in the educational system, every single one of which was as debilitating to the community and to the students and to the teachers and to the trustees in their communities. It happened to be Thunder Bay, Windsor and Ottawa. Thunder Bay happens to be 1,000 miles from Queen's Park and the media centre of Toronto. Ottawa is almost 500 miles away, as is Windsor.

Mr. Mancini: Windsor is 250 or 500 round trip.

Mr. Foulds: In southern Ontario traffic, to us northerners that seems like 500.

Mr. Good: Our roads are not so good down here.

Mr. Foulds: The record of the Education Relations Commission this year is not a bad one. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I put it to you that without Bill 100 and without the Education Relations Commission, at this point in time this year where would we be? We would be deeper into the forest than we are now because of contracts which expired on Aug. 31, 1975. All of the public elementary contracts, with the exception of one, were settled. This is my information.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's settled now.

Mr. Foulds: That's settled now. This is my information as of Jan. 9. All of the elementary public contracts are settled and all separate contracts are settled.

An hon. member: All under Bill 100.

Mr. Foulds: There are nine contracts in the secondary area that are not settled—these are all under Bill 100—out of approximately 300 to 400 contracts. That's not a bad batting average for the first year of operation of a new bill and of a new commission. Of the 34 contracts that expired on Dec. 31, 1975, half of them are settled.

I'm glad to hear that in his second run the minister is going to make a more vigorous defence of his legislation and of the Education Relations Commission—that is his Bill 100 legislation. He is going to have to make that defence, because with this bill he is to some degree damaging and weakening his general legislation.

[9:15]

During the course of the minister's opening remarks the minister said: "We are presenting a bill," Bill No. 1, "which has two main objectives: (1) get the high schools of Metro Toronto open and operating by next

Monday; and (2) provide a means of equitable settlement in the dispute that has caused this strike and lockout."

I put to you, Mr. Speaker, that the bill fails on both those counts. The schools will not be operating normally next Monday because he has in the terms of his bill forced compulsory arbitration which will exacerbate the situation, which will increase the resentment with which the teachers go back to work.

Because the minister has failed to put in a floor that the arbitrator must work from he has failed to provide a means for an equitable settlement.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the bill, in the minister's statement, fails because the bill should have a third objective; and that third objective should be the rehabilitation of the school system of Metropolitan Toronto.

I think I am probably as concerned as anyone in this House with getting the school kids back into the classroom. I don't mind telling this House, Mr. Speaker, that of all people in our caucus I probably had the most personal difficulty with the traditional approach that our party takes to compulsory, binding arbitration, because as education spokesman for this party I must consider, perhaps more than other members, all aspects of the community, all aspects of the educational community.

What decided me that I could not vote for compulsory arbitration as it is proposed in this bill is the way that this bill presents it. This bill is merely concerned with getting the kids back through the doors of the classroom as a window-dressing measure.

I think we have to examine why this strike took place. Why did the breakdown in the negotiations occur? I think that that occurred not because of weaknesses in the collective bargaining process, not because of weaknesses in Bill 100, but because of weaknesses in the educational system so great that that system is so wounded that psychologically this strike was necessary for both sides. That speaks volumes about the state of education in our society today, and the way that it is perceived by the public, by legislators, by government and by those participating in it.

The job of being a teacher is a difficult one under the best of circumstances. You know, in terms of history even mediocre politicians are remembered. In terms of history even mediocre generals, like Brock, are remembered. In terms of history I suppose only three teachers are remembered—Socrates, Christ and Confucius. It is not a job that brings one glory, that brings one kudos, that

has the ego-satisfaction of press or publicity. The job, with the pressures that society is loading on the educational system, is difficult no matter what one is paid.

I remember thinking as a teacher myself, some six years ago, that even if they paid me \$25,000—which they would be paying me today as a matter of fact—

Mr. Shore: Even?

Mr. Foulds: —even if they paid me that amount it wouldn't be worth it for the administria, the frustration, the ennui, the sheer crap that one has to put up with.

Mr. Shore: This is a lot easier isn't it?

Mr. Riddell: Maybe you wouldn't be acceptable in the teaching profession.

Mr. Foulds: It could be, it could very easily be. I could always become one of the unwashed masses that the member's colleague from Armourdale talked about, because I have worked on the railways and in the pulp mills and in the bush and I am proud and happy to do that.

Mr. Shore: So you should be.

Mr. Foulds: So I should be, right on, absolutely. To me, the most important thing is not merely to open the doors of the schools and to get the students off the streets, to me the most important thing is for a genuine education environment to be created, starting next Monday. Does anybody in this House seriously think that this Draconian form of compulsory arbitration will do that?

Mr. Martel: Arthur Meen does.

Mr. Foulds: And why, oh why, when compulsory arbitration is used, as I very reluctantly admit from time to time perhaps governments and Legislatures have to do, but why, oh why, when compulsory arbitration is used by this government, using this House, is it always against the rights of the workers? I know of no single instance where this ministry or this government has brought in compulsory arbitration to benefit the workers when management has flagrantly flouted the spirit of the Labour Relations Act.

I could get into a long discussion about a dispute that I have been intimately involved in and that the ministry is doing everything within its power to resolve; and I give it credit for that, I give it a lot of credit for that. But the legislation within which it is working does not allow it to do it really, although hope still springs eternal. That is the

little—well not little to the people involved—the unfortunate dispute at the Port Arthur clinic. Yet in those cases the ministry cannot seem to bring itself to recommend to the government and the government cannot seem to bring itself to approve of a compulsory arbitration that would favour the workers, especially on first contract disputes.

So in my experience in this House, every time we have faced compulsory arbitration it has always been directed toward and against the employees.

To me if legislation is needed, and I am conceding that need, it needs to fulfil three basic requirements: 1. It must not abrogate the essential principles of Bill 100 nor must it irreparably damage the collective bargaining process. 2. It must provide for an honourable settlement. 3. It must reopen the schools in such a way that the wounds will heal.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that our reasoned amendment would do that. I submit that you don't amputate a leg to staunch the bleeding in your big toe, and that's what this piece of government legislation does. If you like, what our reasoned amendment does and attempts to do is it provides for the reopening of the classrooms and it provides for the reopening of those classrooms as rapidly as does the government legislation.

I admit freely that our reasoned amendment has an element of compulsion about it. It provides for compulsory negotiations but it preserves the principle of collective bargaining; in fact our reasoned amendment insists on it.

I admit our reasoned amendment says that the strike procedure in the collective bargaining process outlined in Bill 100 has failed. The strike procedure in the collective bargaining process in the Port Arthur clinic dispute failed too and the girls had to go back into work to preserve their jobs. But our reasoned amendment says the collective bargaining process, of which the strike process is only one portion, is still valid and still possible and it preserves that.

Secondly, it is my contention that the legislation must contain the basis for an honourable settlement. I make the assumption that the last board offer was made in good faith and, therefore, as it was made in good faith by the negotiators I think it should be guaranteed. I think that the minister's legislation is Draconian, and deliberately Draconian, because it leaves a deliberate uncertainty hanging over the teachers about the terms of the settlement. They do not know the floor to which the arbitrator could plunge.

That was not an uncertainty that the minister felt should be inflicted upon the York county teachers. There was a clause in that bill, clause 4, that guaranteed the teachers a whole salary grid and guaranteed that certain working conditions would be items for negotiation.

This piece of legislation does not guarantee a floor. The government has brought in legislation, as many people have said, with regard to the Toronto Transit Commission strike which guaranteed a floor to the striking workers. So I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government has not displayed as much good faith as they should have over this bill to reinforce the faith they should have in Bill 100. It may be there, but the government good faith is not on display.

Third, the schools must reopen; and they will reopen quickly on the government's model, but under what kind of atmosphere? Frankly, I shudder to think what the atmosphere will be like on Monday in the schools of Metropolitan Toronto when I see articles that are highlighted in the Toronto Globe and Mail.

As a matter of fact, I had a review made of the clippings from the major Toronto dailies about this dispute. It's interesting that the Globe and Mail in particular has been consistently negative, and not just toward the teachers; they've been anti-OSSTF, anti-board, anti-Education Relations Commission and anti-government. There's a kind of unhealthy negativism creeping into that paper. [9:30]

Mr. Lewis: Not just in its editorials either.

Mr. Foulds: Even in the way the stories are placed. There were the pictures this morning on the front page and a front-page story where a student representative warned he would urge a student walkout if "Metro striking high school teachers are legislated back to work and try to vent their anger on the students by overworking them."

I ask you in what kind of an atmosphere does such a statement get made? How much is overworking the students? Is it asking them to do an extra half-hour's homework? I suppose in this day and age—forgive me for being an old-fashioned square—it may be that asking them to do homework at all may be considered to be overworking them.

This student went on to say:

It'll be rough inside the classrooms. There'll probably be a little heat. If the teachers try to put the load on the kids, I won't go for it. If the worst comes to

the worst, I would recommend a student walkout. Let the teachers sit in the classrooms.

My God, Mr. Speaker, that speaks volumes about the educational system.

Mr. Martel: It tells what the papers have done to the issue?

Mr. Foulds: Our reasoned amendment opens the schools just as quickly, and I submit that under our terms two improvements would take place. The atmosphere for the possibility of education would be improved; and the atmosphere for negotiations would be improved, not only in this contract but in future contracts.

As I understand it, the parties are apart on four specific items in particular. Although they may seem small to the world at large, and even to us as legislators, one of them in particular, the particular manner of the fold-in clause, does seem to be a fundamental principle to one side. They aren't that far apart on money, and if that procedure—and surely that's a mechanical procedure that can be worked out by reasonable people—if that procedure can be worked out, I am convinced there could be a negotiated settlement.

I didn't plan to deal with this at this particular stage; I was going to deal with a couple of specific provisions in the bill. I don't know how real this is because I don't know how real the life is in this Legislature when one starts at 10 o'clock in the morning and continues through until 10:30 at night, having had a bit of a trying caucus meeting the day previous; and although having slept soundly for four hours, some of one's perceptions may not be as acute as they might be. But word seemed to filter out of the Premier's (Mr. Davis') office late this afternoon that if an amendment establishing a floor were passed in committee of the whole House, the government would consider that to be a matter of confidence.

Mr. Lewis: That's what we were told; and we are moving that amendment.

Mr. Foulds: Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask you—it is to laugh, it is to laugh.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We would consider a vote on an amendment establishing a negotiating floor a vote of confidence.

Mr. Lewis: You mean you would call an election on inserting a floor for the teachers which you yourself have done in preceding bills. Well we are going to call your bluff; you decide.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Lewis: We will call your bluff.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There is a difference between them.

Mr. Lewis: Well then you put it on the floor and let us see. You provide the alternatives.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Foulds: The two essential principles in the legislation are the reopening of the classrooms and compulsory arbitration. Those are the principles in the legislation. The rest of the bill is operational fallout. The floor has been a principle that this government has endorsed and put forward as legislation in the past—

Mr. Martel: You want it both ways.

Mr. Foulds: —in teacher disputes and in the Toronto Transit dispute. If the government can stretch, by some wild fantasy, that an amendment in committee stage that does not attack the two stated essential principles of their bill but guarantees an honourable settlement is a matter of confidence, then this is a government that is not worthy of the name. And, Mr. Speaker, we will be calling their bluff on it.

If this government really does want to fight an election on whether or not there is a floor in a compulsory arbitration bill, where they have included it in past legislation—

Mr. Martel: There is somebody sick.

Mr. Foulds: —well their inconsistency in trying to explain that one away is going to be beautiful to behold on the hustings.

Mr. Martel: Is that the emotional issue the Premier is looking for?

Mr. Foulds: I suggest to the Conservative Party that they get their overshoes, their galoshes, their earmuffs and their raccoon coats ready right now.

Mr. Martel: The Premier found an emotional issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude with two thoughts.

Mr. Martel: Their applause proves they were listening to you.

Mr. Foulds: Now that I am encouraged by my friends from the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker, by that spontaneous endorsement, camaraderie and respect, I will continue.

Mr. Kennedy: You might as well.

Mr. Grossman: For another hour?

Mr. Foulds: Thomas More once said that the principles that a man believes constitute his self, his person, and he holds those in the palms of his hands, cupped, like a cup of water; and if he once opens his fingers to let those slip away, how can he ever hope to find his essential self again.

Mr. Shore: What did you do with your fingers at throne debate time?

Mr. Foulds: I submit that is the problem that I and many of my colleagues faced when it came to compulsory arbitration. I submit to you that this government made it easy for us when we actually saw the form of that compulsory arbitration. I am not prepared to abandon that principle on the terms the government is prepared to legislate it.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker—and I hope I do not get too esoteric—but it seems to me that as legislators, certainly as individuals, we should approach legislation on the principle of Kant's categorical imperative, which essentially is that every decision that we make, whether it pass or fail, must be made on the basis that if what we do were done by all it would result in more good than harm.

I submit that our alternative in the reasoned amendment results in more good than harm in a far greater proportion than does the government bill. As politicians, we recognize the necessity for compromise in our alternative, and it is a significant compromise. But it is an alternative that is positive, constructive and creative and one that will work.

I have no hesitation whatsoever in rejecting the government bill as it is worded and accepting and supporting the opposition's reasoned and reasonable amendment. I urge the House to do so.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I regret very much that I was not here personally earlier in the day to hear some of the contributions of the members opposite, with respect first to the constitutionality of the federal legislation, which I certainly don't intend to dwell on in view of the fact that this is a debate on principle. But I am concerned with the allegations that were made according to the—

Mr. Nixon: What could be more a matter of principle than that?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —transcript that I've been able to obtain, as to the suggestion that the agreement that was entered into by this province a couple of days ago, was of an illegal nature.

Mr. Renwick: It is too bad the ones who made the allegations are not here tonight.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The word illegality was thrown about in a very loose fashion. In my absence the government was challenged as to what the legal basis was for the government of this province entering into an agreement with the federal government with respect to the implementation of the federal anti-inflation programme.

I want to advise the House that I have a legal opinion that was prepared at my request by my law officers for the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough). Although I don't think it's proper parliamentary procedure to table such an opinion given by law officers to a member of executive council, I'm quite prepared to supply this opinion to any of the members upon request.

Mr. Nixon: We do request it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I'll see that that is done; and certainly for the leader of the Liberal Party I have a copy that I can send across the aisle in the next moment or two.

Again it was argued or suggested that we were dealing with a delegation of authority from the provincial to the federal government. I would simply like to reiterate what I have said in the past on a number of occasions, that this is not a case of delegation but a case of the proper exercise of the federal government's constitutional rights in relation to a matter of peace, order and good government, namely, a matter of national urgency. This government is still strongly of the view that inflation is a matter of national urgency.

I think one of the members opposite, the member for Downsview I believe, was referring to some case involving the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax dealing with delegation of powers between the province and the federal government. I would just like to assure the House that the law officers of the Crown considered all these authorities. I must say that we, the people in this province, are very fortunate in having some of the leading constitutional experts in the country serving the people of this province, as I mentioned, on an ongoing basis. The case referred to by the member for Downsview at some length, had nothing to do with the peace, order and good government—

Mr. Foulds: It is the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer).

[9:45]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Wilson Heights, I'm sorry.

It had nothing to do with the matter of peace, order and good government and the exercise of the federal government's constitutional responsibilities as well as authority in that respect. In relation to the matter, that was again touched upon, as to whether or not there should have been a further debate in this House with respect to the establishment of a provincial board for the administration of the anti-inflation programme, of course Mr. Speaker I would like to remind the House that this matter was, in fact, the subject matter of an amendment to the Speech from the Throne which all members will recall was debated at some length. The Liberal amendment to the Speech from the Throne was, in fact, defeated by the government members and the members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition sitting opposite.

Mr. Nixon: Otherwise known as the NDP.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: So for any one to suggest that the matter has not been fully debated, of course, is just simply not in accordance with the facts. But insofar as the legality of the agreement that has been entered into by this government is concerned, the authority to enter into this agreement does not emanate from this government but does emanate from the federal legislation, the constitutionality of which we accept. It's the federal legislation which states that the implementation of the mechanism of the federal Anti-Inflation Board shall be done by an agreement entered into by a government of the province, and it's fact that the authority for such an agreement comes from the federal Parliament.

As I've already said, Mr. Speaker, the legal opinion was prepared some time ago at my request and copies will be provided to any of the hon. members upon request.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Attorney General would submit to a question? Can he explain to us what the authority is for the province to enter into such an agreement? He's done it by order in council. Does it not require statutory authority for him to pass those powers over to the federal government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This has nothing to do with the principle of the bill.

Mr. Ruston: We've been talking about it for 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have made it quite clear on past occasions that this was not required. As to the legal authority for the entering into of such an agreement by order in council, I've said I would be quite happy to provide the authorities to my friend. It is rather lengthy and involved; I would be quite happy to relate them to the House as a whole but it would take some time. I'm sure that the House members would be quite happy to receive it in written form.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Riverdale wishes to speak.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for a few minutes on Bill 1. I understand that I will be the last speaker for our party and I will attempt to sort out a few things and perhaps try to set for the House the purpose of our amendment—what we are endeavouring to do; what impressions we have formed of the comments made by members of the Liberal Party and by the government members who have spoken in the course of the bill.

This legislative assembly never ceases to amaze me because, having been here for some considerable period of time and having arrived in the Legislature at a relatively early hour this morning, I of course was waiting for the bells to ring in order to attend the assembly to hear Her Honour give the address from the throne. Having forgotten, if I ever knew, that nicety of parliamentary procedures where the bells are not rung on opening day, I missed the opening of the House.

Mr. Nixon: There was no breathing NDP in the House.

Mr. Renwick: We all missed it for the same reason. We're not up on the parliamentary niceties; the substance of matters, yes, but not the parliamentary niceties. They sometimes escape on us.

I wanted to say that because I wanted you to understand, Mr. Speaker, that when a matter such as this comes before the assembly I think it is important that we understand, all of us in the Legislature what we in this party are about, particularly in the year 1976 as distinct from what—

Mr. Reid: It didn't used to matter, I guess.

Mr. Renwick: —I would refer to as the ecumenical or honeymoon session, or the first session of the 30th Parliament. Now in 1976

the political realities are apparent in the debate.

We tried by way of a reasoned amendment—and I emphasize the word "reasoned," to distinguish it from some other amendments which from time to time come before the House—we tried and we had several reasons and several purposes. I want to share them with you. Our first reason for introducing the reasoned amendment was to try to put together in the Legislature a sufficient number of votes to defeat the government on this bill.

Let me talk about a political reality. This Legislature, this Parliament, will be dissolved when the Premier of the province (Mr. Davis) decides that it is in his interests to dissolve this Parliament and to call an election. That is when it will be called. We recognize that. But we also recognize something else—that if, in certain circumstances, we can put together a sufficient number of votes, obviously depending on the support of our colleagues to the left, to defeat the government on a bill of importance to the government, we can at least create the situation in the public perception that the government should dissolve the Parliament and an election should be called.

That is what we tried to do in the reasoned amendment. What we wished to accomplish was the defeat of the government on this bill.

Mr. Sweeney: In other words, the teachers didn't matter.

Mr. Jones: Or the students.

Mr. Sweeney: Or the students.

Mr. Reid: Where were they before Christmas? Where were all the high principles before Christmas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: Where were you before Christmas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Riverdale will continue.

Mr. Nixon: You voted with the government.

Mr. Reid: You voted with the government before Christmas.

Mr. Nixon: You weren't so interested in putting together a majority at that time, were you? Don't be so hypocritical.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would allow me a brief parenthesis, before I develop my remarks further, to deal with that specific question. My friends in the Liberal Party have great difficulty—I have listened to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway)—

Mr. Nixon: Sure, he is right here.

Mr. Renwick: Sorry he can't speak to me, he is in the wrong seat. I have listened to him. I have listened to other aspirants to the leadership of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Nixon: The member for Renfrew North is making an announcement tomorrow.

Mr. Renwick: Never you mind—

Mr. Bain: That's why he is sitting on your right hand.

Mr. Renwick: I have listened to the great constitutional experts who line the front bench of the Liberal Party. I said today to the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), who is not in the House, that perhaps in simple English I could explain the position of the party—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, it's going to be one of those elaborate speeches. We are going to get the whole thing in context.

Mr. Reid: The Bible according to Renwick.

Mr. Renwick: The Liberal Party wants to somehow or other dissociate itself from the federal Liberal Party.

Mr. Reid: Do you blame us?

Mr. Martel: I don't think so.

Mr. Renwick: But you see, you can't really bring yourself to do it.

Mr. Shore: Oh yes, we can. Just watch us.

Mr. Renwick: No, they adopt and accept the guidelines of the federal Liberal Party introduced into law in the country and the only difference that they see about it is that they want a parallel enforcement operation set up in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Reid: That was your position as well.

Mr. Shore: Your leader said you wanted it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: You voted for it; that's what you said.

Mr. Renwick: They accept the price and wage guidelines of the federal government

and they want to set up a parallel organization.

Mr. Reid: And you don't?

Mr. Renwick: We don't accept the wage and price guidelines of the federal government. The law has been passed and we are bound by them. We don't accept the philosophy behind them, the political judgement behind them or what is happening to the economy of Canada as a result of it.

Mr. Reid: You accepted the proposition of the provincial jurisdiction. Your leader said that. Are you denying that?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member could return to the principle of this bill, please.

Mr. Renwick: We would not want to be associated with an amendment by the Liberal Party that in any way could be misconstrued by the Liberal Party to think that we support—

Mr. Singer: Oh, come on.

Mr. Renwick: —the policy of Prime Minister Trudeau and his government at Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member return to the principle of the bill, please?

Mr. Reid: You are squirming like the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) was earlier today and you can't get out of it.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you for permitting me that parenthesis.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: It is your finest hour. The Leader of the Opposition is going to set you right.

Mr. Reid: Here comes a play from the bench.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: You were saying of majority.

Mr. Renwick: I was saying that it was our purpose on this bill to defeat the government. We know, as I said, that we can't do it. Why do we want to defeat the government? Because this Bill 1 is an abject defeat for the government of the Province of Ontario. It illustrates what the leader of this party has said, echoed by the leader of the Liberal Party, that the leadership of the government has failed in this instance.

Mr. Stong: I think it is the other way around.

Mr. Renwick: Do members not think it is ludicrous for us to be sitting here in this assembly in January of 1976 when we passed, in June or July of last year, Bill 100, when this is the first strike that has taken place under Bill 100 and the strike which exists in Metropolitan Toronto is the first living test of Bill 100?

I am going to come back to that a little bit later on in my remarks, but I will leave that for members to ponder should they not wish to listen to some other remarks that I want to make. I want to pick that up a little bit later on.

Mr. Ruston: We will ponder it.

Mr. Renwick: I want to pick it up a little bit later on in these remarks about the bill.

I have listened as carefully as I could to the remarks which came from the Liberal Party with respect to this bill. I can't say that I either listened to all of the remarks nor that I can remember all of the remarks that I did listen to. I can simply express, first of all, my sorrow and my very deep concern that my friend the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens), should tonight have introduced into this assembly the kind of rednecked attitude which we in this party expressly dissociate ourselves from as far as the substance of the bill is concerned, as far as the remarks which he made about the teachers and insofar as he endeavoured to associate in the minds of those in the assembly who also have red necks something which I heard the member say, "The working slobs of our society." I personally was upset and concerned. I can understand the member for Armourdale feeling guilty.

[10:00]

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: He should have felt guilty at the end of his remarks rather than at the beginning. It even made me for one brief moment wish that the Bad Boy had won.

May I now say when I listened to the substance of the remarks of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the leader of the Liberal Party, I found he was saying, after the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and not because of the Leader of the Opposition, substantially the same things. I regret that there was not an opportunity, through shortness of time and other reasons, to have perhaps negotiated or discussed at least with the Liberal Party the possibility in depth of their support for our amendment.

I think it would have been important to the Province of Ontario for them to have supported us about the amendment. I regret that we overlooked the fact that there was already fixed in the minds of the assembly a predictable result to the debate, that the Liberal Party would vote with the government on a bill for compulsory arbitration and the New Democratic Party would simply vote against it. When we dared to spend some time thinking out the ramifications of the bill, the importance of the bill, the significance of it both for the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto and for the teachers throughout the Province of Ontario, when we dared not to be predictable—

Mr. S. Smith: You tried to have it both ways.

Mr. Mackenzie: Don't get out of your league.

Mr. Renwick: —the Liberal Party members—

Mr. S. Smith: I have to lower myself once in a while. I can't play the big leagues all the time.

Mr. Renwick: —couldn't stand it, and we had to listen this afternoon to a tirade about the constitutional questions. I listened to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). The Attorney General said nothing more than he has parroted on a number of other occasions to support a very specious and certainly at least a very "iffy" constitutional proposition. But this is no longer a court of law, the government of Ontario has made its decision. Regardless of the assembly, it has entered into an agreement with the government of Canada and that agreement can only be challenged in the courts. There is no way that we here can now challenge it.

I happen to think of course that the government of Ontario is quite wrong yesterday or the day before yesterday, knowing full well that this bill was going to be debated, to have entered into that agreement. But having entered into that agreement, there is nothing, and this I deplore, that this assembly could do by law or otherwise to alter the terms of that agreement which was tabled in the Legislature today, because like any other agreement you can only alter its terms with the consent of both of the parties, and one of the parties is the government of Canada.

I say to the Attorney General, as I said to him on Oct. 30 when I wrote him the letter that I did write and which I delivered to my colleagues today when I furnished them through the Premier (Mr. Davis) with a copy

of the Attorney General's reply, that the agreement, when it was entered into, would be subjected to a serious flaw. I'm sufficiently aware of constitutional matters to know that nothing is open and shut in the world of constitutional law, but I am prepared to express my opinion. Strangely enough, it coincides with the opinion of the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer), the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) and, I believe, the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) that if tested in the courts that agreement would be found to be unconstitutional.

It certainly patently flies in the face of parliamentary democracy. To think for a moment that the government of Ontario can designate itself in the agreement as the province, it reminds me of Sir Francis Bond Head. Only the executive council of the family compact could have said, "We are the province." Yet that's what this said. The government of Canada at least states that it is acting on behalf of Canada by virtue of the legislative authority of the House of Commons and the Senate and the assent which was given to Bill C-73. There is no such authority for that legislation.

That legislation, in my judgement, is unconstitutional, and I trust that a person who has standing in the courts, an organization which has standing in the courts, which can be heard to argue the constitutionality, will do so, not because of the constitutional niceties of the game but because the substance of it is wrong. I say again that this document represents another failure of leadership of the government consistent with and tied in with Bill 1, which was introduced today, because it was signed deliberately and purposely to have it in force when we were considering Bill 1.

It's all very well for the Attorney General of the Province of Ontario to explain to us that the authority of the government of the Province of Ontario to enter into this agreement flows from the legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada, which authorized the government of Canada to enter into an agreement with the government of Ontario. There's no authority that can be conferred by the Parliament of Canada upon the government of the Province of Ontario, and it's constitutional nonsense to say that it can be done.

Even if I were to accept the validity of the position of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), the law officers of the Crown, the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough), the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) and the government of Ontario, if I were to accept the proposition that the question of inflation is a

matter of inherent national concern and therefore overrides the jurisdiction of this Legislature, I could accept it as a position of integrity which would be open to debate on constitutional matters or argument in a court of law by those who wanted to argue. But I say there is no integrity left in the government, because the government signed an agreement with the government in Canada in the face of the opinion of the Attorney General, and, I am certain, with his knowledge that it contained the recital referred to by my colleague, the member for Sarnia this afternoon, which I will now read:

And whereas it is understood that neither Canada nor the province shall be deemed by reason of having entered into this agreement to have surrendered or abandoned any of the powers, rights, privileges or authorities vested in it under the British North America Act, 1867, and any amendments thereto, or to have impaired any of such powers, rights, privileges or authorities.

It's legal gobbledygook to say that this does not alter the constitutional relationships between the province and the federal government. That's what that language says. The Attorney General said the authority to enter into it flows from the Parliament of Canada. I am going to set it aside. It is no longer worth consideration in the assembly. It's tragic, it's unfortunate; I hope that somebody will challenge it and have it set aside.

I would like to turn now more specifically to the actual principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker. Believe me, I only dealt with the constitutional matters—even though the Speaker had ruled them out of order earlier today, or tried to rule them out of order—because the Attorney General of the province had chosen to make some remarks about them tonight, and because my colleagues to my left had spent a considerable amount of time on them this afternoon. They bear very considerably upon the guts of Bill 1.

Perhaps before I leave the agreement, I might just make one political comment about it. Of course the government took this particular shaky road for one reason and one reason only. They knew very well that if they introduced legislation into the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario giving them the authority to transfer the jurisdiction over the public sector to the federal government, that legislation would not pass. It's clear now that my colleagues on the left would not have supported the legislation by virtue of the reasons which were given in their amendment; namely, that that amendment demanded and required that there be a parallel provincial

apparatus to enforce the federal guidelines so far as the public sector was concerned.

I believe that to be the position which they would have taken. We in our turn would not have supported it; not for that reason, but because we do not accept the political judgments of the federal government with respect to the wage and price guideline proposals.

Mr. MacDonald: And neither did the government of Ontario prior to the Prime Minister's announcement of Oct. 14.

Mr. Renwick: We said so many times.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would return to the principle of the bill now please.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, I will. So in very blunt political terms, the government had to take the other road or be defeated in the assembly and go to the country on it. Again, we would have enjoyed it, as we would have enjoyed going to the country tonight on the defeat of the government on the principle of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not what your leader said this morning.

Mr. Renwick: On the principle of this bill.

Mr. Lewis: Certainly it is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, it's not.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not what Stephen said this morning. You have a strange metamorphosis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member will continue on the principle of the bill.

Mr. Lewis: That happens to us from morning to night and night to morning.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How did you make out over the supper hour?

Mr. Lewis: Fine.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's not what I hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: There is no metamorphosis at all.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It certainly is.

Mr. Crossman: It is called flip-flop.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He just said the reasoned amendment was made to defeat this government. I can't—

Mr. Lewis: We made that reasoned amendment to have it supported in the House and defeat your legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member will continue with the principle of the bill.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, let's not fool around; let's get the sequence of the votes very clear. The vote would have been taken that this bill be now read a second time; had the Liberal Party supported us in defeating that particular motion, our reasoned amendment would have been put. Had the Liberal Party supported us on our reasoned amendment, the government bill would have been defeated and it would have been up to the Premier to decide whether or not he would call the election on that issue.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Mr. Renwick: Now, let's not fool around.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not what your leader said this morning.

Mr. Renwick: Come on, let's not fool around.

Mr. Yakabuski: Do you want it?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order please. This is all supposition; perhaps the hon. member would return to the principle of the bill.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: Well, Mr. Speaker, if there were not so many interruptions I could—

Mr. S. Smith: You are feeling sensitive.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. MacDonald: We would have had a good bill instead of a poor one if we had done that. Let me put it this way—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the hon. member for Riverdale has the floor.

Mr. Renwick: Let me put it to—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You say yours is a good bill; I'll remember that. You don't really believe that.

Mr. Renwick: Let me put it to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Renwick: Let me put this to the Minister of Education: That was the purpose of our reasoned amendment. Then it would have been the government's problem about the election, as it always will be about the election. They are the ones who worry about the election, not us.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's not what the member's leader said this morning.

Mr. Yakabuski: Not any more, not after BC—no way.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: And I want to say to the Minister of Education right now, and quite categorically—

Mr. Yakabuski: After Australia or New Zealand, no way.

Mr. Cassidy: Just wait. Your days are numbered.

Mr. Renwick: I say to the minister that if he thinks the question of whether or not a companion clause in Bill 1, similar to the clause which was in the transit workers bill and the York county teachers bill with respect to the settlement of those strikes, that the introduction of that by way of amendments by this party is going to be a matter of confidence on which the government is going to call an election, then I say that reflects upon the integrity of the government. There is no issue—

Hon. Mr. Wells: To those who were willing to give leadership.

Mr. Renwick: There is no issue on which leadership will be given.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member return to the principle of this bill.

Mr. Renwick: Well, I thought I had.

Mr. Shore: Never mind returning, start on it.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, for the last time I've strayed from the principle of this bill.

Mr. Yakabuski: Let's get Stu Smith elected first.

Mr. Martel: Did you ever hear about the little boy who called wolf?

Mr. Renwick: Let me, as they say in cooking class, deal with some matters and then set them aside; or fold them in, I'm not sure.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say you are in an awful stew tonight.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you. I know where we can get steak and kidney pie for two for \$10.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Exactly where I found you one night after the opening of the House.

Mr. Lewis: The member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) can tell you where to wash it down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did you say Paul was going to—

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I accept the good faith of the boards of education in the negotiations. I accept the good faith of the negotiating team for the teachers in the course of these protracted negotiations. I am indebted to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) for drawing to my attention that at the close of today we will have finished exactly one year from the time when the Metropolitan Toronto teachers gave notice that they wanted to renegotiate their contract. So it is, in that sense, a historic occasion.

It would be presumptuous of me not to accept the good faith of both parties. It is a very complex, intricate and technical document. Some of the clauses in it are incomprehensible except to those who are immersed in the details of all of the gradations of teacher-board relationships. I certainly think that it would not only be presumptuous but, indeed, arrogant on my part if I did not accept the good faith.

I accept all of the good faith in totality. I accept that there was little if any game playing in the course of the negotiations that went on, or in the way in which the negotiations unfortunately terminated without an agreement having been reached.

I accept it for two reasons. One is that the people who negotiate for the teachers are elected by their organizations and have the support of their organizations in democratic elections. I accept it because the trustees are elected trustees who represent the communities for educational purposes that they serve. I think it does no one any good to castigate or cast aspersions upon the good faith of either of the parties.

If I may also convey an impression which I have, I think that both parties failed considerably in conveying to their real constituencies—the public in Metropolitan Toronto—what they were about. I think the affiliates and the representatives of the teachers did not get across to the parents and to the students in the secondary institutions in Metropolitan Toronto what the issues were, what their version of the issues was, what their version of the problems was and what the needs were as they saw them.

I think that the trustees equally failed. There were some sporadic and very indefinite attempts to inform the public, but basically they engaged in their particular ivory towers in their own form of introversion and in their discussions and debates. That's my impression and I believe it is somewhat widely shared. I have discussed it with a number of people and they feel that way. Perhaps, with a little bit more awareness on the part of the public, there could have been some assessment made of what in fact the public did think about this whole issue. Despite what everybody says, I think there is very little clear indication as to what the parents, the students and the public generally in Metropolitan Toronto think about the present impasse. One can surmise, but there is very little real evidence one way or the other. Symbolically at least, what the Minister of Education told us yesterday about the 224 for and 225 against, or thereabouts, shows the indecision within the community about the views which they should have mainly because, in my judgement, they are ill-informed by the two parties about what the issues were and about what the matters in dispute would be.

Let me then deal briefly with the students. We agree—all of the parties are now totally in agreement—with the statement which was made by the Minister of Education this morning when he made his remarks. He said there were two objectives: to get the high schools of Metro Toronto open and operating normally by next Monday and to provide a means of equitable settlement in the dispute that has caused this strike and lockout. But there is very little doubt in the minister's mind as to which of those objectives is of paramount importance because, late in his remarks, he said: "The factor of paramount importance to us is the educational welfare of the students."

Let me say to the House and to the minister that the objective was to open the schools on Monday. We share that end—all of us. I'll come back to that, but it has been difficult for this caucus to countenance return-to-

work legislation in the kind of situation in which we found ourselves placed by the government of the Province of Ontario.

If the end is to open the schools, then we accept the end. But what justifies the end? Albert Camus posed the question when he said: "If the end justifies the means, what justifies the end?" The only thing that can justify the end is the means and we take issue with the means; that is what our reasoned amendment is about. The means to accomplish it was to provide for the compulsory arbitration of the dispute that exists between the teachers and the boards in Metropolitan Toronto. We do not think that means is justified to accomplish that end. We think the end is justified and can be justified by different means, and only by those means, for very good reasons.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I just hope this means the end.

Mr. Renwick: The means that we believe justifies the end of the return to the school is to require the parties to negotiate and not to break off negotiations until an agreement is reached. It's just that simple. That is the instruction which is contained in the reasoned amendment which we put before the assembly. It is not to substitute some arbitrator, someone who has never been connected with it, to deal with the matters in dispute and arbitrarily decide what the agreement will be that will cover the employment and working conditions relationships between the teachers and the boards of education for the next two years. On the face of it, the two matters do not stand and hang together. We don't have to have an arbitrated decision in order to support the return to work. That's all we were saying. That's all that our amendment says. Even at this late hour, I would hope that there might be some opportunity for the Liberal Party to reconsider the concerns which we have.

Let me speak a little bit about the difficulty that we have in this caucus. We have said in this House—I have said, my colleagues have said, we have said it on any number of occasions—that to us, the right to strike is the equivalent of any one of the basic civil liberties and is one of those civil liberties of the people of the Province of Ontario.

I could find quotations in Hansard saying that time and time again—whether it was in the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act; whether it was in the bill with respect to the return to work of the elevator opera-

tors, or the bill with respect to the return to work of the York teachers, or the bill with respect to the return to work of the transit workers.

We have said time and time again that the right to strike is a civil liberty—not a civil right, a civil liberty; a distinction which is very significant in the Province of Ontario. The member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) shares at least my view of the substance of the bill; not the reasons, and certainly we don't have his support.

We in our caucus last night were faced with the proposition about whether or not we would agree to a suspension of that civil liberty.

Mr. Riddell: Seven hours of blood, sweat and tears.

Mr. Renwick: Do the members understand it? Do they begin to understand why it took up seven hours to do it, and why we talked about it at some considerable length?

Mr. Mancini: I understand it now.

Mr. Renwick: Reasonable men and women in the New Democratic Party can discuss these matters without any blood flowing and without any great difficulty. But we at least have the capacity to recognize that it is a civil liberty and that this bill is suspending that civil liberty. I want the House to know that when this party supports the suspension of a civil liberty for no matter what period of time, it is a difficult decision for us to make.

We made the decision. We made the decision because we believe that the community wishes the schools to be open. We came to that conclusion. There is nothing which requires us, having made that decision, to accept the compulsory arbitration of the matters in dispute.

We should be saying to the boards and to the teachers, "Go back to the table. Stay there until you have got an agreement." I cannot for one moment concede that at the point reached in December it was not possible with reasonable good will, with a clear and direct instruction from this assembly that that is their obligation, that they could not sit down and negotiate a settlement in good faith about this dispute while the schools are reopened on Monday.

Now, that is the distinction. That's a real distinction. It's a valid distinction. That is why, if I may say so again, if the end justifies the means, what justifies the end? Of

course, the means. The compulsory arbitration provision is not the means which justifies the return-to-work aspect of the legislation; but the instruction to the boards and to the teachers to go back and negotiate in good faith, close the gap, and reach the agreement and begin to restore the good and mutual relationships which did exist at one time and which are an essential ingredient to an ongoing educational system—that is what we were talking about in our reasoned amendment.

Mr. Speaker: from my own particular point of view, a relatively selfish point of view, I am sorry to have to move the adjournment of the debate, but I do so.

Mr. Speaker: I sort of detect some negotiations going on as to whether we might continue.

Mr. Lewis: The negotiations were unsuccessful.

Mr. Speaker: They are unsuccessful.

Mr. Renwick moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I understand we just have a few more speakers: The member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) to complete, the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) with a short contribution and a sum-up by the minister, following which we will have the vote on second reading of this bill, following the usual procedures tomorrow.

I would have hoped that perhaps we could have finished the debate on second reading tonight and then gone on to committee work, but it is my understanding that both opposition parties would not support a resolution at this time to go beyond 10:30.

Mr. Lewis: Lest there be an unhappy implication in that, having sat here since 10 this morning, we wish to say we see no reason why this bill cannot be fully cleared up tomorrow to achieve the purpose which is intended for Monday.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How can you reconcile that with the member for Riverdale saying the purpose of your amendment is to defeat the government?

Mr. Lewis: Well, then, you will just have to decide that tomorrow, won't you?

Mr. Renwick: And you would have to accept it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I hope that reason will prevail.

Mr. MacDonald: It was so reasonable we thought you would accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Second Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, January 16, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. Instant Hansard, page 94-2 of yesterday, has a statement: "It indicated to me that they were ill-informed, that they behaved like boors and like working slobs." I consider that an insult to all working people in this province. Working people muck in our mines and in our factories. I don't believe it is called for. I think there should be a retraction and an apology in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Actually, it is not a point of personal privilege. It has nothing to do with the privileges of the hon. member or the House.

Mr. Bain: He is a working man.

Mr. Renwick: He has been all his life.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, thank you very much.

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean, "Thank you very much"? It was a speech worthy of Huey Long and it was made in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: I'm thanking the hon. member for taking his seat.

Oral questions.

BUDGETS OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Minister of Community and Social Services: How did the ministry arrive at the 5.5 per cent figure for increases in the budgets of the various social service agencies across the province, which is so substantially below even that which the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) is granting to municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What we did was look at the effective rate of increase for my ministry, which is about eight per cent. Then, we took into consideration the number of capital works which are currently under way. As the member can appreciate, while there

is a freeze on new capital spending, there will still be new capital construction because of commitments that have been made and construction that will be under way very shortly. Those contracts have to be completed and the contractors paid, so that we will have capital works during this next year. When we take into consideration those commitments and we see what is left in terms of overall moneys then, in distributing that, we find that the maximum moneys that we have for these agencies is about 5.5 per cent. That is a 5.5 per cent increase over the amount of moneys that they had for spending the previous year.

Mr. Lewis: Right, I understood that. How does the minister expect, for example, the Children's Aid Societies across Ontario to survive? In many instances they are almost frantic because of the increased responsibility pressed upon them when we, in this Legislature, removed section 8 from the Training Schools Act and said: "You must now look after all those additional kids." How can they possibly survive at a level of 5.5 per cent without incurring serious debts or curtailing services?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member knows and I know that while section 8 was repealed, the proclamation of that repeal has not taken place, so that in fact, in law, section 8 is still there. I appreciate some of the concerns of agencies in terms of child care, because in some areas that section is looked upon as having been repealed.

Mr. Lewis: All the judges in the courts know that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I shouldn't say all, but some are looking upon it that way. We have been doing what we can in that area. I have been dealing with the Ministry of Correctional Services in terms of working out a reasonable arrangement in terms of transfer of additional moneys which would accommodate financially the change when it is proclaimed and also accommodate, in a physical way, the children who will have to be accommodated because of the change. I want the members to know, Mr. Speaker, that the proclamation has not as yet taken

place and my position is that it should not be treated as having taken place until such time.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on as we have the finances and the accommodation.

Mr. Nixon: Is the minister then telling the House that he is delaying proclamation so the young people can be kept in training schools as an economy measure?

Mr. Lewis: That is what he is saying.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What I am saying simply is that section 8 of the Training Schools Act is still there—

Mr. Nixon: And the minister is going to leave it there.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and that as far as my ministry is concerned and until such time as that repeal of section 8 is proclaimed, and we can work out the physical and financial accommodations, then the status quo should and must remain the same.

Mr. Nixon: Keep them in jail to save money.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary: Does the minister remember—as a member of the House at the time, if not a minister—that during the debate on the bill, the Children's Aid Societies and the courts were advised by the ministry in the process of the debate to start forthwith in making alternative plans because of the deluge that would emerge with the repeal of that section? That is what is happening all across the province. Judges are no longer consigning kids to training schools. How can the minister be so irresponsible as to say the law hasn't changed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't remember that direction coming from the minister at that time; certainly not in the way that the member puts it.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister said "by the end of the year."

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's not an act of irresponsibility, either.

Mr. Speaker: The member for London North was on his feet first for a supplementary.

Mr. Shore: Recognizing the infighting that perhaps went on in the priority assessment of spending, is the minister satisfied in his mind as the minister in charge that he got

his fair share of the dollars that purportedly are going to be used?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly there is a competition naturally for the global funds and my ministry was treated equitably in relationship to other ministries.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow the member for Ottawa Centre to ask his supplementary and then the member for St. George.

Mr. Cassidy: Is the minister aware that the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa, and I presume those in other parts of the province has a number of programmes which were brought in after many years of negotiations with the ministry and with ministry approval in the latter half of 1975 which are now being slashed right back to where they were five and 10 years ago because of the proposals of the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The Ottawa Children's Aid Societies and other Children's Aid Societies will have to look very thoroughly at their own programmes.

Mr. Lewis: Having been the man with the responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just remember this: They have had substantial increases in their budgeting in this past year.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on! The minister tells them what they have to do legislatively.

Mr. Cassidy: They were encouraged and persuaded to take on these programmes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They were up considerably in percentage terms over the last year. They will all have to look very closely at their programmes and to weigh their priorities.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the member for St. George.

Mrs. Campbell: Does the minister not recall that there was a commitment given by his predecessor to engage in some meaningful activity insofar as prevention was concerned? Does he not now realize that there can be no preventive care by the Children's Aid Societies with these restrictions?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't accept that.

Mr. Lewis: That is dead on.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are into the argument of preventive services and there is no question about the merits of it.

Mr. McClellan: The minister hasn't the slightest idea what the priorities are.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Campbell: It is going to cost the government millions.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Did the member want to ask another question?

Mr. Speaker: This is becoming a debate. The hon. minister will complete his answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They are okay within their overall budget. They are going to have to determine what their priorities are in terms of their own preventive services.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DAY CARE

Mr. Lewis: A further question to the Minister of Community and Social Services: When did he decide to write the obituary for the daycare advisory council which we thought was a continuing body in an effort to bring some coherence to day care in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member might have been misadvised as to that committee.

Mr. Lewis: I guess we were.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That committee was set up about a year and a half ago to advise the then minister in the field of day care.

Mr. Lewis: It was to rescue the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch).

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I don't need to be rescued.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member can impute whatever motive he likes but the fact remains that that was a committee set up to advise the minister. I don't think that any committee that is set up to advise the minister should be functioning in perpetuity.

Mr. Martel: Does the minister not need any advising about day care?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It has had some 18 months or so in which to function. It has

issued two reports. I requested that the final report be submitted by the end of the year—and now by the end of this month.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If we are to take a positive position in terms of the provincial posture on day care, I think it is time that we had the benefit of that report. Remember this too, in terms of the backup support, they call upon the technical people, and have been utilizing the personnel of my ministry. I am looking forward to a report which I think will be constructive and positive and will outline areas in which—

Mrs. Campbell: It's futile.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —if they need more detail, it is available within our ministry because that is the source of information now.

Mr. McClellan: Can the minister assure the House, in connection with the advisory council on day care, that he will publish the final draft of the council's report as they submit it to him and not, as is commonly suspected, some kind of a dramatically re-edited version?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member can rest assured that we don't dramatize or re-edit any of these things. My own position has been one of openness in regard to reports.

Mr. Martel: They write their own.

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I want to let the members know, however, that the report is a report to me, because it was an advisory committee of the minister to report to the minister. When I receive that report I will study it and make a determination at that time in terms of its distribution. As the members know, in connection with the other two reports, they have been distributed.

Mr. Martel: If you want to discuss them you'll want them distributed by the election.

MENTAL RETARDATION CENTRES

Mr. Lewis. One last question to the Minister of Community and Social Services: How much will the annual cost be of the mental retardation human resource centre which the minister is establishing, a facility once occupied by the Goderich psychiatric hospital?

Mr. Martel: He's like John Anderson.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Is the member talking about the ultimate cost?

Mr. Lewis: Yes. I gather it has been planned for some time; the minister must have it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I don't know. No one can determine the ultimate cost, not even in this forum. We, of course, have plans for the development of these resource centres throughout Ontario. We are proceeding, I think, very quickly in the implementation of the current philosophy of our ministry in mental retardation.

Mr. Lewis: Just answer the question; a simple question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Insofar as the Goderich centre or the Timmins centre is concerned, what we do there of course will be dependent upon the final disposition of those facilities. We have plans to take them over, pursuant to the current thinking of the Ministry of Health which is to let them go.

As to the ultimate number of dollars involved, I can't say. I might be able to give the member a forecast as to what our costs would be in the next fiscal year and that, of course, would be in our estimates in any event.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow a supplementary.

Mr. Riddell: Is the minister going ahead with plans to transfer the Goderich psychiatric hospital into a mental retardation centre when the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) hasn't given final approval yet to the phasing out of the psychiatric facilities in Goderich?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, I would like to clarify the member's misconception. It is not a mental retardation centre, it's a proposal for a resource centre which would not be principally a centre for residential accommodation. It would be a centre to service an entire area—two counties.

Mr. Lewis: The whole thing is preposterous.

Mrs. Campbell: You have already got retardation facilities.

Interjections.

Mr. Singer: This is a clarification of misconceptions.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. Insofar as our plans go, assuming that—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you want some information on it or don't you?

Mr. S. Smith: Ask your superminister.

Mr. Ruston: Talk about it.

Interjections.

Mr. Shore: Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We naturally work on the premise that if a facility which will accommodate our long-range programmes becomes available, then it is only wise to utilize that facility, based on the release that that facility would not be required as a psychiatric hospital.

Mrs. Campbell: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then, of course, we immediately made plans to use it for a resource centre and, of course, to use as much of the personnel as possible and to ensure that there would be an orderly transition from one use to another.

BUDGETS OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Mr. Nixon: I would like to put a question to the same minister, Mr. Speaker. Have his statisticians calculated the additional financial burden that will descend upon the municipalities because of their withdrawal of the expected increase in the budget for social assistance that has normally been available at the community level?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Of course, what the municipalities may want to pick up in terms of additional services at—

Mr. Shore: No, he said the same service.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, insofar as the same service is concerned, we are expecting that the municipalities are resourceful enough to—

Interjections.

Mrs. Campbell: You're not. The government is resourceful in passing its responsibilities on to the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Why, certainly we are resourceful. We have internal economies that we are effecting as well and we expect that the municipalities, in the spirit of co-operation, are trying to do everything that they can to contain government spending at all levels. We will look very closely at their programmes to see if they can run them more efficiently and more effectively. We have a great deal of faith in local government.

Mrs. Campbell: They are far more efficient than this government is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have a great deal of faith in the municipalities and the manner in which—

An hon. member: That's a switch.

Mrs. Campbell: So do we.

Mr. Martel: You have a funny way of showing it.

Mr. Cassidy: You don't see people at all; you just see dollars.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: This represents no change for me.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. Will the hon. minister take his seat, please.

The hon. minister should be answering the original question, not the interjections. If he has anything further to add to it, would he please ignore the interjections, which are improper—

Mr. Singer: He wants to clarify a few more misconceptions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there are supplementary questions, that's a different matter.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would like to determine if the minister was finished with the first answer.

Mr. Singer: Has he clarified all the misconceptions?

Mr. Speaker: If he is finished, fine. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Well I would simply like to ask the minister, as a supplementary, wouldn't he agree that the solution to his fiscal problems, among his other problems, has been to contribute to an additional billion dollars that will be loaded on the tax

bills of the municipalities, which has been the recommendation of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), through the McKeough report, sometimes called the Henderson report—that this is part of government policy, to simply load it on the municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Oh come on now.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not at all, not at all. You see, there is one basic concept people over there just can't seem to grasp, Mr. Speaker, and that is that we cannot combat and beat inflation—

Mr. Nixon: What is it?

Mr. Riddell: The minister is not helping it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —if we build inflation into our spending in our budgeting. Members opposite want to give everybody a double-digit increase so that we can build inflation in, with the expectation that we are going to cut out inflation by government policies. It is just nonsense.

Mr. Shore: He's passing the buck.

Mr. Martel: The minister didn't say that when he was spending. He takes it out on those who can ill afford it.

Mr. S. Smith: As a supplementary question: Could the minister explain, now that his ministry is limited to 10 per cent growth, how he has decided to pass on to municipalities and agencies only 5.5 per cent growth? What's happened to the rest of that money?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I gave the explanation to the Leader of the Opposition in response to his first question; so that possibly if the member reads Hansard he will get that.

BEER ADVERTISING AND SALES OUTLETS

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if we are going to have beer at the ball game.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the answer is, I don't know yet.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: How much more perambulation will be necessary with his executive assistant before the minister finds out?

Mr. Reid: And who is paying for the tickets?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The word "perambulation" escapes me. We will be—

Mr. Nixon: It means wandering and travelling around to the hockey games.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I think we will be travelling over the Ottawa Valley to Montreal, and that's the last of the perambulations; the second of the two.

Mr. Reid: Who pays for the tickets to get into the games?

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: While the minister is considering this concept—frankly, I think it would be a good idea—is he also considering ways whereby some of the pressures, particularly on young people, through advertising, to get into the happy life of beer drinking, how those pressures are going to be reduced? Is he, at the same time when he is considering selling beer at the ball game, going to come out with some rational policy of reducing these advertising pressures?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, we are constantly looking at the advertising code. There is a new draft code now in preparation.

Mr. Nixon: We are all looking at the ads these days on TV.

Mr. Reid: The minister is going to hockey games and watching TV; what else does he do?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I certainly am concerned about the proliferation of lifestyle advertising. I will be meeting with the advertising agencies and the advertisers to ascertain how we can curtail the lifestyle advertising which is now becoming quite common.

Mr. Singer: Pass an order in council. This government does that for everything else.

Mr. Reid: Why not use Lorne as a horrible example of what can happen?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If you look at Canadian publications, Mr. Speaker, I think you have some idea of the economic impact of banning advertising, as the leader of the Liberal Party has suggested. But we are concerned about the nature of the advertising and certainly are reviewing it constantly.

Mr. Singer: That won't wash either.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I would wash it in beer, Vern.

Mr. Ziemba: A question to the minister: Could the minister tell this House whether it is by arrangement or coincidence that the very next day after Labatt's makes overtures to bring in the San Francisco Giants, he announces that he would like to see beer sales in arenas and stadiums, with the statement that beer is part of the ritual of baseball?

Mr. Shore: Part of the deal.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I made no such announcement. I have not announced that I would like to see beer in stadiums. I said that we are on a fact-finding mission to determine the pros and cons. The decision as to whether or not there will be a recommendation hasn't even been made.

Mr. Lewis: A fact-finding mission on beer? What a chap you are.

Mr. Nixon: Hands in the suds.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's 30 below; do you want to come?

COST OF FOOT CARE FOR PENSIONERS

Mr. Godfrey: A question to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—oh, he seems to have disappeared. I will address it to the Premier, if I may. I have received considerable communication from Pensioners Concerned (Canada) Inc. with regard to foot care. I wonder if the Premier has been apprised of the fact that older people are charged a considerable amount of money in order to take care of their feet—which is very important for them—in addition to this being charged to OHIP? I would wonder whether he has had any direction or advice from his minister as to how this problem might be handled?

Mr. Nixon: "Footicare."

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, but I'm sure the Minister of Health has it well under control, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Singer: He has two feet.

Mr. Godfrey: A supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that the minister has it well under control, but I would point out that the older people of this country, through—

Mr. Shore: Question?

Mr. Godfrey: Thank you. I would ask the Premier if he feels it is fair that older people should be paying amounts of \$100 to \$200 out of their own purses per year for the care of their feet when they cannot afford that and when these practitioners are also being compensated in the amount of \$90, \$100 or \$125 per year from an insurance scheme? Does that seem fair to the leader of our government?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the hon. member refers to us as leader of our government. There is a breakthrough this morning that I certainly appreciate.

Mr. Moffatt: He didn't say for how long, though.

Mr. Deans: It's not our fault.

Mr. Bains: He uses the royal "we."

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm glad to see the New Democratic Party is so committed to the royalist cause, too. That's tremendous; I'm delighted to see that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Which is really a switch for some of them, I have to say that. Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to discuss this with the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Huron-Middlesex.

Mr. Makarchuk: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No, the member for Huron-Middlesex.

Mr. Riddell: A question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's have a little better question period. We will allow a supplementary from the member for Brantford if it's a true supplementary.

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes, it is a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and again I'll have to go to the Premier. Would the Premier intercede on his own behalf and on behalf of the Minister of Health with the podiatrists in Ontario who are at this time charging patients \$15 plus OHIP for the first visit, and \$7.50 plus OHIP for every visit thereafter? Does he think that is fair?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not passing any judgement without total knowledge of all the facts. As I said to the other hon. member, I'd be delighted to discuss it with the Minister of Health.

Mr. Nixon: Total knowledge? What a great thing to strive for.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I will give it another try. A question of the Premier: Considering that both he and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) are receiving numerous letters and personal contacts condemning their actions regarding the phasing out of the Goderich psychiatric hospital, and considering that the Premier was approached just recently by a very honourable gentleman who used to sit on his left, very much concerned about the phasing out of this hospital, does the Premier think that there will be any consideration on his part or on the part of the Minister of Health to retain the psychiatric services in Goderich or at least to retain a wing for outpatient service?

Mr. Shore: That's the way they make decisions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I could be a little bit facetious here and comment just what a great member the hon. member was referring to and what a great service he did for that riding and what excellent representation he did give.

Mr. Nixon: You mean the chairman of the racing commission?

Mr. Cassidy: A great service? You mean when he resigned?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think in fairness to the former member for that riding, I don't recall his exact geographic location in this House compared to that of my own, but in fairness to him I wouldn't want to construe that he was necessarily philosophically to my left when he was here—he might not totally approve of that sort of approach, I don't know—but I don't know that he was philosophically to my right either.

Mr. Reid: Oh, believe me, he was.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, you think so?

Mr. Reid: On the other hand, he might have been in the middle.

Hon. Mr. Davis: However, yesterday I did talk to Mr. MacNaughton, who still has the

interests of that great riding at heart and was an excellent member and did a tremendous job of representing that riding—and I won't make any comparisons, it's Friday. The Minister of Health explained the situation yesterday. I've seen Mr. MacNaughton, and there are one or two other people who wish to see me and I have said that I will see them. The member hasn't asked to see me. He makes mistakes.

[10:30]

CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Some months ago he indicated he would reconvene a meeting of interested groups to determine whether or not an advisory council would be established to consider the Child Welfare Act. When does he intend to call that group together to indicate if he intends to proceed?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I have already indicated my intention to proceed and have instructed that it be called together.

Mr. Martel: Has the minister any indication when that will occur, in view of the fact he told us a month and a half ago he was going to proceed?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I cannot give the member any firm date today.

COMPULSORY USE OF SEATBELTS

Mr. Spence: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that I received 1,625 letters and petitions protesting the legislation that was passed before we adjourned at Christmas?

Hon. Mr. Davis: One of your members introduced a bill on it.

Mr. Eaton: You supported it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can't get off the hook back home.

Mr. Spence: Just a minute; they wish me to bring the minister's attention their concern regarding the mandatory wearing of seatbelts in operating motor vehicles on our highways. They say that they are not going to pay the fines if they are stopped by the provincial police and that they are going to take a jail sentence. I don't think we have sufficient space in our jails.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We refuse to put them in jail.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member has asked the question. He asked is the hon. minister aware.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't you think Hansard should record that you voted for that bill?

Mr. Kennedy: You should have yanked his coattails.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister with his answer.

Mr. Nixon: He didn't.

Mrs. Campbell: He didn't vote for it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He chickened out. He left, did he?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have followed with interest some press clippings—

Mr. Speaker: We are waiting to hear the minister.

Mr. Nixon: You had better check again.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have followed with interest the press clippings of comments that the hon. member has made and I have trouble trying to relate those comments to the comments he made during the debate on the bill. I know he did state that he had some concerns regarding the legislation, but after he had summed it all up, as I recall, and I haven't checked with Hansard exactly, he did state he was in favour of the bill and that he was supporting the bill.

Mr. Ruston: You'd better check again.

Mr. Nixon: At least he was consistent.

Mr. Kerrio: What about the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Johnston)?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have been getting a great deal of mail—

Mr. Shore: What are you doing with it?

Mr. Moffat: Who reads it?

Hon. Mr. Snow: —with regard to seatbelts. I must say, that if I had to summarize, in the mail that has come to my desk, there has been a great deal more support for this legislation than there has been objection to it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is the legislation of your party.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Regarding the hon. member's concern about the capacity of the correctional centres of the province, I would have to ask him to refer that question to the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) as to whether he can handle any constituents of the hon. member's who may wish to use those services.

Mr. Spence: Supplementary.

Mr. Ruston: Supplementary.

Mr. Riddell: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The first question was, is the minister aware of the 1,625 letters? How do we get supplementaries? Was yours a supplementary? We will allow the original questioner a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people all voted for it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, I have 1,629 letters here to present to the minister.

Mr. Speaker: You may do what you like with them. The member for Huron-Middlesex with a final supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, may I reply to the supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: No, there was no supplementary question. The member for Huron-Middlesex, I believe, has a supplementary question.

Mr. Riddell: In connection with the mandatory use of seatbelts, is the minister aware of the hardship that this legislation is bringing to bear on those people who are delivering mail in the rural areas? Every time they stop at a post-box they have to undo that seatbelt, lean across the seat and put the mail in.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked.

Mr. Riddell: Is there any concession for these postal people?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, that shows how familiar the hon. member is with the legislation and with the regulations. There is a specific regulation that has been passed that exempts rural mail drivers from the wearing of seatbelts while they are in the process of delivering their mail.

Mr. Nixon: If they go at 25 miles an hour.

Mr. Shore: What about rural female drivers?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just as with the hospital, you have got to be informed.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Speaking of the letters that I have received and the letters that the hon. member has forwarded me, I would like to tell the hon. member that I will be forwarding him today a copy of a letter that I received from one of my constituents, who I am sure is well known to all those people in the Liberal Party, a Mr. Harold Young. I will also send one to the leader of the Liberal Party, because I know he is a great friend of Mr. Young's.

Mr. Nixon: He certainly is.

Mr. Singer: A fine man; he speaks well of you too.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am sure he would be very interested in Mr. Young's comments regarding seatbelts. In fact, he says it is the greatest legislation there ever was. It is so good that you would almost think it was Liberal. That's what the comment was.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ONTARIO

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. In the interview which the Globe and Mail had with the Premier, published Jan. 13, he stated that the level of unemployment in Ontario was at an unacceptable level and that the Ontario economy was growing at a slower rate than the rest of the country. Now we have had the bombshell of 4,500 Eaton's employees in the mail order business losing their jobs completely. Is the Premier now ready to bring in a set of measures to counteract this growing unemployment?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted the hon. member read that article in the Globe and Mail because I hope, being a non-expert and non-economist, I indicated that I was really very optimistic about the future of this province. It may or may not have appeared in the article just how well we had done in this province in terms of provisions of new jobs, which I think was superior to that of any other provincial jurisdiction, as a matter of fact and, on a percentage basis, probably greater than in the United States or anywhere in western Europe. In fact, I think the record of this government

in this province in providing jobs is the envy of just about every other jurisdiction.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it happens to be true. I'm just giving the facts. We certainly did a lot better than British Columbia under the excellent tutelage in government, which, thank heavens, they had for a very short period of time—

Mr. Martel: You sort of got clobbered, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: However, I do agree; I do not find the level of unemployment acceptable. I make that abundantly clear. That's the view held by this government. In recent budgets we have made a very genuine effort to come to grips with this. We have been, I think, of some substantial assistance to the real estate business and the construction industry; and for those members who happen to represent ridings where the automotive industry is situate, in spite of the very cynical observations made in this House, there is no question the measures introduced by this government had a very genuine impact on the level of employment in those communities—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) in particular should be very grateful for the enlightenment that we show.

Mr. Moffatt: That's why he is here—because of your enlightenment.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we shall continue to keep an eye on the unemployment situation and take those steps necessary or that we feel we can do to assist in this very important area.

Mr. Ruston: You gave a Throne Speech once, Bill.

Mr. Speaker: With all the interjections, it just makes it useless to carry on a question period. Will the hon. members refrain from making interjections?

Mr. Singer: They're probably out of order anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Did the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine have a supplementary?

Ms. Bryden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I take it that the Premier's reply indicates that we will hear nothing until the budget, even

though there are 234,000 people out of work in Ontario right now, which is 2,000 more than in the previous month?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the hon. member should take anything from the answer other than what was in it.

An hon. member: There was nothing in it!

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, that's a matter of judgement.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We're trying to clear up one unemployment problem right now if you would help us today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GREAT LAKES CLEANUP

Mr. Reid: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Can the minister indicate where the programme is in the cleaning-up of the Great Lakes, and does the United States now intend to live up to its original commitment of two or three years ago to expend some billions of dollars in funds to in fact clean up pollution in the Great Lakes?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the programme is on schedule. There was some concern that federal money in the United States would be reallocated to other parts of the United States, particularly southern states; however, I am advised by the Great Lakes Commission, which includes representatives from the eight Great Lakes states as well as Ontario, that there have been some second thoughts on that funding and that they expect to get the money that was originally allocated for the programme on the Great Lakes.

Mr. Reid: One short supplementary, if I may: Do I understand then from the minister that the Americans have lived up to their commitment and that their programme as enunciated some three years ago, I believe, is in fact on schedule and the water quality in the Great Lakes is improving?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, there are some states which aren't exactly on time. For example, I think the states of Pennsylvania and Ohio, because of some concern about federal funding, are behind, but I think, generally, the programme and the target dates which we have set will be reached hopefully, again, as I say, because of the efforts of the Great Lakes Commis-

sion in convincing the federal government that there should be a reallocation of funds and because of the fact that, naturally, there is more concern by the present head of state in the USA than there was before.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, one supplementary just to clear this up if I may. Has President Ford redirected or released those funds that President Nixon held back from the programme? Has he done that?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes. It is my understanding that a major portion of those funds has been reallocated for Great Lakes use.

Mr. Godfrey: Supplementary to that, in view of the fact the minister said the water quality is improving: The simple statement is that polychlorinated biphenyls are increasing. What steps is the minister taking in order to control this increase, which is undoubtedly a serious health and environmental hazard?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As I indicated to the House in my statement that was made last fall, Mr. Speaker, the levels of PCBs remain constant. We're concerned about certain species of fish. This is the type of contamination that isn't necessarily solved by way of municipal sewage treatment plants or the general Great Lakes programme. This is a problem because of leakage from certain plants of PCBs and other types of what we call phantom pollutants. However, the Great Lakes Commission is recommending to the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington that PCBs be banned and we expect to have a meeting on whether or not that is possible. I anticipate that Ontario will support that move.

Mr. Stokes: When are you going for another swim, George?

BUDGETS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. In his speech in Hamilton this past Tuesday he stated that he was considering legislative or regulatory changes in order to assist social service agencies to comply with the restraint programme. Inasmuch as most of these agencies or municipalities cannot comply in terms of their own permissive programmes unless there are cuts in the mandatory programmes, would the minister inform this House which programmes — mothers' allowance, general

welfare assistance or whatever — he intends to cut?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member is operating from a false assumption and a false conclusion. The reference was made in regard to a joint committee that was set up with the municipal welfare administrators and my staff and certain recommendations flowed from that particular committee's considerations. As a result of those recommendations, I am considering amendments to the regulations which may be of some assistance to the municipal welfare administrators.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We'll allow one supplementary. The member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the minister then ready to assure this House that there will not be cuts in mothers' allowance or other programmes of this kind?

Mr. Bain: He doesn't know.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, I'm not sure what the member means. If he is talking in terms of the actual level of payment, we don't contemplate any cuts in the level of payments to recipients.

[10:45]

BUTTONVILLE AIRPORT EXPANSION

Mr. Stong: I have a question of the Premier. Could the Premier share with this House the reasons for which his cabinet allowed the owner of the Buttonville Airport to expand its runways, against the wishes of the people of Markham and Richmond Hill?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, it has not been the policy, nor will it become the policy, to discuss the deliberations that go on in cabinet. There was an appeal from the Ontario Municipal Board. The cabinet of this province maintained the ruling by the Ontario Municipal Board.

PAPERWORKERS' STRIKE

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), I would like to ask the Premier to perhaps give us some indication on this question. We have been reading articles in the paper, and there were discussions in this House yesterday in question period, about the plight of the paperworkers. Last night, CBC-TV commented on hydro being cut off for these

striking pulp workers. I wonder if perhaps the Premier could give us any indication of what the minister or the government might be proposing to do, because obviously this is a pretty serious situation in some of our northern communities for these men who have been on strike for this period of time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I heard of these observations and communicated with the minister. I can assure members of this House that no person who is out on strike as a result of the disruption in the pulp and paper industry will have their hydro service cut off because of non-payment because of the lack of funds because they haven't been employed.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Timiskaming.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't know why somebody over there didn't ask me that question.

Mr. Bain: Because the Premier didn't give us the question beforehand.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I haven't seen the member since yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Timiskaming has a question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is the member not interested in his own constituents?

REDUCTION OF ONTC WORK FORCE

Mr. Bain: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I was wondering if the minister was aware that over 140 people have been laid off by the Ontario Northland Railway? Is the minister also aware that management refuses to give any reassurances that when economic conditions improve these people will be rehired and reposted in their old jobs? Does this cavalier attitude by management toward workers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we have a question without—

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: There are two questions, I will now get to the third.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bain: If you object to the word "cavalier," then I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is a question for information—

Mr. Bain: Does the attitude of management—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member ask his question for information, please?

Mr. Bain: I am.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member proceed with the question, without the editorials?

Mr. Bain: Does the attitude of management signal an overall reduction of services by the Ontario Northland Railway and a permanent firing of employees, or is it simply an inability of management to deal openly with the community's employees affected?

Mr. Makarchuk: Good question.

Mr. Laughren: Good question.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly aware of the necessary reduction in the work force at the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission.

I think the hon. member should be very much aware of the obvious reason for this; it is because of the labour difficulties in the pulp and paper industry. There has been a tremendous decrease in the work load of the railroad. As that has been going on for several months, we have, totally, gone as far as possible in using the services of these employees on maintenance work and all the things that could be done, and it has now come to the stage where temporary layoffs have to be made. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I am as anxious as I am sure the hon. member is, to get this traffic back for the railroad, which I am sure will come about when the other difficulties are solved. It is not a permanent layoff, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Meen, on behalf of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), presented the 49th report of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Snow tabled the annual report of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for second reading of Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

**METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS
OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS
DISPUTES ACT
(concluded)**

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the hon. member for Riverdale has the floor.

An hon. member: He'll be twice as good this morning.

An hon. member: He had his time last night.

Mr. Deans: But he deserves more; more and more.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did he have his steak and kidney dinner?

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: I'll tell the Liberal leader why he won't even vote for a floor level this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the hon. member for Riverdale has the floor.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Singer: Tell us about "Dear Roy" and "Dear Jim."

Mr. Renwick: If not in this hour certainly in the next hour, the NDP will experience its finest hour in this Legislature.

Mr. Kennedy: It wasn't yesterday.

Mr. Singer: Is the NDP going to accept that cabinet decision?

Mr. Reid: Does the member mean they are all going to resign?

Mr. Singer: The members of the NDP are walking across the floor.

Mr. Deans: No, but if the member keeps at it we could be driven out.

Mr. Martel: What isn't the Liberal leader supporting today?

Mr. Renwick: One of the comments I would like to make initially is—and I am sure the members of the House will be saddened to know that I do not intend either to repeat or recapitulate what I said last night.

Mr. Ruston: Oh come on.

Mr. Singer: Oh a pity.

Mr. Reid: Ruined my whole weekend.

Mr. Renwick: My words are already enshrined in Hansard and no doubt will be read and reread in the weeks and months ahead many, many times.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member for Riverdale continue with his speech, please?

Mr. Singer: Very good ruling.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of our amendment was to have it accepted by the Legislature. We had hoped that the amendment would appeal to the members of the Liberal Party, and indeed to the members of the Conservative Party, in order that a better solution could be found to a very difficult problem with which we were faced by the Metro Toronto high school teachers' strike and the breakdown of negotiations between the boards of education and the teachers.

We wanted to place the government in the position that they would have to choose one of two courses: to accept a better solution or to dissolve this Parliament and go to the country.

Our preference would have been for the government to accept a better solution. The reality of political life is that at some point in time the Premier (Mr. Davis) will ask for a dissolution of this Parliament; and if this were the occasion that he chose to do so, we would welcome that opportunity to place our position clearly before the people throughout the Province of Ontario.

An hon. member: Don't bet on it.

Mr. Renwick: In what some perhaps may consider a cosmic view of the issue which is before us, we are faced in the society in which we live by an immense unsettling readjustment, which is taking place and which we must accommodate in this Legislature, and indeed in many other places throughout the country where there is a serious questioning by various groups of persons with diverse interest but with a common bond of

common work as to their relative worth within the society.

I think it is evident that readjustment has to take place, and the real questions are what is the relative worth of one group of people and the services which they perform for the society, as compared with the worth of traditional groups translated in many instances into economic terms.

We tried to face up to that particular problem; and in drafting our amendment we tried to accomplish a number of purposes. Our first purpose was to support the return to school of the students and the teachers, and in that we are in agreement with each of the parties in the assembly.

We wanted to do so because the students' well-being is a matter of concern to us, although I may express on my own behalf a certain scepticism about what is happening in the school system. If one tries to look behind the appearances and the perceptions of this particular conflict to the reality, it may well be there are serious problems mirrored in this dispute in the educational system as we know it in Metropolitan Toronto. This is not the time and the place, nor do I have the knowledge, to go into it, but I assume that there are such underlying causes of this dispute which require earnest and serious consideration, not only by the Ministry of Education but by the boards of education in Metropolitan Toronto and by the teachers, who are members of the affiliates who are employed by the school boards and who provide the professional teaching in our secondary schools.

I may say to the minister that a knowledgeable, indeed an extremely knowledgeable, community leader in my riding of Riverdale has indicated to me, by way of illustration of what I have just said, that the lack of the traumatic experience of Christmas examinations and the escalation of the tension within the school system because of those examinations was absent this year, and in the area of the riding of Riverdale, by and large the acting out, the behavioural patterns, the anti-social response which is normal in Riverdale riding at this time of year did not occur this year. I would be glad to pursue that perhaps on some other occasion, but that is the assessment made by persons who are close to the community in which I live; and it mirrors, in my view, something seriously wrong with the educational system if in other times it would produce that kind of traumatic effect in the riding of Riverdale where three of the major institutions are located—the Eastern High School of Commerce, Riverdale Collegiate and Danforth Technical School.

I may say that the government of Ontario in fact controls the educational system at the post-secondary level as well as at the secondary level and, therefore, there is no reason why the students in the secondary school system should suffer in any way because of the layoff which has resulted from the strike and the breakdown of negotiations going on as it has to 37, 38 or 39 days of instructional time lost within the school system. All the adjustments can be made to protect those students who want to pursue post-secondary education. There would be no difficulty in having the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, set aside, on the basis of historic experience, places within the universities and places within the community colleges, consistent with former years, to accommodate those students who would move into the post-secondary educational system in the aftermath of this strike.

There is no reason to believe that an extended period of instruction will not permit those students to carry on in their post-secondary education, and it is the responsibility of this ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, to make certain that does in fact occur.

Our second purpose was to support the teachers in the Metropolitan Toronto system, very clearly to support them. We may have questions about elements of their demands, elements of the proposals which they have made, but our support was engendered mainly because we are not going to associate ourselves with an Act of the Legislature, as presented to us, which could do nothing other than to continue a sense of alienation and a sense of isolation, justified or otherwise—and of course on occasions people can be paranoid for justified reasons. I simply say that we did not intend to support a bill which would in any way perpetuate and not ameliorate that sense of isolation and alienation which is part and parcel of the atmosphere presently in existence between the school boards and the Metropolitan Toronto high school teachers.

[11:00]

Our third purpose was to protect the integrity of Bill 100. We are concerned about this. We have not heard from the government or from the members of the Conservative Party any compelling reasons which would lead us to believe that the bill which is presently before us is not, in a sense, a destructive bill insofar as the continuance of Bill 100 is concerned as a method of ameliorating and settling disputes within the school system.

I think it is fair to say that as the strike developed as a protective method of ensuring progress in the collective bargaining system between management and labour and management and other groups in our society, the countermeasure traditionally adopted was to impose compulsory arbitration. That was the black and white response. If a strike for some reason could be categorized by those in control of government as relating to essential services or to the public service, or to some aspect of the industrial world that could be justified in their terms by the Conservative and Liberal governments that have imposed this kind of legislation, in a very Pavlovian, responsive way, they simply thought of compulsory arbitration as the one and only method by which that could be accomplished.

The York regional school board bill mirrored that approach. We had hoped that would be the final occasion on which the language of that bill would be required to be presented in this assembly for the purpose of settling any dispute. It is as if the government did not understand that since the bill was enacted by this assembly, the assembly has dealt with Bill 100 and has passed Bill 100 in an effort to make certain that the compulsory arbitration route would be cast aside and eliminated as a method of settling disputes.

There is no magic to the settlement of conflicts between management and various groups, whether in the industrial world or in the public service world. There is no magic to the solutions; nobody knows the solutions. I think it's fair to say that throughout the union world, throughout the industrial world, throughout the government world, and particularly in latter years in the public sector world where government has a responsibility, there have been inquiries and a search for alternate methods. There's no indication that anyone has yet found the alternate methods.

Bill 100 was the best effort which could be made at the time, as a result of the ongoing problems with the educational system and the struggles within that system, to meet that challenge, to provide alternative means for carrying it out and to eliminate the question of compulsory arbitration.

If one reads Bill 100 there is, of course, no reference to compulsory arbitration. It was an endeavour to provide a more flexible field of choice for those engaged. There were to be the traditional negotiations and there was to be the collective bargaining process. Obviously, an essential concomitant of that process is the right to strike, no question about that.

The bill mirrors and reflects the acceptance by government of that position. Alternatives were provided, voluntary arbitration

was provided. The Education Relations Commission was set up to assist in the mediation, on a continuing basis, of various disputes. The final offer selection opportunity was also provided within the legislation. Those were the various alternatives.

It was a very real effort; it was an effort not only by this assembly, it was an effort by those who were concerned in education—the boards of education throughout the province, the association of trustees throughout the province, the teachers' federation and the affiliated groups of the teachers throughout the province. The initiative, a great deal of the preparatory work and the thought that went into the bill was the work of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) and his colleagues in the government; and then the bill was introduced into the assembly.

We have, and the government has, an immense investment of time, of energy, of intellectual contribution, of emotional involvement, in that bill. Let me reflect it in cold statistics. It was only in June, 1975, and in July, 1975, that this bill was dealt with in this assembly. Bill 100 was first read in this assembly on June 3, 1975. The second reading debate took place on June 13, 16, 17; for a total of 7½ hours' debate in the assembly on second reading. The bill was then referred to the standing committee of the Legislature and that committee held a number of meetings—June 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, July 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15; for a total of 55½ hours in the standing committee of the Legislature dealing with Bill 100.

Mr. Drea: Is the member making a speech or delivering a doctoral thesis?

Mr. Renwick: The bill then came back into committee of the whole House and in the committee of the whole House we devoted another 4½ hours on July 17 and 18. The bill was read for the third time on July 18 and was given royal assent on that same day.

I am saying to the ministry that to introduce a replica of the York bill at this point in time, as if Bill 100 did not exist, is to us an unacceptable position.

This is not as if it were an ad hoc dispute in a very diverse and complex industrial society, such as the elevator strike, such as the transit workers' strike, such as the Metro Toronto garbage collectors' strike. This isn't one of those. This is the first strike under that bill. This is the government's response, being read by the public and perceived by the boards of education and the teachers

across the province as the culmination of each strike; that Bill 100 will be disregarded and a bill similar to Bill 1 will be introduced in order to settle any strike which goes beyond a certain stated period of time in the Province of Ontario in the school system.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That was implied in the Premier's statement.

Mr. Renwick: That's how it is read, that's how it will be perceived and that is our concern about the integrity of the bill. Had the government made some real effort to adopt a reasonable alternative solution in its continuing search for a better method of settling these matters, then perhaps we could have found ourselves in support of such a bill. But to have an automatic response to the York bill and introduce again into these relationships the concept of compulsory arbitration was totally unacceptable to us.

So we worked on it and we did as we could best do to devise an alternate, and indeed an obviously better method. I may say, and I give my colleagues in the caucus immense credit, the work that went into this particular amendment is the work of the caucus, it is not the work nor is there any input to that solution either from the boards of trustees or from the Ontario Teachers' Federation or from any other source. It is a creative contribution by the caucus of this party to the ongoing problem of how to deal with these matters.

Just stand back for a moment and look at what we have said in this amendment. We have said, basically, two things: that the terms and conditions offered by the boards to the teachers on Dec. 20, 1975, would be implemented on an interim basis; that's the first thing we said. We did that because we felt it was necessary to give public support to a group of people in the society who feel immensely threatened by the conditions under which they conduct what to them is an important and valuable contribution to our society.

The second thing that we did was to provide simply for an instruction, an instruction of this assembly to the boards of education in Metropolitan Toronto and to the affiliates representing the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto to resume forthwith negotiations in good faith in order to resolve all matters remaining in dispute. I need not repeat that they are responsible bodies on both sides of that argument. The time has come when they should be told to resume negotiations and to find a settlement.

And as an ancillary part of our reasoned amendment to this bill we have provided specifically that the parties shall not withdraw from the negotiations until such time as an agreement has been reached.

That was the third reason, and we remain to be convinced that Bill 1 does not represent, if not an abandonment by the government of Bill 100, at least certainly a strategic retreat by the government in the course of which the bill will be abandoned. Bill 100 will cease to be an efficacious way of solving disputes, because always in the background, conditioning every dispute between boards of education and teachers throughout the Province of Ontario, will be the spectre of the kind of legislation reflected in Bill 1, and that will provide back-pressure throughout the system and will influence every continuing negotiation between boards and teachers which may take place in the future.

Our fourth reason, and indeed our major reason, the purpose for which we couched this and why we spoke of it in terms of presenting the government with a choice, had we been successful in gaining the support of other members of the House or of the Liberal Party as a whole to our proposal, would be to face the government with a clear alternative: Either adopt the amendment or dissolve this Parliament and go to the country on the question. It is that simple. It would have been our wish, being a reasoned amendment, that the wisdom of our proposal would have appealed to the government and if it were passed by this assembly, as it would appear that it will not be passed, that the government would have accepted it in good faith and tried it to see whether or not it would solve the problem.

We do not take away from any of the remarks, made either about the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) or about the Premier. We believe them both to be sincere men; we believe them both to be conscientious; we believe that they were both available as and when it was, in their view, useful to be available.

We consider them to be friendly men and we consider them to be conciliatory men, and if any of my colleagues or others can think of any other phrases that we could apply to the Minister of Education or to the Premier, we would accept them.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will use that as an election promotion.

Mr. Renwick: But that does not in any way make up for the failure of leadership which was drawn to the attention of the assembly

by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), the leader of this party, in his remarks on the bill, and as I said echoed by the leader of the Liberal Party. That failure of leadership, that failure by the government charged with the responsibility for carrying out the administration of Bill 100; that failure by the government to infuse the bill with the spirit which it was intended to have; the failure by the government to deal with Bill 100 in anything but a wooden, spiritless and unimaginative way, is what we categorize as a failure of leadership.

[11:15]

In closing, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the end is not justified by the means which are set out in the bill. Specifically, compulsory arbitration is not the proper concomitant of a return-to-the-school clause in the bill. We ask support for the reasoned amendment which we have put before the assembly. I have tried to outline clearly to the House the purposes we wish to achieve; the reasons why we, in this caucus, sought to find a creative solution to the problem.

By our amendment, we seek to make amends for the failure of leadership by the government. I would ask, even at this late hour in the debate, for my colleagues of the Liberal Party to stand with us legislatively in this assembly and support the reasoned amendment and place the government in the position that they would accept a better solution to this problem, or reject it and go to the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to take part in this debate? If not, the hon. minister.

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of order, I just want to bring to your attention the procedure with respect to the introduction of this legislation on second reading; after it was moved for second reading the minister then spoke.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: He always sums up.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: On that very point, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Bullbrook: He shouldn't have opened the debate too.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —I can recall on many occasions having given an opening statement on a bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: The minister should have done it in his first remarks.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I beg to differ with my learned friend, but I think that if he searches Hansard he will find there are many precedents for a minister speaking twice.

Mr. Bullbrook: He is completely wrong.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take the time of the House, or use the time of the House to any great length, but merely in a plain, simple and straightforward way reply to some of the comments that have been made, make a few comments, and then move this matter of urgency to the next step that it should move to in this House.

I might begin by stating that we came here yesterday with one purpose in mind, and that purpose was to open the secondary schools of Metropolitan Toronto next Monday. That was the only purpose we came here for, to do that; and coupled with it provide a proper and equitable method of settling the dispute which has caused such a long and bitter turmoil in the educational system in Metropolitan Toronto. That's why we came here.

My hon. friend, the member for Riverdale, (Mr. Renwick) presented some very excellent remarks, as have many of the members of this House in this debate. I think it's been a good debate. It's been, for the most part, a reasoned debate. However, last night he did dwell on the fact that he presented his motion to defeat the government; not to open the schools of Metro Toronto but to defeat the government.

Some hon. members: Oh, no.

Mr. Reid: That's what he said.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right, just a moment.

Mr. Singer: Certainly it is. The member for Riverdale gave us two choices.

Mr. Renwick: I put it clearly. I will let the record speak for itself.

Mr. Bullbrook: He wants to go to the country.

Mr. Singer: He said, "Either do as we say, or have an election."

Mr. Bullbrook: You want to go to the country?

Hon. Mr. Wells: In his usual wisdom, however, he indicated to us this morning that he would not recap what he had told us last night and would begin again, or at least restate points again. I think this morn-

ing he clarified the position which I believe was put forward by his leader in the opening remarks yesterday morning, that there was not really any disagreement with the first principle of our bill that the schools of Metropolitan Toronto should open next Monday.

Mr. Deans: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Really, the reasoned amendment being put forward was being put forward as another method of achieving the same ends. I think that has been clarified this morning. But I think it needs to be drawn to the attention of the House that last night the distinctly opposite impression was left.

Let me also say that from time to time during this debate I have heard mention about the involvement of the minister and the Premier of this province, about the fact that government must show leadership and about the fact that a government must govern. I want to say, very simply and very firmly, that we over here believe we were elected last September to govern in this province. We are governing, we will govern and we will govern with firmness and with reason. That is precisely and exactly why we chose to recall the Legislature to present this bill.

We believe that, at this time and in this place, this is the necessary legislation and that this represents firm, reasonable government leadership for this province at this time. Now why do I say that? I have listened to all the talk around here about Bill 100 and the ERC and I must say that basically, while there have been some criticisms about it in this House, I am very appreciative there hasn't been the kind of criticism that I have heard outside of this House.

As I was thinking of some of the criticisms levelled against the Education Relations Commission, an old story came back to me that one of our great Canadians, John Diefenbaker, used to tell at many meetings. I guess he was talking about himself when he used to tell it, but he used to say all you had to do was go into an orchard and look under the best apple tree and you would find the most sticks and stones. I think that perhaps could be applied to the Education Relations Commission, except in place of sticks and stones I guess they are folded Globe and Mail that are being thrown at them.

That is not to mean that the Globe and Mail isn't entitled to disagree with the Edu-

cation Relations Commission, our motivations in setting it up or anything of that nature. Certainly they are. But I think that the Education Relations Commission, Bill 100 and the kind of things that it does have to be defended in this House, and they certainly will be defended by me as the minister and as part of a government that brought in this procedure.

I want to say that, notwithstanding what I hear or read, I still think Bill 100 is a good piece of legislation. At some time in the future we will be reviewing some of its technical details, but I want to tell hon. members that basically, as far as I am concerned, the rights and responsibilities in there will remain, because it is a good piece of bargaining legislation. It's a good piece of legislation that has served us well and will serve us well. It might have helped some of the NDP members' colleagues in some of the other provinces, such as British Columbia or Manitoba, if they had chosen to look at it—

Mr. Deans: That wouldn't help this dispute.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, but when I hear the kind of arguments that are put forward in this House about compulsory arbitration and so forth. I am always amazed to remember that is the way teachers' disputes in Manitoba and British Columbia are settled—by compulsory arbitration, by Acts of the Legislature.

Mr. Renwick: But you have an obligation to lead.

Mr. Martel: It is not the teachers; it is the—

Mr. Deans: They are wrong there. We agree.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's fine. All right.

Mr. Martel: Get the whole story.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What I am really saying to the hon. members opposite is that compulsory arbitration isn't necessarily the great big bad boy that they always make it out to be.

Mr. Martel: They trust them out there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It has settled disputes in the Province of Manitoba and, as my friend states, the teachers have never chosen to ask that it be removed.

Mr. Martel: They trust the government out there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is not that they trust the government. It is the fact that the system works; it works in Manitoba.

Mr. Renwick: You have a leadership role to play in Ontario, and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Therefore, given the fact that we have these other rights in this province—

Mr. Bullbrook: He wants you to go to the country.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —this is not the kind of big bogymen that the hon. members opposite would make it out to be.

Mr. MacDonald: What about your Throne Speech amendment? What were you after?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say this—

Mr. Reid: I thought you had got over that self-righteous baloney.

Mr. MacDonald: At least I have, but you never will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought he was mellowing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: While I am on this point I just want to remind the House, as my friend from Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) did, and I think that his words were excellent, in his comments about the Education Relations Commission because this is a group—and members will recall during the debate on Bill 100 I mentioned the kind of people I wanted to see on that commission. I mentioned the kind of tough job they would have to do and I think that they have lived up to the kind of challenge that was placed before them.

I don't know whether the members of this House are aware—I am sure they are aware—that the commission is headed by Owen Shime but it also has on it Dean Harry Arthurs of the Osgoode Hall Law School; Dr. Lita-Rose Betcherman, who was head of the women's bureau in the Ministry of Labour here for many years; Gabrielle Levasseur from Ottawa and John Ronson from Mississauga. These five people, I think, are doing an excellent job.

The proof of that is that Bill 100 was passed in July, it set up these new procedures which had never existed in the Province of Ontario, it has had limited staff, it is only now being able to get around to advertising

and bringing in some of the kind of staff complement it is going to need to do the job that I envisaged it doing and which it will do and which will further help the bargaining process in this province.

In that time, there were 27 fact-finders appointed in the elementary panel and 27 settlements were arrived at; there were 15 fact-finders appointed in the secondary school area and 15 settlements have been arrived at, and in the secondary school panel there were 32 fact-finders appointed by the commission and we now have only about eight situations that haven't been solved.

I remember people here saying in this House that we would never be able to find the number of fact-finders and that the kind of procedures wouldn't work. They have worked. The fact-finders have done their job, reports have been brought in and settlements have been arrived at. These are for contracts which expired on Aug. 31. The commission is now working on about 34 to 35 contracts with boards which have contracts with teachers that expire on Dec. 31. About half of these are settled already; fact-finders are involved in the others.

I think when we carry this forward and look at what has happened, Bill 100 has been working, the commission has been doing an excellent job and this legislation deserves a chance to carry on to be appraised and judged in the light of what happens when this crisis period in Metropolitan Toronto has passed. I don't think any of us thought that when this bill was passed we would achieve Utopia. I must say though—and I don't think I said it in this House, but I did say it privately, because of course the spectre of a major disturbance in Metro Toronto hung over our head—I said if that happens it will severely test Bill 100. There is no question it will test it in the minds of the public. It will test it and it will not only test it it will cause a cloud to hang over it which really doesn't deserve to hang over that bill, which I think is a good piece of legislation.

Mr. MacDonald: We agree with your views. We wish many members of your own party agreed with you as enthusiastically.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh well, they all agree with these views.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, we have heard about it on the hustings.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that it also has to be stated, and I think this is an interest-

ing point, that we heard a lot yesterday about the effects this legislation would have on other disputes. We have heard a lot about the effect that the strike might have on other disputes; the strike in Metro Toronto, and of course there is a strike in the Kent county board at the present time also. But it is interesting, and I would like to tell the House, that since the strike began in Metropolitan Toronto on Nov. 12 there have been settlements in about seven secondary school boards and seven elementary boards and a couple of separate school boards in that period. There have been settlements before the end of the contract, as I stated a few minutes ago, in 17 of the 34 areas where contracts expire on Dec. 31. Some set tentative agreements, reached as late as last week at the same time the vote was going on here in Metropolitan Toronto. So bargaining is going on in the rest of the province, settlements are being arrived at and the procedures of Bill 100 are carrying on.

[11:30]

In our discussion of Bill 100, in drafting the rights and responsibilities of the Education Relations Commission, one of those responsibilities which we gave to them was to advise the executive council, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, when in the opinion of the commission the educational programmes of the students in an area where a withdrawal of services or a lockout was occurring would be in jeopardy. We put that in in order to protect students' programmes, students' rights and students' interests. We left it up to the commission to decide how they should discharge that responsibility.

We put it in because we felt, as I said in my opening remarks, having given the procedures under Bill 100 and having established the right of teachers to withhold their services and of boards to lock out, there may come a time in a public interest dispute in the public sector where there may have to be some other interest that takes paramountcy. In this case we felt it would be the educational programmes of the students and so we left that duty up to the Education Relations Commission. They have fulfilled that duty.

There has been criticism of the fact that they didn't comment or make any suggestions on the particular function that they have before last Saturday. That kind of criticism has to be coupled with the other duties that they have, one of which is to attempt in any way possible to help the parties reach a negotiated settlement. I think

there's no question that all of us feel a negotiated settlement between parties is the best way to solve a dispute. I think that the commission in their wisdom felt that way too and they instituted procedures to attempt to bring that about.

Whether we agree or disagree with the procedures they established, the kind of mediation, the troika situation that they created, I don't think matters. What really matters is that they were attempting to bring about a negotiated settlement. It was only at the point when that seemed impossible to them that they then felt that they should discharge their function of deciding whether they should recommend to us whether the educational programmes of the students were in jeopardy. They did that after they had held public hearings last Saturday in order to give the parties and, I think rightfully so, the public of this city a chance to hear the positions of various people connected with this dispute.

I would recommend to my friends—although this certainly doesn't justify the position that I am bringing in in this bill today but it does justify the one principle of the bill that the schools should open on Monday—the brief presented by the secondary school teachers of Metropolitan Toronto. First of all, they acknowledge all the processes that have gone on in this dispute and all the things which have occurred. After having acknowledged all that, the Education Relations Commission, the involvement of mediators and fact-finders, they say it's an understatement to say that the full facilities of the commission and of the government have been utilized in these protracted and difficult negotiations.

They recognize that all the processes, including the involvement of this government in some personal way, have been used in trying to bring about a negotiated settlement in this dispute but that they then further go on and make a comment. It would be very interesting for various members to read the documentation for this very simple statement which they then make:

The purpose of today's hearing is to determine whether or not the continuation of this strike will jeopardize the successful completion by the students of the current school year. The teachers, who are and always have been deeply concerned about the welfare of their students, say that it most undoubtedly will.

Then they go on in a rather detailed way to document the various programmes and various courses of study.

That brings me to my second premise that this government is showing leadership because it allowed the processes of Bill 100 to run their course. It then accepted the advice from the Education Relations Commissions and the opinions of others, as we have read them, which was that the pupils' programmes would be placed in jeopardy and that the government should act. At the very point when we received that advice, we decided that the course of action for this government was not to waffle, not to sit around and do nothing but to act, to take action, to ask that the Legislature be recalled and to bring in this piece of legislation so that we could prevent what the Education Relations Commission and many others say will happen if the schools of Metropolitan Toronto do not open this Monday.

Mr. MacDonald: So far, go good.

Mr. Singer: That certainly is leadership.

Mr. Shore: You don't believe that yourself.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I do believe that myself.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Wilson Heights voted for Bill 100.

Mr. Singer: A little chaos and then some statutes, make some speeches and that's leadership.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You voted for the bill.

Mr. Singer: Not because of the leadership, but to try to help the situation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, you voted for Bill 100.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There's one other piece of information and one other premise I think that I should make. That is, of course, that in bringing in this legislation and acting, we not only had to act on the advice that the commission gave and the opinions that we received concerning the pupils' programmes being placed in jeopardy, but we then had to ask ourselves were meaningful negotiations still taking place or could they take place?

Mr. MacDonald: That's right, and the answer is yes.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I beg to differ with my friend, but in my opinion—and I must clarify it and say in my opinion—in the recommendations I made to this government, I had

to tell them, no, I didn't feel meaningful negotiations could take place.

Mr. Deans: I think you were misled.

Mr. MacDonald: That's where you began to make your mistake.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no. That's where it became necessary—

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right, my friend says I began to make my mistake—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and members opposite are trying to get around the responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. MacDonald: Under our reasoned amendment presented for this legislation, they get back Monday morning.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, Donald, you can fool some people, but we know better.

Mr. Martel: Nobody tries to fool you, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, yes, you do.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everybody has had the opportunity to debate the matter. The hon. minister is replying. Thank you.

Mr. Singer: He's out of order, though. There's nothing in the bill about what he's talking about. He's out of order. Be firm with him, too. Threaten him.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend says that his opinion differs from mine. Well, let me stake my claim to why I made my opinion. Now, the member can disagree with that after, if he wants, but let me tell him why I arrived at that decision. Because I didn't arrive at it out of the air; I didn't arrive at it in isolation.

Mr. Shore: I suggest you did.

Mr. Givens: You did.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If the member suggests that I did then let him listen for a few minutes.

Mr. Singer: What section of the bill is that mentioned in?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I must say that I hesitate to recite some of these events, because I just want to say categorically that while

I accept that a minister of this government, and at particular times, the Premier of this province, has a responsibility to become involved in disputes—there's no question about that—the part where I differ is that I don't think we all have to take the Bryce Mackasey approach that what really is needed is not necessarily involvement in the dispute, but whether you can get enough publicity and everybody is aware that you're involved in the dispute. After all, I think that there is a place in some of these things to quiet down the kind of public perception that goes on about what's happening and to handle things in a quiet manner.

Mr. Singer: And you're certainly quieting it down.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What I'm going to say is that I have been involved over the past few days, not in a way that was attempting to get headlines or suggest that great action was happening, but merely to try and establish two things. And those two things were: Could meaningful negotiations continue? Could we get a negotiated settlement without this government having to legislate, given the fact that we knew we had to bring this dispute to an end quickly and by next Monday?

Mr. Good: You knew before Christmas you had to legislate. It's all grandstanding.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I began last Friday by asking the parties to come in and meet with me, which they did. And I asked the parties where they stood at this particular time, knowing that a board proposal had been put forward—a board proposal, a board offer, whatever you want to call it, had been put forward—had been voted on and had been turned down by about a two-thirds to one-third margin last Wednesday.

I said, "Where do you stand?" The school boards told me that they were willing to sit down with the teachers and talk about any misunderstandings in the offer that was put forward, any clarifications, perhaps some readjustments within that offer, but that they stood very firmly on this one principle that there was no more money that they would put into the contract—into the monetary matters.

Mr. Renwick: But there was more money.

Mr. Shore: We knew that three weeks ago.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Before the Education Relations Commission—although they didn't say this to me—I am told that board said also

that it was their position that they would put no more money into the contract. But they also agreed that they were not saying it because there was not more money, but that that was the position that they were taking as elected trustees. Now, they didn't say there wasn't more money, they said this—

Mr. Shore: That was three weeks ago.

Mr. MacDonald: Did they change their mind by yesterday morning?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I want to tell you that as far as I can discern from my discussion, that was a unanimous feeling of all the chairmen of all the boards in Metro Toronto; and I don't think I am betraying any confidences on that.

Mr. Lewis: I think that's quite fair.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I wanted to assure myself. Therefore, the position was: "We will sit down and negotiate; we will sit down and talk, if it's within these parameters—but there is no more money." I then spent about 2½ hours with the full teacher negotiating team of about 18 or 20, talking the matter over with them. It became very clear to me that they were not interested in sitting down unless there was an indication that there was more money in the pot available for redistribution—or however you want to put it—there had to be some indication that there was more than a discussion about misunderstandings in the contract, and they said they didn't feel there were any misunderstandings.

Mr. Good: Better call the vote before you talk us out of supporting you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And if that indication wasn't present, there was no use sitting down and negotiating.

Mr. Givens: You are wonderful; you are wonderful. Now, let's vote. Come on.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Listen; all right now, we've—

Hon. W. Newman: Listen to who is talking.

Mr. Shore: You could have made the same speech on Dec. 17.

Mr. Givens: Let's go; let's go.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I've sat—just a minute now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I sat here all day yesterday and listened to a number of speeches in this assembly, and I am entitled to summarize them. I think as a—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe, Mr. Minister, there was a point of order.

Mr. Foulds: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And this is a rational speech.

Mr. Good: Self-adulatory—

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) spends little enough time in this Legislature as it is. I believe he should have the courtesy to listen to the minister.

Mr. Speaker: That was not really a point of order. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What is the member doing applauding a criticism of his colleague?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They sit side by side.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sorry to tax his attention span, but I am going to continue on a little further.

Mr. Givens: You tax everything else.

Mr. Good: You are taxing all right.

Mr. Lewis: It was the only vulgar contribution to the debate. Let him speak.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I then held further meetings on Monday of this week, on Tuesday of this week, and on Wednesday of this week—one meeting with the parties together in a smaller group, and with representatives of the parties individually at other times. At no point could I see any thread or any way that any meaningful negotiations were going to occur. So, in coming to my colleagues, I had to tell them that as far as I could see there were no meaningful negotiations possible.

I might also point out that in one of those meetings—and I think that this is crucial to the debate and our consideration of the motion that is being put forward today—the board negotiators also informed me that by resolution they had withdrawn their board offer and that it no longer was a viable offer, and therefore it was not available for discussion. That was their position.

I also received notification by mail that the North York Board of Education and the Scarborough Board of Education had, by resolution, repudiated that offer. It became very plain to me that that offer arrived at through the mediation process at the Royal York was something beyond which many of the trustees in Metropolitan Toronto felt they could support. Now, I say that because I think that that was the preception that I certainly got listening to what happened after.

Mr. Nixon: A little speech from the gallery at this point?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I also think that if it had been accepted by the teachers that the board negotiators would have, in a very determined manner, sold it to their trustees—

Mr. Shore: Looking for a new job.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and I think they could have sold it. But having been turned down, the credibility of that offer became very, very bad indeed.

Mr. Shore: Very interesting point.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right, so we have arrived at that point. We are now at the point where this government had to act and we then had to divide the bill to bring about a resolution of this problem. We've accepted the premise that everyone agrees with the first principle of this bill that the schools should open next Monday.

[11:45]

Mr. Lewis: One thing the minister never did was have the Premier (Mr. Davis) bring them together and ask for a settlement. That's the one matter that never occurred.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I must say that in this government, when any minister acts, he is also acting on behalf of the Premier and this whole government.

Mr. Lewis: I respect your authority, but the Premier is wrong.

Mr. Renwick: There is a mystique surrounding this Premier.

Mr. Martel: I'm not so sure.

Mr. Lewis: Mistake or mystique?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We therefore, had to bring forward into this House a bill that would, in our estimation, cause the schools to open on Monday and bring about a settlement of this matter. We have brought in that bill. We

have established the back-to-work procedures. We've also established in the bill a procedure whereby a finality can be brought to this situation.

Mr. Martel: A rough boot.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The way we have decided that that finality can be brought is by binding arbitration. It is a situation where, as quickly as possible upon the return to school of those teachers, we will appoint that arbitrator within 30 days.

Mr. Nixon: Who is it, by the way?

Hon. Mr. Wells: It would be presumptuous of us to have announced it until this House has approved the legislation, but we will move as quickly as possible to appoint that arbitrator. We hope that within 30 days he will have a determination of this matter and that negotiations, notice of which began a year ago today, can be brought to a finality very quickly. We will appoint the arbitrator very quickly.

I might also point out, and I acknowledge this and I'm sure all members of this House acknowledge it, during that period, and particularly during the seven days provided in this bill for the giving of notice to the arbitrator of those matters agreed upon and those matters in dispute, there is ample opportunity for a negotiated settlement. We don't have to say in a bill that the parties have to get back and negotiate. If there is, as my friend says, room for negotiation, they have the opportunity to get back and negotiate it at any time during the next 30 days, but particularly during those seven days when they sort out what is still in dispute and what has been agreed upon.

Mr. Lewis: It won't happen. There is no incentive to negotiate.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All they have to do is present to the arbitrator the fact that they have reached an agreement, and the arbitration process will cease. That can even happen after they start their presentations to the arbitrator. So, we're not ruling that out.

Mr. Nixon: There should be an amendment on the term of the arbitration.

Mr. Renwick: It is obviously up to the boards to make another offer, is that what you are saying?

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right. The point I'm making is we're not ruling out negotiations. We don't have to say in this bill, "Go back and negotiate."

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on! You are imposing compulsory arbitration now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, will the minister permit a question on the point he is making? Since it is possible that the arbitration will become redundant if there is a settlement—and this is a possibility, we now all agree, within the next week or two—would it not then be incumbent on the minister to accept an amendment, which I referred to in my comments yesterday, that the bill be amended so that the term of the arbitration ending in 1976 under the provisions of the bill be made more flexible? We could leave that term as the outer limit but add a phrase which would allow the arbitrator himself to end arbitration if circumstances such as this or the imposition of a six per cent level from AIB for the second year become apparent.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would be willing to discuss that when we get to the committee stage. Let me just digress and tell you why we put in the two-year term.

Mr. Nixon: Then you will have the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, in all the negotiations up to the last board offer, which was arrived at through the mediation process, they were talking about a two-year agreement. The elementary teachers have a two-year agreement. It's practically at the end of the first year now. Negotiations should really have begun this week or last week on the next contract.

Mr. Nixon: They will get notice of it anyway.

Hon. Mr. Wells: One of the things of utter paramountcy in this dispute is that we get and re-establish a harmonious relationship. I believe we can do it. It is not going to be easy, and we're all going to have to work, particularly the teachers, trustees, parents and students, to re-establish a harmonious relationship and to rebuild respect between all these groups in the schools. I don't know how that's going to be done. I have every confidence that it can be done, but I think it can also be done much better if the whole negotiating process isn't going to start over again the minute this arbitrator makes his decision—or even before the arbitrator makes his decision for the next contract. I think we need that period of stability.

I really think that both the parties, although they may not admit it publicly, would really welcome that kind of a contract.

I point out to you that it doesn't have to be punitive. Some people feel that a two-year contract is punitive. As long as it is properly presented, and as long as it has the kind of protection that can be built into it, it isn't punitive. I think there are great advantages to that particular kind of contract. However, I will be glad to discuss that with my friend during the committee stage.

Mr. Nixon: At that stage the amendment will be before you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say this. In the argument about the methods that we have chosen, and the amendment put forward by the New Democratic Party—

Mr. Deans: Before the minister does that, wouldn't he leave it up to the arbitrators to decide on the length of contract?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I've indicated my reasons for a two-year contract, and I'd be happy to discuss that in more detail—

Mr. Deans: I understand that, but if they are valid the arbitrator will accept them.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —when we get to that section in committee.

The proposition put forward by the New Democratic Party in their reasoned amendment—which we can't accept—first of all suggests that an interim floor position be put in—which is one that has been withdrawn by the trustees, which has been voted against by several boards in this area and which is, as far as I'm concerned, a totally unrealistic position.

Mr. Renwick: You can't have it both ways.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The second premise is that the bill asks that negotiations continue. I submit to you that that brings no finality to the matter. What it does is that it removes the strike right and says, "Keep on negotiating"—but brings no finality to the matter.

Mr. Lewis: We could bring it back in February if nothing has happened.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I point out to you another of your friends in British Columbia proposed that same kind of arrangement. It has brought no finality.

Mr. Lewis: Oh yes it has. The settlement ensued a few days later.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: There was a settlement in the major areas.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: In only some areas; there are still some outstanding areas where there has been no settlement achieved.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would submit that it really could be argued. It could be argued that the kind of arrangement that you've suggested in your reasoned amendment of putting in a board offer which has been withdrawn—

Mr. Deans: That's negotiating—

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and putting in a continuation of negotiations with removal of the right to strike could be argued—

Mr. Lewis: That principle is a political ploy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —as a greater impediment to collective bargaining than the kind of thing that we are suggesting.

Mr. Lewis: You don't think that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I certainly do. I think that anybody looking at that could say: "Well, the obvious thing to do is to get the Legislature to legislate some kind of a settlement for you."

Mr. Renwick: No, you did it on two other occasions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor. Everybody has had the opportunity to debate the issue.

Mr. Bullbrook: Why do you provoke the member for Riverside like that?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the hon. minister only.

Mr. Lewis: Would the hon. minister accept a question?

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. minister accept a question?

Mr. Lewis: I think he probably would. He's a reasonable person. Why did you include, specifically, a floor—

Mr. Bullbrook: He wants to go to the country on this.

Mr. Lewis: —in the York county settlement and in the transit worker settlement, prefaced by statements by the ministers? We have them saying in Hansard: "If there is compulsory arbitration, there should be a floor below which the arbitrator cannot go." Why was it appropriate then, but not appropriate in this legislation?

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, you said this wasn't a debate.

Mr. Lewis: He granted the right to ask a question.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that in this particular situation, given the fact that this was an offer that was rejected by the teachers—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It was withdrawn by the boards, so it certainly couldn't be accepted as a floor in the sense of the one that we put in in the York county situation.

Mr. Deans: Will you accept another floor?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I might point out that in my mind there are no other floors, or propositions or offers that could be put in in the same context as that matter in the York county dispute.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It's only 30 days.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Now, I think that the—

Mr. Bullbrook: They want to go to the country on this issue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wish they would.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that the proposition of having an arbitrator make his decision within 30 days can very conveniently solve this problem without a floor.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Ten NDP, 12 Liberals, and all the rest Tories.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Maybe even Sarnia.

Mr. Bullbrook: Oh, perish the thought.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Can I also remind my friends that there are, I am told, some other precedents for this kind of legislation? One of them is in the Province of Saskatchewan where Premier Blakeney ordered the hydro workers to cease and desist a walkout and imposed compulsory arbitration with no floor, which I think indicates—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —that there can be merit to the kind of suggestion that we are putting forward.

Mr. Speaker, I think that rather than take any further time of this House there are just two things that I would like to say. First of all I think I would just like to indicate that we are, and this is a matter of information, we are going to institute a very in-depth research study of the effects of this strike and the manner in which the pupils' programmes are made up after the strike is over. This will be done in depth by our ministry working with the boards of education and the teachers in Metropolitan Toronto because I think that kind of factual information will be helpful to all of us and all members of this House if we, and I hope we never do, face this kind of a situation again.

Further, let me just say that I think the bill we have here today is a fair one; it's a reasonable one; it shows that this government is exercising leadership. It shows that we are here to govern. It shows that what we feel has to be done is that the schools of Metropolitan Toronto must be open next Monday for the educational welfare of the 140,000 students. It shows that we want a quick and positive finale to the dispute that has caused bitterness and frustration among the teaching profession and the public and the trustees in Metropolitan Toronto.

I would say very plainly and simply, **Mr. Speaker,** that we are here today not to blame teachers, not to blame school boards, but we are here to open the schools. We are here to start back on the road to building a harmonious relationship in the classrooms of Metropolitan Toronto. And I can't emphasize that more strongly.

We've got to rebuild the respect, the confidence and the sense of goodwill that is necessary for quality education and a quality learning experience in those classrooms. That is what I want. And that is what we have got to do.

We have to rekindle somehow these kinds of qualities between and among the trustees, the teachers, the parents and the students and the general public in Metropolitan To-

ronto. I want to tell you that I am going to do everything possible and this government is going to do everything possible to do that, and we are confident that the trustees and the teachers and the community at large will also do the same, because that is what we have got to do.

And what does that mean? That means that our responsibility here today, right now, is to vote in favour of this bill. And I hope the House will do it unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Mr. Wells had moved second reading of Bill 1. Mr. Lewis then moved a reasoned amendment which stated that Bill 1 be not now read a second time and he gave the reasons therefor.

The first question, of course, in such cases is: Shall the word "now" and the other words sought to be struck out stand as part of the motion?

[12:00]

The House divided on the motion that Bill 1 be now read a second time, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	AYES	NAYS
Auld	Angus	Kerr	
Belanger	Bain	Kerrio	
Bernier	Bounsall	Lane	
Birch	Breaugh	Leluk	
Brunelle	Bryden	MacBeth	
Campbell	Burr	Maeck	
Conway	Cassidy	Mancini	
Cunningham	Davidson	McCague	
Davis	(Cambridge)	McEwen	
Drea	Davison	McKeough	
Eakins	(Hamilton Centre)	McMurtry	
Eaton	Deans	McNeil	
Edighoffer	Foulds	Meen	
Evans	Germa	Miller	(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Ferris	Gigantes	Miller	(Muskoka)
Gaunt	Godfrey	Morrow	
Givens	Grande	Newman	
Good	Laughren	(Durham North)	
Gregory	Lewis	Newman	
Grossman	Lupusella	(Windsor-Walkerville)	
Haggerty	MacDonald	Nixon	
Hall	Mackenzie	Norton	
Handleman	Makarchuk	Parrott	
Henderson	Martel	Peterson	
Hodgson	McClellan	Reed	
Irvine	Moffatt	(Halton-Burlington)	
Johnson	Philip	Reid	
(Wellington-Dufferin-Peel)	Renwick	(Rainy River)	
Johnston	Samis	Rhodes	
(St. Catharines)	Sandeman	Riddell	
Jones	Swart	Ruston	
Kennedy	Warner	Scrivener	
	Wildman	Shore	
		Singer	
		Smith	
		(Hamilton Mountain)	
		Smith	
		(Nipissing)	
		Smith	
		(Hamilton West)	
		Snow	
		Spence	
		Stephenson	
		Stong	
		Sweeney	
		Taylor	
		Timbrell	
		Villeneuve	
		Welch	
		Wells	
		Williams	
		Yakabuski — 75	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 75, the "nays" are 32.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. Bullbrook: No.

Mr. Speaker: Committee of the whole House?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

[12:30]

METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTES ACT

House in committee on Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, before the clause-by-clause discussion I would like to indicate there has been general agreement that the committee will sit now until we finish this work. In other words, we will sit through the luncheon hour and not have a break for lunch, so members can make their own arrangements. We will stack whatever votes there may be in committee and have one bell.

Agreed.

On section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Wells moves that clause (b) of subsection 1 of section 1 of the bill be amended by striking out "and" at the end of sub-clause v, by adding "and" at the end of sub-clause vi and by adding thereto the following sub-clause vii, "the Metropolitan Toronto School Board."

Hon. Mr. Wells: The reason for this is that, while the Metropolitan Toronto School Board doesn't directly employ any secondary teachers, it is a signatory to the agreement and therefore should be in. We had debated this at first, that is not to put them in the bill because they didn't employ any teachers. The Metro school board and the elementary panel do actually employ teachers in special education circumstances.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, just before the amendment is put, I want to add a thought. Of course the amendment will be passed and of course it won't be stacked and of course there is no problem, but it is ironic that the Metro school board was left out of the legislation initially. It might have spoken to the

unconscious sense in the minds of bureaucrats in the minister's department—I daren't say in the mind of the minister himself—that the whole negotiating process this time has demonstrated that there is something very wrong with the Metro board procedure and that one of the things we may be emerging toward, in Metropolitan Toronto, is negotiations with the individual boards, probably resulting in agreements rather more easily than the sad pattern of the last several months.

I know there are many individual boards thinking about that terribly seriously at the present moment. I am sure the oversight isn't attributable to some Freudian base, but I smiled to myself last night when it was drawn to my attention because it speaks to a reality: The Metro board system is not working.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister wish to speak?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would have to differ with my friend on his last comment. I don't think we can categorically say that the system is not working.

I think there may be room for improvement in the negotiation area. As he knows, the metropolitan school board, as one of its functions, does not negotiate the salaries and does not employ the teachers, but the negotiations have been on a joint basis by agreement.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I agree.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Sometimes, in generalization, people say the Metro school board is negotiating, but they really are not. It is a committee of board chairmen, made up of all the boards and the Metro chairman, who also sits as a trustee on one of the area boards. This is the body that is doing the negotiating.

I would have to say that I think that certainly, having once been head of a negotiating team for the Metro trustees, the stage at which we have arrived in Metro where we have joint negotiation of the boards and the teachers is a much better system than individual negotiations.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the minister's amendment carry?

Agreed.

Are there any further comments, questions or amendments to any other section of the Bill? If so which one.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Chairman, section 3.

Mr. Chairman: Is it in agreement then that section 2 is carried?

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. Deans: Dealing with an amendment I propose to make requires amendment of two subsections, subsection 4 and subsection 5. I would like to place both amendments at the same time in order that they can be considered simultaneously.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Deans moves that subsection 4 of section 3 be amended by adding after the word "parties" in the fifth line the words:

Including in the case of the written notice to the arbitrator from the boards the last offer of the boards to the branch affiliates.

Mr. Deans further moves that subsection 5 of section 3 be amended to read as follows:

(5) The arbitrator, upon receipt of a notice, shall examine the last offer of the boards to the branch affiliates and on the basis of that offer shall examine into and decide all matters that are in dispute between the parties as evidenced by the notice referred to in subsection (4) and any other matters that appear to him to be necessary to be decided in order to make a decision no less favourable to the branch affiliates than such last offer.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Chairman, the effect of what we have moved is to ensure that the arbitrator will not make a decision that is less than the offer that was before the teachers on Dec. 20, 1975.

It is not uncommon for legislation proposed by this government to contain a base from which the arbitrator has to work. We happen to feel that that is a desirable feature in a bill such as this, although we frankly don't agree with the bill itself. We feel that it provides a certain amount of fairness in whatever decision is finally arrived at.

I listened to the minister with interest today talking about how the boards had withdrawn their offer. I want to say that we came to the conclusion that the boards' last offer was the fairest offer to discuss.

We assumed, perhaps naively, that when the boards made the offer they actually intended to pay it. We thought that when they made the offer they were prepared to live up to it. We thought that when they put that offer before the teachers, they did so in good faith and that had it been agreed upon then they would have gone ahead and implemented it. With that in mind, we therefore

decided that since the boards had offered that particular settlement, that would be the settlement upon which any floor should be based, or the lowest level that the arbitrator could determine.

We are prepared to concede that that may not be the only floor. We are prepared to concede that it may be that there's another base, a base more satisfactory, a base that the government can accept.

Mr. Lewis: The October offer.

Mr. Deans: The October offer, as my leader says. It may be there is another base that can be established to ensure that there be fairness in the final arbitration decision, to ensure that the teachers can go back into the classroom knowing at least that that which they had already been offered is guaranteed. They can then turn their minds away from the dispute entirely and address themselves solely and particularly to the matter of educating the children before them; that they don't have to now concern themselves about what goes on behind the scenes before the arbitrator.

I want to deal with one matter that worries me, before we talk any further about the amendment itself. We put this amendment because we happen to believe it to be useful. We happen to believe it to be consistent. We happen to believe it to be consistent with this government's own philosophy about boards of arbitration and decisions that be made.

I was worried yesterday when it came to my attention that the government would consider the passage of this sort of amendment as a non-confidence matter. I walked away shaking my head and wondering just why I bother getting up in the morning and coming to the Legislature and taking part in the debates and thinking about the legislation placed before us and worrying about its impact, if I am forever going to be threatened with an election if I decide to propose something that I think might help to strengthen the legislation. I wonder whether I might not better have stayed in bed and left them to make their own decision, because obviously they weren't prepared to talk with us.

Maybe they are now prepared to talk with us. Maybe there is a compromise somewhere that we can achieve that will ensure that when those teachers go back into the classroom that they will be able to do so without feeling that they have been totally destroyed by this Legislature, and that their future has been threatened by the imposition of the legislation—that at least there's some sort of

sense that there's justice in this chamber. I think that's really what we're talking about. [12:45]

We all agree the teachers will go back to work on Monday; we've always agreed on that. We made it clear right from the outset that on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, or whatever time it happens to occur, the school doors will open and the teachers will be there and the pupils will be taught. We have no disagreement on that.

We disagreed on the method of resolving the outstanding dispute, and we thought that we had offered a reasonable method of trying to resolve it. It differed from the government's method, but we still felt that it was as reasonable an approach as the approach of the government—in fact, we thought it a little more reasonable, so we proposed it.

We worried more about the effect of what has gone on and the effect of what we are currently doing on the educational system. We worried a lot about trying to ensure that when those teachers finally went into the classroom the pupils could look to them with respect and understanding and the teachers could hold their heads up and feel that they had at least accomplished something as a result of the exercise that they've gone through.

This Legislature, to this point, hasn't agreed that that's valuable but we still think it is. We think that's very valuable. We think that may well be the foundation upon which the relationship between the pupils and the teachers, and the teachers and the boards will begin to redevelop and to reassert itself, and the foundation upon which the kinds of relationships that we hope will be accomplished and know are necessary will be based.

What we're asking the government to do is if it feels that there is another offer more acceptable than the one that we're proposing, then tell us what it is, but don't reject out of hand the proposition that there ought to be some floor below which the arbitrator cannot go as a result of the actions that we take.

Let me refer to the two most quoted pieces of legislation. The Toronto transit labour dispute settlement said—and this was passed in 1974—in section 7:

The basic hourly rates of wages for employees to whom this Act applies are hereby increased by 12 per cent over the basic hourly wage rate in effect on the expiry date, retroactive in each case to the day immediately following the expiry date, and the decision of the arbitrator shall include such increase.

Nothing in this section prevents the arbitrator from granting increases on the basic hourly wage rate in excess of those established in this section. You recognize that in order to gain goodwill, in order to gain a sense of justice, in order to assure those employees that there would be no possibility of being victimized as a result of the actions of this Legislature, there had to be a floor below which the arbitrator couldn't operate. That was the first point.

In the York county teachers' dispute we did likewise—a little more complicated perhaps—and perhaps something similar could have been worked out in this case, though, frankly, we were unable to do it because we didn't have all the details. In the York county dispute it was determined, and I quote from section 4:

The rates of salaries for teachers in categories 1 to 4 as set out in the schedule to this Act are effective on and after Sept. 1, 1973, until the award made by the board of arbitration under this Act becomes in operation. The decision of the board of arbitration [and this is the key] shall not provide for rates of salaries in categories 1 to 4 less than the rates of salaries as set out in the schedule for such categories.

This said that we in the Legislature were approving a floor level below which the arbitrator should not, could not, would not go. Now we're suggesting, given that this is an unusual circumstance, given that we do want to maintain the collective bargaining system as it exists, given that Bill 100 is succeeding to whatever degree—we all agree it's succeeding fairly well—there has to be an understanding of the unique circumstances in this dispute, and that it makes some sense then to establish some kind of level below which the arbitration can't go.

For the government to suggest that they would hold an election on the basis of this amendment is absolutely ludicrous. To suggest that it would even threaten to call a general election in the Province of Ontario, because we wanted to put a base level in this Act, is blackmail.

You may have succeeded with the other party but you are not succeeding with us because we think it's worthwhile. If they are afraid to stand up and be counted on the things they say they believe in, then I want to tell you we are not.

This is consistent with government policy, and this is a guarantee to the very people who on Monday morning have to resume their teaching duties. It's also a guarantee to the parents and it's a guarantee to the stu-

dents that the undivided attention of those teachers will be given to that, and that they won't be worried about what is going to happen before the arbitrator. I ask you to think quite seriously of whether or not you can accept this clause or a similar clause to insert in this bill to ensure that this happens.

While I am on my feet, I want to deal with one other matter that relates directly to this clause. The minister says that the boards have now withdrawn the offer that they made on Dec. 20. I want to tell you that part of the reason for that, if not all of the reason for that, is the direct result of the cutbacks of this government in the various fields, including the field of education.

Let me tell you the reason why I say that. In one instance alone, which doesn't touch exactly on the Metro situation but which is a parallel, in the case of the Hamilton board, as a result of the cutbacks, they will not be able to provide the same level of education that they previously provided. I assume that similar kinds of situations will prevail in Metropolitan Toronto. I assume, for example, in those areas where new housing developments have occurred, as in the case of Hamilton, and where there were clear evidences of the need to build facilities to educate the children who are living in the areas, the boards will not be able to proceed with the development in the way in which they have to in order to meet their obligations. Those things all affect the decisions that the board has to make with regard to the expenditure of funds.

The government itself has injected or interjected or whatever you want to say—imposed, I suppose—itself into the dispute by virtue of the cuts that were announced in the way in which education can be provided. You have to share some of the responsibility. I am not suggesting all of it, but I think that affected the decisions of many of the people involved in the negotiations.

I ask the minister to give serious consideration to putting in a clause. I ask him to stop threatening us with this nonsense. We are here to do a job. We are trying to do it to the best of our ability. You will have an election some day when you decide to have it. It will have nothing to do with anything we do. It will have something to do with what your monthly polls tell you about your popularity. It will have nothing at all to do with what happens in this Legislature. We know it, and any of you who know anything about politics over there, you know it too. The first day you think you can get a majority, we will have an election, whether the Legislature is sitting or

whether we are dealing with anything. What we do here won't affect it.

I ask the minister whether or not there is either this clause or some other clause that would be acceptable to him and to the government in order to guarantee the fairness that we think has to be in any piece of legislation where the rights of people are being taken away.

Mr. Nixon: We have considered the amendment put forward by the hon. member. I have been particularly interested in his comments about the precedents undertaken by this House where a floor controlling the arbitrator has been a part of legislation in the past.

The big difference here and the difference which will not permit my colleagues and me to support it is that the situation has changed in this one particular, important degree.

Mr. Wildman: Minority government.

Mr. Nixon: We'll talk about that too—and that is, whatever the arbitrator finds, his finding is subject to the approval or the rejection of the Anti-Inflation Board at Ottawa.

Mr. Deans: That's what makes it positive; that is what makes it even more positive.

Mr. Nixon: It is quite clear that the purpose of this bill is not only to see that school is resumed on Monday, but also so that a pay settlement—it wouldn't be an agreement by arbitration—will be forthcoming. If we in this Legislature were to appoint an arbitrator—and I suppose we will soon know who it will be—with the powers to use his best judgement to see that a settlement is imposed on both sides and to leave it subject to the rulings of the Anti-Inflation Board, which in my view are very difficult to predict, then I consider we would be acting irresponsibly in this regard.

The interjection has come here, "Well, it's minority government that has frightened you people off." May I assure my hon. friend that my colleagues and I had come to the decision on that matter before the tremors came down through the cobwebs in this place, that the man smoking the cigar downstairs would consider this a matter of confidence and that was supposed to frighten us all into line. I'll tell you, that is frightening; it really is.

Mr. Makarchuk: It wasn't in the discussion yesterday, Bob. You were going to amend it yesterday.

Mr. Nixon: Oh pipe down.

Mr. MacDonald: Read yesterday's Hansard.

Mr. Nixon: But I would also say to you, Mr. Chairman, that if the man smoking the cigar thinks it would be a good issue to go to the province on this convoluted business, then that's a matter of bad judgment—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It's very unkind to refer to "the man smoking the cigar;" it's like referring to "the third party."

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We cigar smokers object.

Mr. Nixon: —because surely the reasonable members of this House will see that while we are appointing an arbitrator in these circumstances, it is irresponsible for us to bind his hands in a way that he will not be able to do his job under the law of Canada.

Now we have an ambivalence here. My colleagues from Sarnia and from Wilson Heights have put before you, Mr. Chairman and the other members of the House, a strong contention, bolstered by the best legal opinion available—even better, I suppose, than some of the members of the front bench if that is possible—

Mr. Bullbrook: Better than the "Dear Jim" letter.

Mr. Nixon: —that the government has been acting illegally in giving this power to the Anti-Inflation Board of Canada. But whatever we think about it, they are the government and they have done so; and we are not in a position, since we have not been supported by the NDP in our efforts in the past, to have this changed.

Mr. MacDonald: You have changed your position since yesterday.

Mr. Nixon: It could have been changed. We would have had an election. If you wanted to have an election on this issue, you could have supported us.

Mr. Reid: You had your chance and you copped out.

Mr. Bullbrook: You copped out.

Mr. Martel: You wanted an election there.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, our view is that the amendment is irresponsible in the light of the facts of the Anti-Inflation Board that we must face, whether we like it or not—and we do not like it. We cannot support the amendment.

Mr. Martel: You need a lot more backbone.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with the two reasons—the one given by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) and the one given by the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Nixon) as to why this particular amendment cannot be accepted.

The Minister of Education, in his closing remarks on the second reading debate, gave as his reason, first of all that the offer of Dec. 20 had been withdrawn by the boards, and subsequent to its withdrawal had been rejected by two of the borough boards. He gave that as the distinguishing feature which distinguished this bill from the two previous bills. Since that last offer, in relation to what the minister has said, is not an offer which can be considered by the arbitrator, is the minister saying to us that the base under which the arbitrator will operate is the two-year collective agreement which, if my memory serves me correctly, expired on Aug. 31, 1975, and which had its origins on Sept. 1, 1973? Is that the base from which the arbitrator is going to operate?

If that's not the base, will the minister clarify whether or not the arbitrator is going to be able to take into account the last offer of the board, despite the fact that the minister said: "It is as if it were never made"; which I take to be the import and the intent of what the Minister of Education has said? I think that is extremely important.

And ancillary only to this particular amendment, but an equally important and extremely important clarification which the minister must give to the teachers in the province: What is the salary scale and under what agreement is it that the teachers will return on Monday to the schools in the Metropolitan secondary school system? I think that's got to be clarified. That's my first response to the minister's stated reason why this bill should be distinguished from the two preceding bills.

The Leader of the Opposition put a different proposition.

[1:00]

Mr. Nixon: No, he has not spoken on this yet.

An hon. member: He's not the opposition; not this year.

Mr. Lewis: I am about to speak.

Mr. Renwick: I'm sorry.

Mr. Reid: It's just part of your general confusion, Jim.

Mr. Shore: You will be all right.

Mr. Reid: You are consistent with your confusion, Jim.

Mr. Nixon: He is never very good before 5 o'clock.

Mr. MacDonald: It's just a compliment before he bows out.

Mr. Reid: That's Stephen Lewis on your right, Jim.

Mr. Shore: Jim Renwick, Stephen Lewis.

Mr. Renwick: Stephen, forgive me.

The leader of the Liberal Party stated as his exception, as the rationale why his party will not support this—I take from what he said that the arbitrator is to take into account what the AIB will do to this offer, because the government of Canada and the law of the government of Canada is what controls the decision of the arbitrator.

Mr. Nixon: No, if he is turned down by the AIB he has to return to them.

Mr. Renwick: The arbitrator doesn't have to return to anyone. Let me at least try to clarify it for the minister. I'm sure the minister is not confused, but confusion was interjected into this amendment by the leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Shore: I think he understands what arbitration is better than you do. You have been throwing the confusion in.

Mr. Renwick: The minister stated in his opening remarks that the second purpose—and I'm taking it as the second purpose, although he stated them together he agreed that the paramountcy was the opening of the schools. The second purpose was to achieve an equitable—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: He can hear you, go ahead.

Mr. Deans: It's the height of bad manners to talk to the minister.

An hon. member: He can listen.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am listening.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: You don't take the time of a person who is supposed to be listening to the comments.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am listening.

Mr. Nixon: You've got every right to speak but you have no responsibility otherwise.

Mr. Renwick: I'm not worried about you listening, Mr. Minister, I want you to understand.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: The minister stated that the second objective of this bill was an equitable settlement between the boards and the teachers. The agreement which is to be decided by the arbitrator is the agreement between the boards and the teachers, it has nothing to do with what may happen subsequently before the Anti-Inflation Board, despite all of the reservations which anybody may have about what it's doing and what it's saying and the indefiniteness with which it imposes. I say to the minister categorically, and particularly to the leader of the Liberal Party, the obligation of the arbitrator as we understand it is to ignore the fact that an anti-inflation law was passed at Ottawa; to disregard it entirely and to negotiate the settlement as between the parties which will be equitable.

I say that, not in any dry-as-dust method of making a distinction which is a legalism, I say it for this reason: There will come a time, regardless of any change which is made in the decision of the arbitrator which the boards and the teachers may have to accept, and God knows nobody knows what that will be, there will come a time when it will be essential to the ongoing relationships of the Metro boards and of the teachers in the next series of negotiations, to know exactly what the agreement would have been in the absence of the anti-inflation guidelines.

Now that is essential. Otherwise there is going to be such a setback that the government will continue to exacerbate the relationship. It is essential that the minister state that the arbitrator's obligation is to make that kind of a settlement.

Now it has to be said categorically, it can't be just left up in the air. The arbitrator has got to know from this debate the meaning of the clause in the bill which directs him to make the settlement. He is entitled to have, and we are entitled to have, and the boards are entitled to have, and the teachers are entitled to have, a clear and unequivocal statement that the arbitrator in making his decision must disregard the decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa, even though the necessary consequence is that when the agreement is finally made the boards, as the employer, must take the agreement to Ottawa and make the best fist out of it that they can possibly make.

Now that distinction to us is essential, as well as the distinction which I made about the minister's reasons for not going along with our amendment. I would appreciate the minister's comments.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Despite the number of times we have tried to place it, our colleagues in the NDP continually seem to miss an extremely essential point. There are a number in this caucus who could be persuaded to see the justice of the point they are making about a floor. We can understand the point that they are making when they refer to the transit strike and when they refer to the York county strike. But, unfortunately, there is a fatal flaw in the entire argument, notwithstanding the argument that was just given, and which I understand, by the member for Riverdale. I heard it, I understand it. Notwithstanding that, the fatal flaw is this—and it is a fatal flaw that we were unfortunately unable to persuade them existed on Dec. 18, 1975. With respect to the transit strike, with respect to the York county strike, the government, backed by this Legislature, was able to enforce the floor which was put into those particular bills. In this particular case, the government, even with the backing of this Legislature, is not able to enforce any floor of any kind which is put into this bill.

Mr. Wildman: Are you going to move the amendment?

Mr. Sweeney: That is the essential factor that has to be considered. That is the factor which they still do not seem to have recognized as really the essential point of the amendment on Dec. 18, that this government—

Mr. Wildman: Well, move it now.

Mr. Sweeney: —this Legislature has given up its responsibility to enforce its own regulations, its own rulings, its own Acts.

Mr. Nixon: With the NDP supporting them.

Mr. Sweeney: They cannot do it; and we are going to have series after series after series of that.

Mr. Wildman: Then why vote for the bill?

Mr. Sweeney: We placed the party on this side of the House in jeopardy when we proposed that amendment. We knew we were doing so. But we also knew, down the line, the long-range consequences. We anticipated this very kind of situation; and we are going to face it again and again.

Mr. Wildman: You would still vote for this bill?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: One word about it. First of all, the amendment voted on back in December, placed some time in October, had no bearing on this. The fact of the matter was that that did not involve any legislative direction. That was simply an opinion expressed to Her Honour, which may or may not have resulted in any change. What we are talking about is a situation that in fact exists. And we all agree that it is very likely—

Mr. Nixon: With your vote we have no power to change.

Mr. Deans: You had no power to change it in December, but what you can do now is at least indicate to the arbitrator and to the Anti-Inflation Board the lowest level the members of this Legislature think ought to be acceptable.

Mr. Nixon: How do you pay them?

Mr. Deans: I want to suggest to you that if there is any use at all in trying to be part of the decision, then the only way you can guarantee the Anti-Inflation Board will understand what the elected members of the Ontario Legislature feel is the lowest acceptable level is to put this in the bill.

If you are afraid to go on record as to what you think the lowest level is, then say so if that's the problem. If you are afraid to go on record publicly as saying you think there ought to be a floor level for any arbitrated settlement, then just say so. Don't hide behind the Anti-Inflation Board, that is not a problem.

Mr. Shore: If anybody is hiding, you are.

Mr. Deans: As my colleague has said, and to reinforce his point, there is no question that what we are trying to do is guarantee that the system will open in such a way as to ensure there will be fairness and the sense of fairness. This is the only way to do it. We can't make it stick; we know we can't. We know we can't guarantee that that will be paid. Were we the government we might be prepared to go and stand up on behalf of the settlement, but we are not. As members of the Legislature we are prepared to say that floor is the floor we think is a fair floor for any future arbitrated settlement in the province of this dispute.

Mr. Ferris: I rise to speak very briefly on one point. We will be opposing this motion.

With regard to the observations of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) I could not agree more with him in that I would hope, and I would certainly have every belief, that the arbitrator will be going in to look at a settlement which is a just settlement and not be concerned with what the AIB is likely to say about it, even though there is the reality that it must be taken there.

The part that perhaps bothers me a little bit—and I am sure it also bothers most of the members of the NDP with more experience in labour relations than I myself have—is that the arbitrator's decisions and the things he has to weigh are so numerous and such very difficult decisions that to put the constraining or the initial clause in here is just another factor that has to be taken into account and thought about constantly.

I believe there is a little bit of a side effect if you do it this way, if you let the arbitrator work with full flexibility. He also has some further pressure on him to bring in his report within the 30 days or shorter, because it is of much more significant consequence, rather than being delayed, as it probably would be if he requested it at a later point.

Mr. Lewis: I know the minister wants to say something. I have no doubt he will find the amendment unacceptable, although the amendment itself can be easily altered as long as the principle of a floor is expressed. It is a curious situation that has developed where so many members of the Legislature feel that in the name of equity some floor should be placed; but some people, some in the Liberal Party, find it impossible to support that position because ultimately the Anti-Inflation Board will rule so what the devil use is it anyway? That's the argument, that's the fatal flaw which is expressed.

It is a curious kind of abdication. We sense the same kind of futility you sense. I think we said it yesterday on second reading. I think many members of the Liberal Party said it. We go through this whole Byzantine procedure and ultimately it is all shovelled off to Jean-Luc Pepin.

[1:15]

But along the way, because it is our bill in this Legislature and we are speaking to its principles and its causes, we should, as my colleague from Wentworth said, state our position. I want to put to you that that's terribly important for the teachers in the educational system in Metropolitan Toronto. It may be that the Anti-Inflation Board will overrule, reverse or alter an arbitrated settlement, but it's very important for the arbitrator to know that we in the Legislature feel there

is a floor below which he or she should not descend.

Why is it important? It is important because these people have been negotiating in good faith for seven months or more, because Bill 100 has been complied with for seven months or more, because if you pass a piece of legislation and you defeat this amendment, therefore inviting the possibility of an arbitrator setting a level of settlement below that which the board has itself offered on some misguided assumption that the Anti-Inflation Board's ruling should be observed rather than the contacts during the negotiations, we are really inviting a fracas in the school system and for no earthly reason whatsoever.

It is not popular these days, God knows, to take a teacher's point of view; you risk your life. But the minister knows that nothing could be so unfair as to have an arbitration award which comes in below that which the boards from time to time have offered.

If we don't set some kind of minimum, in the name of equity, indicating to an arbitrator what we would wish that arbitrator to render his or her judgement against, then we have also given up, we are also taking an enormous risk in the system.

It's crazy. It is not the way the world works. You don't ultimately go through the whole process of collective bargaining only to savage it at the eleventh hour. It makes no sense at all and there is nothing unreasonable in the world in what we are saying.

We are not saying that what we do here denies the intervention of the Anti-Inflation Board. Of course it is going to happen anyway. What we are saying is that what we do here is a signal to the teachers and the boards. They bargained in good faith. We accept that. We assume they made good-faith offers and good-faith responses. We are saying to an arbitrator, "This is the position from which you must then decide," and afterwards it goes to Jean-Luc Pepin and that decision will be rendered.

I think the minister should think of that. I don't think there is any public opprobrium which will descend on your head if you can find a level, and if you say to us, "The last board offer is unrealistic because it has already been withdrawn," then we say to you, "Fair game. Suggest an alternative base."

I cannot remember—I have tried; I have even looked at the recent federal statute and the federal statute also contains a floor—I can't remember a bill of compulsory arbitration which doesn't contain some floor.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There are several.

Mr. Lewis: The signal given at the point of that compulsory arbitration bill was contained in the statement by the minister. You have just said we will leave it to the arbitrator.

All right, if that's your position and you are going to hold to it—and I understand the problem the Liberal Party has in supporting it—I hope for everyone's sake that the arbitrator, whoever he or she may be, comes down with some kind of settlement which exceeds what has been offered or mirrors what has been offered, even if it is later reversed; because if not, you will have a group of teachers on your hands so bitterly disillusioned about the process, and so rightfully disillusioned about the process, that they would be just to respond in anger.

They won't leave the schools and they won't quit teaching. You won't have another strike on your hands, but you will have a whole professional group shaking their heads in bewilderment that having at least conformed to the process even though nobody likes it, when it was all over we dealt them this final blow. In the name of equity, I am asking you to change your position even though I sense the futility of the request.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, before the minister speaks, I felt that rather than leave what the hon. gentleman and the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) have put on the record, I wanted to make this clarification that we are not supporting this because we are throwing up our hands and saying it's all going to be settled in Ottawa anyway.

I would hope that the arbitrator would look at the last proposal of the board—they say it's a proposal and not an offer and we've looked at those split hairs flying in the wind for what that means, but he would look at that.

I would agree with the comment that has been made that if the teachers had voted in favour of that proposal or offer, certainly it would have been accepted, whether or not the members of the board in Scarborough and North York and those other places, who felt that their chairman got out in front of them a little bit perhaps; whatever they would think, that would have been a settlement and an agreement. So the arbitrator will surely give a decision very close to the last board proposal or offer.

All I am saying is this: It then is transmitted to Ottawa for approval or disapproval. And I'll tell you, there is no way of predicting what they're going to do. You can say, well in Hamilton they accepted 23 per cent and so on. One can play that game, but there is no way of knowing what that board, in all

of its mystic powers, is going to do for the teachers or do to the teachers in this city.

If it is not accepted, the board might say: "All right, the arbitrator is recommending 24 per cent" or 23.08 per cent or whatever it happens to be and whoever's figures are being looked at; and they say, "We reject that." They may then say: "However, we will roll it back to 21.37 per cent and that will be okay." They may simply say: "We reject that." The mouth of the powerful board closes and where the devil are we then? How do you pay the teachers even after 30 days? What do you do with them then?

The only rational floor would, in my view, be an insult to include in this bill, and that is a 12 per cent floor which we know the Anti-Inflation Board would accept. I would never for a moment propose that as a floor because I consider that an insult and it would obviously be misunderstood by everybody.

So when the other members sort of dismiss the views that are taken by myself and my colleagues as simply buckling under to political pressure—that a sword is hanging over our heads and we don't want an election and all that stuff, all right—but I can assure them that our position has been entered into with what we consider to be responsible thought that we are going to have an arbitrator who is going to have great powers under the bill for two years—and we want to talk about that a bit later. He has, by a decision of this House, been given the power to arbitrate this settlement. The only reason we are not in favour of a floor, whether it is one the other members suggest or some other one—and really there is only one other one, what else are you going to pick? Stanley Hart!

We never hear of him any more, you know. He's gone, with half the treasury; he's gone back to Montreal.

We don't know where else to look. For us to say, "Ah yes, it should be 23.08 per cent"; that's ridiculous, because we have not been taking part in the negotiations. Sure we've been talking to the teachers' professional representatives, the members of the school board and lots of people who phone in, but that doesn't mean that just because we're members of the Legislature we ought to say, "Arbitrator, that's what your decision should be."

We are saying to the arbitrator that much as we dislike doing it this way, in order to get the schools open we must do it this way. Here is this cloud, much larger than a man's hand, hanging over Ottawa, with lightning bolts that can strike right down here with a decision backed by the authority of the Parlia-

ment of Canada; and for us to set up an arbitrator who cannot accommodate himself to that would be irresponsible.

We can go on with the argument; I have nothing more to say about it. But I don't want it to go on the record that we take that position simply because we throw up our hands and say, "It's all in Ottawa so there's nothing we can do."

Mr. Deans: When the leader of the third party says that we cannot decide on an amount, that didn't inhibit us back in 1974. We decided an amount in the TTC strike—

Mr. Nixon: There wasn't an Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Deans: There was.

Mr. Lewis: You come back to that again and again.

Mr. Sweeney: This province could enforce it.

An hon. member: There was no Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Deans: No, but the Anti-Inflation Board is irrelevant.

Mr. Sweeney: Not that section of it.

Mr. Deans: Now, if it's a matter of deciding, the leader—

Mr. Nixon: It is for the first proposal.

Mr. Deans: The leader of the third party says just what should we decide? Should we decide 12 per cent, should we decided 23.2 per cent? I tell him that in 1974 we decided twice on a floor level, now what—

Mr. Nixon: Well you're dismissing the Anti-Inflation Board and it's here whether you say it is or not.

Mr. Deans: I am dismissing it because in fact the Anti-Inflation Board does not, should not and cannot come into play until after the arbitration process has been completed.

Mr. Nixon: That's right and if they knock it down you have got to go back to them, and under your amendment they couldn't go back.

Mr. Deans: The situation as we see it is this, that since we chose as members of the Legislature—

Mr. Evans: Do you want to start over again?

Mr. Deans: No, I am going to wait until the Minister of Labour (Hon. B. Stephenson) is finished. I get tired of it.

Since we chose as members of the Legislature in 1974 to set levels, and we deemed it appropriate to do that then, and the arbitrator was then charged with the responsibility of deciding on his or her final decision with regard to the matter, we think it equally appropriate that the arbitrator in this case should have the same guidance in order to come to his or her final decision on this matter.

Ultimately, of course, it must go to the AIB, but let me tell you something, even in those other arbitrations there was the possibility, remote though it may be, that the arbitration could have been taken to the courts. It has happened previously, it will probably happen again, and there is no question that there was yet another step which could have been taken even in those arbitrations, though it is infrequently taken by anyone, and that was never taken into account by the leader of the third party at that time. Guidance from the Legislature is necessary.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Chairman, as we have all known, this is a very complex situation and issue. Our party, and I for one and many others, have come to a decision after giving thought to various reasons and rationales. There is not just one reason as to why you come to a decision. The Anti-Inflation Board has been one of these items. Certainly it's not the only item. Our leader has elucidated on that a little bit, but I want to make it clear that it's just one item. I for one, for example, place just as great an importance on the issue that this is complex, it's serious and the more simple form of bringing these teachers back to work and getting the schools open, and having faith in the compulsory arbitration process, is the better way.

We get into debate in this House, and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has said himself, "Well, if you don't like that particular one, choose another one." We have not been party to the negotiation. We know it's a serious issue. It's not going to overcome itself overnight. Whether or not we do something here today will also add to the complexities. I think we are far smarter to say to ourselves, "Let's get the schools open, support this legislation, and get on with the job and have faith in compulsory arbitration." For varying reasons we are supporting that, not just because of the Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Foulds: I think we have come to the nub of it in the second last sentence of the

last speaker, "Have faith in compulsory arbitration."

I think the debate for the last day and a half has been over that very point. It was the purpose of this party's reasoned amendment, and it is the purpose of this party in this amendment, to achieve the third objective that the minister failed to mention in his speech should be achieved in this legislation, and which I spoke about last night. That third objective must be, has to be, the rebuilding and the rehabilitation of the Metropolitan school system, and any effort that this party can make toward that end, we will make.

Mr. Shore: Your motion won't help you.

Mr. Foulds: Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, you do not send teachers back to the classrooms with no assurance whatsoever of any kind that they will not be receiving some improvement on an agreement that they signed two years ago.

Mr. Sweeney: You can't give them that assurance.

Mr. Foulds: You had your chance to speak and I didn't interrupt you.

Mr. Evans: Oh no?

Mr. Foulds: No. I raise to you, Mr. Chairman, the Liberal Party and the government argue that different circumstances prevailed in the Toronto Transit Commission dispute and in the York county dispute, but as I recall—and I could be corrected—one of the reasons given by the minister for including the floor and the schedule in the legislation in the York county dispute was because the board itself was threatening to withdraw that offer. So the arguments that the minister put in his speech do not apply.

[1:30]

What we are hoping to achieve—and it is obvious from the speeches of the other two parties that we will fail in this clause—is to have the teachers and the students go back to the classrooms with some confidence that they will continue to have in those classrooms teachers attracted to the profession of high quality and calibre. If we have an arbitrator who, as the Liberal Party indicates, is going to prejudge the situation and take into account the reality of the Anti-Inflation Board and, therefore, bring in a low settlement in the hope that it will be accepted we will fail because the teachers will begin to leave teaching altogether and in the Metropolitan Toronto system in particular. That seems to me

to have very serious, tragic and sad consequences.

I plead with this Legislature that anything that we can do to assure a base level which will give the confidence to the membership of the federation to return to school in a least a somewhat less bruised frame of mind, we should do so.

Mr. Ziemba: Having listened to this debate over the last day and a half, I was particularly struck by the minister's summing up around noon today with the declaration that we must rebuild respect, confidence and goodwill. He went on to say that it is necessary for the quality of education to continue in Metropolitan Toronto and this is what we have got to do. That was his declaration.

Being a Metro member and representing a riding that is blessed with two of Toronto's largest secondary schools—Western Technical School and Humberside Collegiate—having approximately 3,000 of the 140,000 students in my riding, having a telephone that begins ringing at 6:30 a.m. and continues ringing non-stop all day in between conversations and talking to worried students, talking to worried teachers and talking to worried parents, I certainly have to agree with the minister. We must rebuild respect, confidence and goodwill and it is necessary for the quality of education to continue in Metropolitan Toronto. I certainly agree that this is what we're got to do.

How are we going to do that? Are we going to do that by ordering the teachers back to work on Monday morning at 9 o'clock? Can you begin to share the teachers' feelings on Monday morning? These are teachers who have taken a public clobbering almost from day one of this strike with the media hostility building every day, shielded by the newspaper editorials, to the point where yesterday our national newspaper, the Globe and Mail, featured a front-page picture showing students wearing T-shirts with anti-teacher slogans that were being sold at some schools. In fact, they were being sold right here on the Legislature steps. What a sad day? The teachers were down and now the boots are being put to them, ground boots as my colleague—he's left now—my colleague from Sudbury has described them.

The member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) played to the press gallery last night. He is the member whom I remember from the days when he served as an alderman and then the mayor of Toronto. I remember him as a warm, compassionate man sensitive to the feelings of minority groups. This good man—and I believe he is a good man—couldn't resist heaping

abuse on the teachers in a most red-necked manner. Can you imagine teacher morale at this point? Could not a floor, a base below which an arbitrator would not go, be the olive branch—that legislative gesture which, extended to the teachers of Metropolitan Toronto, could somehow return some confidence and some self-respect to these men and women who have served our communities so well over the years?

This strike has not affected all the members of this House as much as it has affected the 29 Metro members. I don't expect the members for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) or Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) to have the same regard for Metro Toronto teachers as the Metro members have. However, to these members let me say that voting for a floor or base is not a sign of weakness; it's not a sign of giving in to the teachers. I would ask the members opposite and the members to my left to reconsider their position. They may find themselves in the same position that we Metro members are in today.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Chairman, after listening to the Liberal arguments I'm convinced that we should continue with the discussion of this bill until tomorrow, because at that point we'll see another reversal and get support for our amendment. Several Liberal members yesterday spoke in favour of supplying some form of equity. However, either those members or their constructive thoughts are missing today.

I would like to relate to the minister some thoughts which perhaps relate to calls he has received. We heard yesterday about all the phone calls that members have received. Many of those I've pursued to some length. The callers for the most part were concerned that the schools be opened, that education continue and that the teachers be "back on the job." I said: "Yes, I share your concern about the schools opening." I asked them under what conditions. They weren't too sure. Then I, at that point, explained many options which I felt the government had.

One which I suggested was—and I'm quoting at this point my exact conversation with those callers: "The government does have the opportunity to legislate teachers back to work under compulsory arbitration at 1974 wages. I don't think it would do that." The caller said: "Of course not. That wouldn't be fair." That is an exact quote from several people I spoke to: "Of course not. We would not expect our government to do that. That would not be fair." I then, in some naiveté obviously, dismissed it as well. "No, your government would not be that unfair," I said. "They would provide some form of remuneration

above 1974 wages. They would provide some relief, particularly to that classroom teacher who is earning \$7,800 a year and, after a long strike, faces serious financial problems."

I do not wish to prolong the debate any longer, because the sides are drawn up very plainly, with the government opinion and its right-wing support over here. But the fairness is gone, and with it the respect of the teachers certainly, and some of the respect of the community from which the minister garnered support in the last election.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I must say I cannot accept the amendment. I think the position of the government in this matter was put very clearly in my concluding remarks. I certainly agree with the sentiments expressed a few minutes ago by some of the hon. members and which I expressed in my remarks. We've got to rebuild a sense of respect and a harmonious relationship in the classrooms in this metropolitan area.

We are suggesting that it be done by a very speedy arbitration process, by a competent arbitrator who I am sure will take into account all the various positions, the data, the fact-finder's report, the various positions and offers that have been put forward and will arrive at, based on these and other positions put before him, a very fair and equitable settlement. I have the confidence that he will do that. I do not believe that the arbitrator in this case should be an advocate or a proselyte of the Anti-Inflation Board. He has got to consider the matters before him and bring down a fair and equitable settlement for this matter. I think that this can be done speedily and in a very quick manner without the kind of amendment that my friends have suggested.

To say that, as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has said, that they are being legislated back at 1974 wages is really only half the statement. Of course, that is what they will be paid when they return to the classrooms on Monday. But once the arbitration decision has been rendered, the award will be retroactive to Sept. 1, 1974. The bill makes that very clear. It will apply for those days that those teachers worked up to and including the time when the arbitration award was rendered.

Mr. Warner: That is little comfort on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have full confidence that this can handle it in a very equitable manner—

Mr. Nixon: They get paid after they work a month, don't they?

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and we cannot accept the amendment put forward by the opposition party.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I have one unrelated remark to make on this section of the bill. The minister, when we met before our caucus on Wednesday, indicated that he might, during the course of the hearings, be able to announce the name of the arbitrator. Has that been settled as yet?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are still working on that. I hope to be able to announce it some time later today. But I cannot announce the name right at this point in time.

Mr. Foulds: It is not Eddie Goodman?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, it is not.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. It is not—I am sure to the member's sorrow—David Lewis, either.

Mr. Lewis: It is not, to my sorrow. He wouldn't touch it. He could have taken your coals out of the fire four weeks ago. But not today.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Deans has moved two amendments to subsection 4 and subsection 5 of section 3 of the bill.

All those in favour of Mr. Deans' amendments will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Mr. Deans: We'll stack this one, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Any other comments?

Mr. Deans: On section 4, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Wentworth on section 4, subsection 1.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have given a great deal of thought—

Mr. Ferris: Are we not taking turns?

Mr. Deans: Yes, we take turns. You come after me.

Mr. Ferris: You had the last one.

Mr. Bullbrook: Don't sit down.

Mr. Deans: I don't intend to.

Mr. Bullbrook: On the other hand, sit down.

On section 4:

Mr. Deans: I wish you would make up your mind—typical Liberal position.

We had thought of moving an amendment to reduce the term from two years to one year, and rethinking the matter we decided that it's best that the clause not appear in the bill at all. The arbitrator, given the arguments placed before him, should be able to decide on the merits, both of that which should be imposed and also the term for which it should be decided.

We would suggest clearly that it ought not to exceed two years; that it would be more desirable that it be one year, given the economic conditions of the country and the province and the instability that we face—the unpredictable nature of the year 1976-1977. Therefore, the minister should consider simply deleting the clause dealing with two years and allowing the arbitrator to hear the arguments and to put forward his suggestion as to whether one or two years would be most acceptable to the parties, and then to come to a decision on the basis of that—rather than on the basis of the direction of the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ferris moved that section 4, subsection 1 of the bill be amended by deleting after the word "expiring" in line six the word "on" and inserting in its place the words "on a date not later than."

Mr. Lewis: It is exactly the same thing. [1:45]

Mr. Ferris: Very briefly, just to explain, it is consistent with leaving the full power of decision to the arbitrator that if, in his wisdom as he looks at it, he wished to have a one-year settlement or a two-year settlement, that is his option and it is not bound to a two-year term; it's up to two years.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make just one comment. I was struck by what I believe to be a significant remark made by either mediator Adams or mediator Hartt—I am not certain which one it was—where one of the mediators simply stated in the press, and not as a part of these proceedings or any of the negotiations, that he thought that less than a two-year agreement, because the last offer was a one-year agreement, in a sense would require the Anti-Inflation Board to take a fresh look at it and not be affected by the off-the-cuff decision that was made earlier on the first offer, and that it was kind of important that the new agreement be divorced as far as possible from

the situation which obtained when the original presentation was made to the board.

I know it is difficult now to separate the collective agreement only on its terms from Jean-Luc Pepin or to insulate it from him, but it does seem to me, if there was validity in the comment that was made by the mediator, that at least that point should be drawn to the arbitrator's attention when he is considering the period of the agreement.

The second point is that, to the extent of the second-year part of a two-year parcel, it seems to me that there is relatively grave danger in leaving that part of it subject to the whims—if I may use that term—of the Anti-Inflation Board.

I would therefore hope that either the amendment proposed by the member for London South or the decision to vote against the section and eliminate it entirely, would be acceptable to the ministry and perhaps we could avoid an argument about it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak very briefly on the amendment. There was something that the minister said in his closing comments on second reading which struck my attention. He said it is quite possible, during the seven days provided in the bill, for both the board and the teachers to indicate to the arbitrator those matters which are still in dispute; it is quite possible that a settlement could be reached at that time. If that were so and if this amendment were accepted by the minister, it would be very convenient if the arbitrator could then say, "Fine, in fact, we have a negotiated settlement and my usefulness is at an end." It may be that his usefulness, even under those circumstances, would not be at an end. I would think that he, at his decision, hearing from the teachers and the board, could decide whether his powers might be used until the date that is in the bill—that is, for a two-year term. I believe very strongly that the decision should be in the hands of the arbitrator who would, of course, hear the arguments from the board and from the teachers as to the term required.

I am also very much aware of the fact that although this bill in fact gives a means of completion of the negotiations that have been going on for many months, that notice undoubtedly will be served by the representatives of the teachers of Metropolitan Toronto within a few days of their requirement that negotiations for the next year begin. There is a feeling that we don't want to throw the thing back into a circumstance identical to what it was before, but the amendment put forward by my colleague from London South leaves this at the disposition of the arbitrator

who can hear the points made from both sides, and I think in this way it faithfully and with some sensitivity serves the needs of both sides. I hope the minister will accept it.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I have one other comment and I believe this is the appropriate place to ask the question of the minister. In one of the original statements in this connection by the Prime Minister of Canada or, if not that, in the opening statement introducing Bill C-73, there was a statement that the Anti-Inflation Board would have public sector panels to that board and that the Province of Ontario would be invited to make appointments to the public sector panels. I would like to know the state of that particular arrangement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is exactly right and I think my friend asked that a few days ago. I pursued it. I am told that they have not been appointed yet. There still is the intention to appoint them. The problem that has arisen, as I understand, is that there has to be agreement on the personnel on these panels among the provinces and this hasn't been arrived at yet. We are pushing for the appointment of these panels. There are two situations that I am given to understand will be undertaken. One is that there will be a public sector panel of the overall Anti-Inflation Board and they hope to have some arrangement of some kind of sub-panel within the Province of Ontario for handling Province of Ontario matters that will, to an even greater degree probably, involve public sector people. We have put forward proposals on both of those.

Mr. Renwick: You proposed names?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, we proposed names that would be representative particularly of those people who feel that their segment of the public sector should be understood.

Mr. Deans: Just one point, there is one thing that worries me and it is not a matter that you can write into the bill. It worries me that if it were a two-year settlement then they would take the entire agreement to the AIB, which would then make a decision on both years of that settlement. I would think that fairness and assurance that all of the factors that, in fact, were taken into account would necessitate that the boards should take the settlement to the AIB in two stages, to show the settlement for the year 1975-1976 and have a ruling on that, and then at some subsequent time take the settlement for the year 1976-1977 and have a ruling on that in

the light of settlements being decided upon for that particular year.

I may be very crazy and not thinking too clearly, but I can imagine that in looking at the first year of the settlement, if both years were before the AIB, they would be taking the total settlement into account and would be judging the first year as much on what was coming later as they would be on its merit. So without thinking of how to amend it, because I am not too keen to do that, I would like to urge from here to whoever listens that the settlement go to the AIB, if it goes at all, year by year rather than both years to be heard simultaneously.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the various propositions and arguments put forward about this section. I think I indicated very clearly why I felt the two-year settlement would be desirable. I think there is some merit in not getting into another protracted round of negotiations immediately in order that the kind of climate that has to be re-established, and which I am confident can be, will have a chance to take effect and perhaps by having a two-year contract this could be accomplished in a much better manner.

I think I also pointed out in the concluding remarks on second reading that the parties were actually negotiating for a two-year contract up until the involvement of the three mediators and the process that took place just before Christmas. However, I am also aware that we do want to provide a great deal of flexibility for the arbitrator and we do not want to limit him if he can come up with some innovative way that we might not have thought of in handling this dispute. I think the remarks made by my colleague about perhaps making two presentations to the AIB may be another innovative proposal that may be considered. I would have great hesitation in taking this section out, because I do again want to make it very clear—I do not believe it has to be here, but again I want to make very clear to everyone that this contract is to begin Sept. 1, 1975, and that whatever is done will begin back then. Having stated that point, that is my reason for not wanting to take the section out. Therefore, I would be prepared to accept the amendment which I think gives a degree of flexibility to the administrator.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Ferris's amendment.

Mr. Foulds: Just before that, can I put a question that perhaps the minister might ask his officials? Does this legislation supersede

the general legislation of Bill 100? What I'm thinking of is, is it possible with this amendment for the arbitrator to bring in an 18-month contract, i.e., one that would end on Dec. 31? The officials nod yes, that's fine.

Mr. Sweeney: The amendment says "not later than."

Mr. Foulds: Then it supersedes that particular section of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think the answer to that is yes.

Mr. Foulds: Fine.

Motion agreed to.

Section 4, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comment on any other section of Bill 1? We have two amendments that are stacked. I guess we'll have to call in the members.

Mr. Deans: One amendment.

Mr. Nixon: There is just one amendment.

Mr. Chairman: There are two amendments; subsection 4 and subsection 5 of section 3.

Mr. Renwick: One is related to the other.

Mr. Deans: Well, one vote.

Hon. Mr. Wells: One vote and take it twice.

Mr. Chairman: Shall we call in the members?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Five or 10 minutes.

Mr. Chairman: Ten minutes, yes.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Ten after 2.

Mr. Chairman: Is that agreed? We will call the vote at 2:10.

[2:00]

The committee divided on Mr. Deans' amendments to subsections 4 and 5 of section 3, which were negatived on the following vote:

Clerk of the House: Mr. Chairman, the "ayes" are 31, the "nays" are 75.

Mr. Chairman: I declare the amendments lost.

Section 3 agreed to.

Bill 1, as amended, reported.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report one bill with amendment and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTES ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved third reading of Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I understand the time is late. I want to take only a couple of minutes to say something on third reading.

We intend to oppose third reading, obviously, consistently as we did on second, but again, obviously, since it is recorded in the annals of the House, not to divide the House. Some may feel that that's an uncomfortable position to occupy. It's obvious that in parts, in places, it's unpopular and awkward and given to misinterpretation, but whatever the temporary perils, I am glad we have taken the position that we did during the course of this bill and intend to pursue it.

I am equally glad on behalf of my caucus that the schools are opening on Monday. There were—

An hon. member: We were always in favour of that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, order.

An hon. member: Can't you read?

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: It can take as long as members wish it. There were implications, not so much here. The Minister of Education I must say, Mr. Speaker, was entirely fair in his response this morning when he said exactly what I have said now, that it was clear that all three parties in the Legislature wanted the schools to reopen. What was at issue was the method. I think I can—

Mr. Reid: It is a long, long road.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Do you disagree with your minister?

Mr. Speaker: Give the hon. Leader of the Opposition an opportunity to make his remarks.

Mr. MacDonald: Bill Hodgson, do you disagree with your minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Renwick: They weren't in the House, that's the problem.

Mr. MacDonald: They haven't even heard the debate.

Mr. Lewis: I would say I have the time.

The minister indicated, I think fairly what the position was and where the area of difference existed. Look, I will agree with those who have raised some interjections—for us to take a position in support of a back-to-work principle is a terribly difficult wrench and I conceded it to them willingly. For the members of our caucus to support the proposition that the teachers must, as a matter of law, return to the schools on Monday is a very difficult wrench, and it was not easy to incorporate it in our reasoned amendment but it was there and it was clear, and having put it, we believe in it.

We could not at the same time, and I can put this very simply to you, Mr. Speaker, bring ourselves to the additional position of supporting compulsory arbitration and I want to say to the Legislature that that wasn't something purely because of some doctrinaire or dogmatic conviction or because of alleged lobbying by teacher groups—not a single one of which put any such proposition to us—but for two quite different reasons and very briefly I want to put them to the House. One was because we felt—and this may be of no value to the government—that there had to be some alternative emerge to compulsory arbitration as the ending of strikes, and as a matter of fact we think that that debate is a legitimate part of the process of the changing views on labour disputes.

Just as this Legislature has changed its view in a number of ways in the procedures that were embodied in Bill 100, just as I remember Donald Deacon once standing in this Legislature and putting at that time an idea which I found totally offensive and now only partially offensive—the idea of final offer selection as a new ingredient in the settle-

ment of them—we felt that if society is questioning the whole rationale for strikes and the use of strikes in the public sector or elsewhere, it was legitimate to look at the means by which strikes were terminated, and we offered in good faith an alternative, clearly unacceptable to the members of this House but to us an alternative that seemed to make sense.

[2:30]

I think we've touched on something that in the long run—and how do I know? I think in the long run—will prove better than compulsory arbitration, because compulsory arbitration has never ended the repetition of the strike weapon. I think we may have touched on something that's better than compulsory arbitration when we look at the number of teacher disputes which we may at some point be recalled to deal with in a similar fashion. That, very simply, was the first reason which involved our caucus.

The second reason, and I'll tie it up, was we felt that it was worth the try for the sake of the consequences within the schools. I know that we've all played gratuitous homage to the proposition that the schools are in difficulty, and it's a God-awful situation out there in Metropolitan Toronto. The teachers feel under siege and the parents are angry and the students are beleaguered, but there are no words, really, in which to put the situation. It seemed to us that if it was humanly possible to resolve it by collective bargaining rather than by an imposition, that would serve the system much better.

I agree, I concede, having heard the hon. Minister of Education today, that the collective bargaining settlement would have been terribly difficult, he is right. The evidence he gave is consistent with that. But I think it might have been possible, and with the intervention of the Premier (Mr. Davis) I feel certain it might have been possible. If it wasn't, I admit we're back here in February or March, and there are other alternatives. But I want to point out that this bill passes and we go back into the schools with compulsory arbitration on Monday with all the feelings that that adds to the present teacher anxiety.

I want to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that never in this province have we seen such anti-teacher feeling, not just on the front page of the *Globe and Mail* but even expressed feelingly and deeply by members of this Legislature. If it's that deep in the minds of members of this Legislature, what's it like outside? In that context I want to read just

one excerpt, because I think it's appropriate. The finest document I saw through this entire, unhappy dispute emerged from the pen of the chairman of the Toronto Board of Education, Gordon Cressy, who put eloquently and, I thought, often movingly, a position which is worth just reading as this dispute comes to an end. He said:

Frankly, I am sick and tired of the abuse that is directed at our teachers day after day at this time. This abuse is based, it seems to me, on ignorance, bitterness and childish truculence. The media have a responsibility to report the news and to offer constructive comment on current issues, comment designed to help the people involved and the public at large achieve a wise resolution.

The sort of sneering invective which some commentators have dished up during the strike represents a failure to fulfil that responsibility. It is nothing less than poison, and if it is not designed to be destructive, it's certainly having that effect. These commentators may delight in their ability to stir the public to contempt for teachers. I suppose they realize, because if they don't they are fools, that this vilification of teachers is bound to rub off on students.

These commentators and members of the public who share their views may enjoy the spectacle of proud teachers reduced to bewilderment and demoralization. They should bear in mind that when this strike ends, these teachers will be back in the classroom responsible for every young person in this city.

I would have wished we could send them back by law under better circumstances. I only hope that somehow, with compulsory arbitration, the government is going to be able to salvage the harmony which the Minister of Education put so well this morning. Frankly, I doubt it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't recall in the history of this House and in my limited involvement in it that I have ever spoken on third reading. However, after listening to the Leader of the Opposition—and I have some understanding and I will not use the word "sympathy" for the position that he has found himself in in the past two or three days—I would only say to him that I listened attentively to his observations. I will not be controversial, except to make one or two, I think, very valid observations.

It is great, on third reading, to express concern about the students at the same time as

he has opposed a bill that will put the schools back to work—and the records of this House will indicate this very clearly.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is great for him to say to the members of his caucus—

Mr. Renwick: You know you are wrong.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and the members of the public how tough it is for him to rationalize his party's positions, as though it wasn't difficult for members in this party or in the Liberal Party to deal with these complicated issues.

Mr. Lewis: That is a brutally political response, and we will deal with it.

Mr. Renwick: We will deal with it, don't worry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, at least the members on this side of the House have on their conscience the fact that they were consistent; they didn't have these convoluted arguments and discussions that we have been listening to.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is one area that I will share with the Leader of the Opposition on third reading, and it's one where I guess I have greater optimism than he does. I want to repeat what I said on second reading about the Minister of Education of this province (Mr. Wells) and the moderation that he has shown—and he has had reason to be provoked; believe it or not, the Premier on occasion has reason to be provoked by the teaching profession—

Mr. Lewis: He has been very much less than you have.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have never attacked the quality of the teachers of this province. I have three kids being educated by the Peel board, where presently they may strike, and I say this: They are good teachers—

Mr. Lewis: Some legislators have.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They are good teachers, and if the members opposite think they are coming down on the side of being the only ones concerned about the quality of education

or how this system functions in Metro, they have another thought coming to them.

Mr. Lewis: Is that what concerns you?

Hon. Mr. Davis: This government is concerned about the school system; and we are anxious to see this function well on Monday and thereafter. I will tell the member something else: I have enough confidence in the teachers of this province to say that I believe it will function well starting Monday, and the children will be the beneficiaries as a result.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for third reading of Bill 1.

Those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to; third reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I would request the consent of the House to revert to the introduction of bills.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent to revert to the introduction of bills?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. This may be quite unorthodox, but the House will not mind it. I am afraid that members will leave during the course of this short debate on the rent review regulations, and I wanted to call attention—I think everyone will share it—to the fact that yet again, for the final occasion, the leader of the Liberal Party is in the House on his last occasion as leader unless the House is brought back again—

Mr. Nixon: Who knows? Who knows?

Mr. Lewis: Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, this time as last time, he is the best leader they have; I have no doubt.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Best in the House too.

Mr. Lewis: I just wanted to say, without intending to provoke this extraordinary display of adulation and reverence, that I hope his last nine days will be spectacularly tranquil.

Mr. Drea: That's the nicest stab in the back there has been.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

RESIDENTIAL PREMISES RENT REVIEW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Rhodes moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, the proposed amendments to the Act will extend various time limits in the Act for applications by landlords or tenants for rent review, for rebate of rent, and for advising parties of the date and place of hearings.

The amendments also provide that a decision of the rent review officer or the rent review board will remain in force for 12 months.

The amendments arise out of our experience with the Act since its passage on Dec. 18, and will, we believe, answer the concerns that have been expressed over the time limits, and facilitate the administration of the Act for all parties concerned.

RESIDENTIAL PREMISES RENT REVIEW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Rhodes moved second reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975.

Mr. Cassidy: The procedure is rather unusual, because the bill is only just in members' hands. But, in fact, it has been exchanged between the parties over the last couple of days, and we have agreed with the government to allow the bill to go forward without putting it into committee and with only a few brief comments—which I have been told to limit to five minutes and no more.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You have taken two already.

Mr. Cassidy: I have taken two already. Mr. Speaker, the bill would not be necessary if the government had proceeded with dispatch in order to set up the administration for rent review. Perhaps it is a reflection of the ambivalence that they had about the rent review process that they have been so slow and therefore have necessitated the introduction of this bill.

I would just say briefly that the Conservative government's reputation for managerial competence has got to be laid to rest with the introduction of Bill 2, and the extension of these particular time limits.

I would point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that Bill 20 received second reading on Nov. 20, 1975. At that time, it was very clear to the government that it would need to have offices across the province, it would need to hire rent review officers, and it would need to have its people in place in time for administration by the various time limits that were set out in the original bill.

That was not done, however. The bill was passed on Dec. 18, and it was not until Christmas week that the first advertisements appeared. The government decided to hire people from outside rather than seconding its own staff to fill the administrative posts that were required temporarily until the rent review process was in place.

It wasn't until today, 16 days after the beginning of January, that the ministry has begun to even advertise for rent review officers. They will not be in place, therefore, until after the first of February, and God knows when they will be trained.

This is not a competent way of proceeding, and that's why these extensions are needed. They should not have been required. When we come back in March, I think the ministry should defend the dilatory way in which they have put this together.

I want to comment briefly on some of the problems that we predicted would come to pass, and that are being experienced under the bill—and which we will also see and discuss in March.

There is a great deal of intimidation by landlords. A number of landlords have refused to accept cheques from tenants for the legal rent. Many landlords are threatening eviction—although that is illegal. There is a tremendous need by tenants and by landlords for accurate information and advice.

I would say that every time I hear somebody from the ministry or a landlord-tenant advisory bureau giving advice about the bill, it seems that they always make at least one rather grave and serious mistake. And that shortcoming in information is also caused by the ministry's delays in getting this bill under way.

We predicted that there would be serious problems because of the government's failure to provide for enforcement of the bill by rent review officers. I suggest that failure of the government will return to haunt us in the coming months—although it is too early to judge.

Mr. Eaton: Three minutes are up.

Mr. Cassidy: We have refrained from an all-out attack on the way the government has

been administering this bill up until now, because given the timetable that they took and given the fact that some information is available—such as the rent review book—it seemed the sensible thing to withhold judgement until everything is in place. If it had not been for this debate, I would not have even made these comments. We will have more to say about the shortcomings in administration in March.

[2:45]

The shortcomings of the government don't change our opinion of the bill as a whole. It is not, by itself, a monster, as some columnists have maintained. If it turns out to be an administrative nightmare it will have been because of the mismanagement of the government and not because of the bill itself.

On the bill itself, I wanted to say that while we have agreed to allow it to go forward without debate or discussion on specific clauses we would not be in favour of the first clause, which permits a further month's appeal on rent increases in 1975. We felt that was a wrong section to bring in. It was a wrong amendment to the bill introduced by the government and, therefore, had we the time we would have opposed that particular section in committee, since we didn't agree with it in the first place.

The need to extend deadlines for rent appeals related to the early parts of 1976 has become inevitable, given the ministry's delays in establishing the rent review administration. We questioned the extension from 10 to 30 days in the time that the rent review officers are being given to set a time and place for a rent hearing after an appeal by a landlord. I understand that will be needed at the initial points because of the flood of appeals. However, we would hope that the ministry could bring that down to 15 or 20 days after the initial months of the bill's operation.

I would like to say some more things, but I will postpone those until a later date. I would say, finally, that we welcome the ministry's decision to amend the bill so that decisions of the rent officer will be effective for at least 12 months. I don't know whether this amendment can be called technical or not, but the NDP can claim some credit for the second part of section 2, subsection 1.

One of the major problems we're finding from tenant calls was split leases and short leases in which tenants were being told that their rent was going up by eight per cent now and they faced the prospect of another rent increase in August. This amendment doesn't satisfy our objection that landlords should be able to make only one rent increase in any

12-month period, but it goes part way by permitting a tenant to force the landlord to launch an appeal, the decision from which will be effective for a year, and thereby it increases the tenant's bargaining power. We welcome that particular change and thank the government for the co-operative spirit in which it asked whether there were any technical amendments, so-called, that we might be able to put forward. With those comments, we subside for the time being.

Mr. Drea: That was 6½ minutes.

Mr. Cassidy: That's pretty good for me.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, I have a few short remarks. First, we recognize the need for the extension of time limits in the bill due to the fact that the organization did not go forward as rapidly as it should have, probably because of the Christmas and New Year's period.

I would like to draw briefly to the attention of the House the fact that one whole week was lost in dealing with this bill. It was referred to the select committee to hear public delegations for one week and to deal with it clause by clause the second week, and we were to report this bill back to the House completed by Dec. 12. Instead, for some unknown reason the Conservatives and the NDP conspired to bring the bill back into this House so that it would not be dealt with in committee. The second week, then, was practically wasted and instead of having 11 sessions on the bill, as we would have in committee, we dealt with it in only three sessions—Wednesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening in the week of Dec. 10 and 11. So the NDP and the Conservatives must jointly share the responsibility for this bill not getting through as quickly as it should have, or would have if we had left it in committee.

Mr. Cassidy: We were protecting the bill against Liberal obstructionism.

Mr. Good: That is really what has precipitated the extensions necessary in this bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is really all your fault.

Mr. Cassidy: You may be right.

Mrs. Campbell: You wanted closure.

Mr. Good: Furthermore, let me add that because of their conspiracy no public input was allowed into the clause-by-clause discussions of this bill.

Mr. McClellan: Developers are still shedding tears.

Mr. Good: We support the extensions. We think it's fair that the extensions cover all the dates that are indicated in the bill. We would throw the whole procedure out of kilter if we accepted the idea that the NDP said we should, to grant extensions for the tenant appeals but not for the landlord appeals and refunds. I think that is ridiculous.

Mr. Cassidy: We didn't say that.

Mr. Good: I do have one concern. Section 2 of the bill says where the determination of rent is made pursuant to applications under certain sections of the bill, the rent so determined shall remain in force for a period of not less than 12 months. We agree with that but I think it should be clarified that the 12 months is from the date of the tenancy agreement and not from the date of the decision of the rent review officers. If that point can be clarified in my mind, we have no further objections to the amendments proposed.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Very briefly, first of all, the reason the bill is here before the House is the fact that we do recognize that we have had difficulty in having the structures set up properly to administer the bill. I think even the hon. member speaking on behalf of the New Democratic Party recognizes that if the dates weren't changed, we were making it virtually impossible for people to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right—right now, yes.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As for the delays that have taken place, I am not going to suggest that we were not partially responsible for some of the delays, but I think all three parties in the House share part of the reason for the delays. Why was the advertising not started sooner? Why were we not setting up our structures sooner? Quite frankly, if the bill could have gone ahead as it was originally introduced, it probably would have been possible to have the structures in place.

To deal with the many amendments and the changes that were made in the bill required us to change the location of a great many of the offices that we had originally contemplated, increase their number and increase the number of staff that would be required to handle the bill, because of the additions that were made that would be covered by this bill. All I'm saying is that it is all well and good to look around for somebody to blame for it but I think we all share in this part of the responsibility in

the delay of having the bill passed in the House.

All that aside, I think what is most important is that we make the bill workable. I agree with the hon. member that it is not necessarily a monster, but it is well on the way to becoming that if we don't make these necessary amendments—

Mr. Reid: It's a bit of a Frankenstein's monster.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and get the thing so it can be adhered to by both parties, the tenants and the landlords. With respect to the section that the hon. member referred to, section 2, subsection 1, the draftsmen of the legislation, the legal officers, indicate that this is exactly what is in the bill. It is for a 12-month period and it will be for the 12-month period that the tenant is occupying the premises. If the review of the rents takes place part way through the tenancy agreement, then it is retroactive to the beginning and is kept in force for 12 months. It goes back to the beginning of the tenancy agreement and is in effect for 12 months.

There is just no question about that. I discussed it just before introduction of the bill with the legal officers and they say there is no question but that is what is intended. I think it was fully understood by the members of the New Democratic Party when we discussed it with them.

Mr. Cassidy: Would the minister permit one question?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes.

Mr. Cassidy: There have been statements that developers' groups have been consulted about regulations but not tenants' groups. Could the minister comment on that and make a commitment that if there are further consultations on regulations both tenants' groups as well as landlords groups' will be consulted?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I am not aware who may have been consulted in the developing of the regulations. I'll certainly discuss it with the officials because we want regulations to be in effect that will do the job well and do it equitably for all parties involved.

Mr. Cassidy: So you will consult both, if either?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'll discuss that matter with the officials.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 2, An Act to amend the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the Premier (Mr. Davis) will go to escort the Lieutenant Governor. In view of the fact that the audience was a bit limited when she arrived to open the session, I hope that most of us could remain at least for prorogation.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the legislative assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said legislative assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 1, An Act respecting the Metropolitan Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes.

Bill 2, An Act to amend the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to deliver the following gracious speech:

PROROGATION SPEECH

Hon. Mrs. McGibbon: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative assembly of Ontario:

It is now my duty to prorogue the second session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario, during which you have passed legislation to settle the dispute between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and the Metropolitan Toronto School Boards.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker and hon. members of the legislative assembly, it is the will and pleasure of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor that this legislative assembly be prorogued and the legislative assembly is accordingly prorogued.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House prorogued at 3:02 o'clock, p.m.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bain, R. (Timiskaming NDP)
Bernier, Hon. L., Natural Resources (Kenora PC)
Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
Bullbrook, J. E. (Sarnia L)
Bryden, M. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Campbell, M. (St. George L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
Deans, I. (Wentworth NDP)
Drea, F. (Scarborough Centre PC)
Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
Evans, D. A. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Ferris, J. P. (London South L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Givens, P. G. (Armourdale L)
Godfrey, C. (Durham West NDP)
Good, E. R. (Waterloo North L)
Handleman, Hon. S. B., Consumer and Commercial Relations (Carleton PC)
Jones, T. (Mississauga North PC)
Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)
Kerr, Hon. G. A., Environment (Burlington South PC)
Kerrio, V. (Niagara Falls L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Lewis, S., Leader of the Opposition (Scarborough West NDP)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Mackenzie, R. (Hamilton East NDP)
Makarchuk, M. (Brantford NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. (Bellwoods NDP)
Moffatt, D. (Durham East NDP)
Newman, Hon. W., Agriculture and Food (Durham North PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Rhodes, Hon. J. R., Housing (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Shore, M. (London North L)
Singer, V. M. (Wilson Heights L)
Smith, R. S. (Nipissing L)
Smith, S. (Hamilton West L)
Snow, Hon. J. W., Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Spence, J. P. (Kent-Elgin L)
Stephenson, Hon. B., Labour (York Mills PC)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Stong, A. (York Centre L)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Taylor, Hon. J. A., Community and Social Services (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)
Warner, D. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Welch, Hon. R., Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Education (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Ziemba, E. (High Park-Swansea NDP)

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, March 9, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the Executive Council and Parliamentary Assistants, appears as an appendix at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, March 9, 1976, being the first day of the third session of the 30th Parliament of the Province of Ontario for the despatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable P. M. McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1976

The House met at 3 p.m.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the House and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

Au nom de notre souveraine, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à l'ouverture de la troisième session de la trentième Législature de l'Ontario.

I welcome you, in our Sovereign's name, to the opening of the third session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario.

This Legislature is called into session at a time of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens and a time of careful evaluation of the opportunities open to the province. Our province today faces some critical economic realities. The economic vitality and protection of its people require, as never before, a capacity to make choices and set priorities. In recognizing this, the government of Ontario has supported and will continue to play its full role in the national anti-inflation programme, as part of its greater commitment to protect the well-being of millions of citizens.

My government has no illusions about the capacity of the national anti-inflation programme to perform without flaw or inequity. Continuing discussions relating to appeal procedures and the general performance of the Anti-Inflation Board will be pursued throughout the spring. Profit restrictions and wage limitations imposed on the public should be reflected in similar limitations on government spending at all levels.

For its part, Ontario will continue to curtail its costs and to reorder its priorities in the provincial and national interest, in the hope that other governments and the private

sector will be encouraged in the battle against inflation.

Such restraint will allow consolidation and security of essential services in Ontario. We now enjoy one of the finest and most complete social service systems in the world. To maintain and preserve what Ontarians have worked to achieve in this field, it is necessary to streamline government programmes regularly to prune out redundancies or waste that might arise.

The province's financial commitment to health, education, social and municipal programmes will not be reduced. The 1976 Ontario budget to be introduced by the Treasurer on April 6 will indicate that the province will be spending more on all these services than ever before. Needed constraints are being applied in certain areas so that essential services may continue to be provided with adequate funds and, where necessary, be permitted to expand.

We must face the fact that government spending at all levels is a major cause of inflation. It is a time for the government, for the Legislature, for agencies receiving public funds and for the people to reassess programmes and define priorities in terms of needs rather than wants.

This year, the increase in provincial funds transferred to the municipal sector will be eight per cent over the amount transferred last year. Municipalities and school boards will be responsible for ordering their priorities, with a view to an acceptable municipal tax load, municipal services and local needs.

The challenge in the years ahead will be to preserve the quality of the social and material environment that has been created. My government believes this can best be done by maintaining a healthy climate for free enterprise which, in turn, will provide the capital investment and the new job opportunities that are needed. Employment security is the only real income security a free society can afford for the vast majority of its citizens.

By limiting government activity to essential services, vital capital and manpower will

be available for a more productive and buoyant economy. Unnecessary expansion of colleges, universities, schools, hospitals and other major capital projects will be curtailed wherever possible. Highway construction not yet commenced will be limited to the most essential work.

[3:15]

A strong economy will require the co-operation of labour and the private sector to protect our standard of living, employment levels and international competitiveness. Specific foreign trade initiatives, aimed at exporting complete large-scale development projects, will be pursued through overseas trade programmes with a view to generating jobs in Ontario.

There are few problems more urgent than dispute resolution in the labour relations field. The Ministry of Labour will intensify its examination of the collective bargaining process with the aim of recommending substantive changes to reduce the incidence of industrial conflict.

Legislation will be introduced to provide that public funds which are not spent because of strikes by school board employees will be returned to the public through reduction of local taxes.

My government is aware of its responsibility to ensure that those who are in genuine need receive social assistance. On the other hand, those who have alternatives to assistance must utilize them to contribute to their own well-being. People who have opportunities for employment, whether part-time, seasonal or full-time, will be required to take advantage of those options and, in fact, seek them. A system will also be initiated to provide recipients of financial assistance more active help in locating employment.

The government believes that universal accessibility for all citizens of Ontario to an efficient and technologically superior health care system is a critical priority for the taxpayer. The Ministry of Health will, therefore, concentrate on improving the provincial health system to maintain the highest levels of health care while at the same time making it as cost-effective as possible. Savings will be achieved, affecting three to four per cent of the total present hospital service capacity in the province by reducing the total number of beds, and by amalgamation of services among hospitals in the same area.

There will be no reduction in nursing home beds. The budget for ambulance programmes and research will be maintained with no reduction. Community health programmes

for children and adults, public health units and home care programmes will continue to receive strong support. Occupational health services will receive top priority.

My government gives the assurance that all essential health care needs of the people of this province will be met. It must be emphasized that the constraints being implemented are cost-effective measures. The overall results will allow health resources to be used more effectively for the benefit of all who need them.

The long-term security of Ontario depends in great measure on the protection of our agricultural production. To this end, in support of an overall effort to achieve a national plan for the farming community, provincial legislation will be introduced to establish a voluntary farm income stabilization plan.

To strengthen consumer price measurement and assist in the overall assessment of the national anti-inflation programme, the role of the Ontario Food Council will be expanded in its research and public information functions.

Stricter meat inspection and improved livestock and poultry protection will be enforced.

Ontario will seek reciprocal safeguards for agricultural products in negotiations with the government of Canada prior to the international discussions on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. As well, marketing activities in overseas trade missions will be promoted through the Ontario Food Council.

You will be asked to support development goals for increased productivity of agricultural lands, and the use of less productive land wherever possible for more housing units.

The government will propose changes to the Mining Tax Act which, by altering the tax treatment of exploration expenses, will make exploration as attractive in years of low metal prices as in boom times. Exploration activity is vital to the mining industry, which has been a stable contributor to the economy of northern Ontario for more than 30 years and has maintained an employment level of 50,000 people.

The government will seek the support of the House for a programme of legislation to improve the administration of justice in Ontario. The judiciary will be expanded to meet the backlog of cases in all levels of courts. A Blind Persons' Rights Act will entrench in law, rights for blind members of the community. Reforms in estates law will include revisions concerning the rights of children and spouses in property matters.

A New Home Warranties Act will make provision for registration of home builders and administration of a warranty plan to protect home buyers from builder defaults and poor workmanship.

A study of the rise in alcohol-related driving offences, particularly by young people, is now under way and will be complete during this session. Based on information received through public forums and expert advice, a series of initiatives will be proposed to respond to this problem. The overall question of highway safety, accident prevention and driver education will be referred to a select committee of the Legislature for preparation of legislative recommendations to the assembly.

The prospect of energy supply shortages and price increases is a continuing concern. The government will maintain its policy of protecting the consuming public and industrial users in Ontario from energy shortages, while making every effort, short of subsidization, to cushion the effects of higher energy prices. It is my government's intention to represent strongly the interests of the consuming public and the industrial sector of Ontario in discussions with the federal government and other provinces.

A programme to upgrade insulation and energy conservation features in public buildings will be initiated in provincial buildings, hospitals and educational facilities. New buildings will be subject to higher thermal performance standards. This will establish a base for co-operation with the private sector to stimulate further energy savings.

The capacity of Ontario's economy to grow through the vitality of the private sector must be protected. This will generate the wealth that is necessary to ensure economic opportunity and employment security for all Ontarians, while maintaining government services in the fields of justice, health and education, and social programmes.

My government seeks the support of all members of the Legislature in guiding Ontario evenly through challenging economic times. Responsible, purposeful and limited government, aimed at increasing productivity, achieving economic stability and avoiding economic risks or hardship for the individual citizen, is the key to a brighter, secure and more promising future for all citizens of Ontario.

Honourable members, as you begin this new session, I wish you well in carrying out these and other important and demand-

ing duties in the service of Ontario and its people.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in order to avoid mistakes, I have obtained a copy of Her Honour's speech, which I shall now read.

(Reading dispensed with.)

ARBITRATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Arbitrations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this House be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

NEW LIBERAL PARTY LEADER

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I wonder if I might beg the indulgence of the House and our guests here today to take a moment to welcome in his capacity as Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith). [3:30]

Mr. Speaker, as did many of us, I had the opportunity of observing the convention of his party. I hope it was not overshadowed by interesting conventions since that time. I was greatly impressed by that assembly and the remarkable lack of rancour not only between candidates but insofar as my own government was concerned.

I must say that the winning margin in the 40-vote range should not be discouraging to the new Liberal leader. I can vouch for how meaningful that range of margin is and how important 44 votes can be in that sort of circumstance.

I believe that the Liberal Party in Ontario—or the Liberal Party of Ontario, whichever the case may turn out to be and it won't be easy to make that decision—was immensely well served, I say this seriously, and the deliberations there were a credit to our democratic system in this province.

In wishing the new leader well and much longevity in his new responsibilities, I wonder if I might as well pay tribute, once again most sincerely, to his two caucus colleagues, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), and the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), who acquitted themselves, in my view, with great distinction during the convention.

We do have the pleasure of welcoming Liberal leaders with some frequency in this House and it is always a pleasure for us to do so. I, for one, am hopeful that the new leader will enjoy his role as leader of that party for a good many years and attain the ultimate success of becoming Leader of the Opposition of this province, a position now enjoyed, perhaps even cherished, by the present member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis).

In all seriousness, my colleagues, all of us, join in wishing the new leader well and in expressing the hope that he does find the job satisfying. We are looking forward to working him—with him—for a strong—

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is more truth to that than what he meant!

Hon. Mr. Davis: My colleague says there is more truth to that than what I meant to say—with him for a strong, prosperous and happy Ontario for many years yet to come.

Mr. Lewis: One never makes such slips when addressing Dr. Smith. May I join in, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party in this spontaneous if momentary burst of adoration for the new Liberal leader and his excellent colleagues who did participate in a superlative leadership convention, which all of us watched, rapt and riveted, through the entire weekend proceedings.

May I say to the new Liberal leader that I hope his leadership is more secure than hospitals in Liberal ridings. I hope, too, that he has an opportunity to enjoy his psychiatric gifts, given the infinite pathology which encircles him. May I say finally, above all, to the Liberal leader, as the member for Hamilton West, I hope that he can withstand the withering intellectual profundity of the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith).

Mr. S. Smith: May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to thank, very much, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for their very kind remarks, which I know have been meant very sincerely and in excellent spirit

and respect for the democratic process. I want to assure you, sir, and this House that I intend to exercise my responsibilities as party leader in the best way that I know how and that all of us in the Liberal Party shall be dedicated to making this government work, to making this Legislature fulfill its obligations, and we hope to be entirely positive. I trust that I shall have the benefit over the next little while of making a reasonable contribution in my new post.

I wonder if I might be permitted to take a moment just to pay a brief tribute to the gentleman sitting to my left, whom I replaced in this role as party leader. I hope that I shall be able to carry out my role with the dignity, the intelligence and the devotion that he has shown for so many years. I consider it a great privilege that he is sitting beside me to be an adviser and a great help in the difficult times ahead.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, my thanks to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and to the hon. members for their encouragement.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. It is unusual to do so on opening day, but I feel it necessary to do it today because of reports in the press that I had the opportunity to hear over last evening. Last evening there were reports in the press attributed to the member for Hamilton Mountain, the hon. Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith), and I have had the opportunity since to read his speech. I want to exercise my prerogative on behalf of my constituents to appeal to you to require the member for Hamilton Mountain to withdraw those portions of his speech which refer to the sanity of the members of the constituencies surrounding his.

I am most concerned that in politics we have reached a new low, where politicians choose to attack the electorate rather than to attack the policies of those people who represent them. I would ask that you, sir, take into account the fact that this member has overstepped his bounds and take some appropriate action.

Mr. Speaker: I have not had the opportunity—order please—to study the matter to which the hon. member refers. I shall take it under advisement.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I think you should remove the embarrassment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, before this continues and before I am prompted into recalling some observations made by some members opposite that were, in my humble opinion, far more embarrassing and deroga-

tory than ever uttered by the member for Hamilton Mountain, I move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

(125 members)

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Speaker: Hon. Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Member	Constituency	Party
Angus, I.	Fort William	NDP
Auld, Hon. J.A.C.	Leeds	PC
Bain, R.	Timiskaming	NDP
Belanger, J. A.	Prescott and Russell	PC
Bennett, Hon. C.	Ottawa South	PC
Bernier, Hon. L.	Kenora	PC
Birch, Hon. M.	Scarborough East	PC
Bounsall, E. J.	Windsor-Sandwich	NDP
Breaugh, M.	Oshawa	NDP
Breithaupt, J. R.	Kitchener	L
Brunelle, Hon. R.	Cochrane North	PC
Bullbrook, J. E.	Sarnia	L
Burr, F. A.	Windsor-Riverside	NDP
Bryden, M.	Beaches-Woodbine	NDP
Campbell, M.	St. George	L
Cassidy, M.	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Conway, S.	Renfrew North	L
Cunningham, E.	Wentworth North	L
Davidson, M.	Cambridge	NDP
Davis, Hon. W. G.	Brampton	PC
Davison, M.	Hamilton Centre	NDP
Deans, I.	Wentworth	NDP
di Santo, O.	Downsview	NDP
Drea, F.	Scarborough Centre	PC
Dukszta, J.	Parkdale	NDP
Eakins, J.	Victoria-Haliburton	L
Eaton, R. G.	Middlesex	PC
Edighoffer, H.	Perth	L
Evans, D. A.	Simcoe Centre	PC
Ferrier, W.	Cochrane South	NDP
Ferris, J. P.	London South	L
Foulds, J. F.	Port Arthur	NDP
Gaunt, M.	Huron-Bruce	L
Germa, M. C.	Sudbury	NDP
Gigantes, E.	Carleton East	NDP
Givens, P. G.	Armourdale	L
Godfrey, C.	Durham West	NDP
Good, E.R.	Waterloo North	L
Grande, A.	Oakwood	NDP
Gregory, M. E. C.	Mississauga East	PC
Grossman, L.	St. Andrew-St. Patrick	PC
Haggerty, R.	Erie	L
Hall, R.	Lincoln	L
Handleman, Hon. S. B.	Carleton	PC

Member	Constituency	Party
Henderson, Hon. L. C.	Lambton	PC
Hodgson, W.	York North	PC
Irvine, Hon. D. R.	Carleton-Grenville	PC
Johnson, J.	Wellington-Dufferin-Peel	PC
Johnston, R. M.	St. Catharines	PC
Jones, T.	Mississauga North	PC
Kennedy, R. D.	Mississauga South	PC
Kerr, Hon. G. A.	Burlington South	PC
Kerrio, V.	Niagara Falls	L
Lane, J.	Algoma-Manitoulin	PC
Laughren, F.	Nickel Belt	NDP
Lawlor, P. D.	Lakeshore	NDP
Leluk, N.G.	York West	PC
Lewis, S.	Scarborough West	NDP
Lupusella, A.	Dovercourt	NDP
MacBeth, Hon. J. P.	Humber	PC
MacDonald, D. C.	York South	NDP
Mackenzie, R.	Hamilton East	NDP
Maeck, L.	Parry Sound	PC
Makarchuk, M.	Brantford	NDP
Mancini, R.	Essex South	L
Martel, E. W.	Sudbury East	NDP
McCague, G.	Dufferin-Simcoe	PC
McClellan, R.	Bellwoods	NDP
McEwen, J. E.	Frontenac-Addington	L
McKeough, Hon. W. D.	Chatham-Kent	PC
McKessock, R.	Grey	L
McMurtry, Hon. R.	Eglinton	PC
McNeil, R. K.	Elgin	PC
Meen, Hon. A. K.	York East	PC
Miller, Hon. F. S.	Muskoka	PC
Miller, G. I.	Haldimand-Norfolk	L
Moffatt, D.	Durham East	NDP
Morrow, D. H.	Ottawa West	PC
Newman, B.	Windsor-Walkerville	L
Newman, Hon. W.	Durham North	PC
Nixon, R. F.	Brant-Oxford-Norfolk	L
Norton, K.	Kingston and the Islands	PC
O'Neil, H.	Quinte	L
Parrott, Hon. H. C.	Oxford	PC
Peterson, D.	London Centre	L
Philip, E.	Etobicoke	NDP
Reed, J.	Halton-Burlington	L
Reid, T. P.	Rainy River	L
Renwick, J. A.	Riverdale	NDP
Rhodes, Hon. J. R.	Sault Ste. Marie	PC
Riddell, J.	Huron-Middlesex	L
Rollins, C. T.	Hastings-Peterborough	PC
Rowe, Hon. R. D.	Northumberland	PC
Roy, A. J.	Ottawa East	L
Ruston, R. F.	Essex North	L
Samis, G.	Cornwall	NDP
Sandeman, G.	Peterborough	NDP

Member	Constituency	Party
Sargent, E.	Grey-Bruce	L
Scrivener, Hon. M.	St. David	PC
Shore, M.	London North	L
Singer, V. M.	Wilson Heights	L
Smith, G. E.	Simcoe East	PC
Smith, Hon. J. R.	Hamilton Mountain	PC
Smith, R. S.	Nipissing	L
Smith, S.	Hamilton West	L
Snow, Hon. J. W.	Oakville	PC
Spence, J. P.	Kent-Elgin	L
Stephenson, Hon. B.	York Mills	PC
Stokes, J. E.	Lake Nipigon	NDP
Stong, A.	York Centre	L
Swart, M.	Welland	NDP
Sweeney, J.	Kitchener-Wilmot	L
Taylor, Hon. J. A.	Prince Edward-Lennox	PC
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.	Don Mills	PC
Villeneuve, O. F.	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry	PC
Warner, D.	Scarborough-Ellesmere	NDP
Welch, Hon. R.	Brock	PC
Wells, Hon. T. L.	Scarborough North	PC
Wildman, B.	Algoma	NDP
Williams, J.	Oriole	PC
Wiseman, D. J.	Lanark	PC
Worton, H.	Wellington South	L
Yakabuski, P. J.	Renfrew South	PC
Young, F.	Yorkview	NDP
Ziamba, E.	High Park-Swansea	NDP

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Hon. W. G. Davis	Premier
Hon. R. Welch	Minister of Culture and Recreation
Hon. J. A. C. Auld	Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet
Hon. R. Brunelle	Minister without Portfolio and Chairman of Cabinet
Hon. T. L. Wells	Minister of Education
Hon. G. A. Kerr	Minister of the Environment
Hon. L. Bernier	Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. J. W. Snow	Minister of Transportation and Communications
Hon. M. Birch	Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Hon. C. Bennett	Minister of Industry and Tourism
Hon. W. D. McKeough	Treasurer, Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. A. K. Meen	Minister of Revenue
Hon. W. Newman	Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. S. B. Handleman	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Hon. F. S. Miller	Minister of Health
Hon. J. R. Rhodes	Minister of Housing
Hon. D. R. Irvine	Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
Hon. D. R. Timbrell	Minister of Energy
Hon. J. P. MacBeth	Provincial Secretary for Justice and Solicitor General
Hon. J. R. Smith	Minister of Correctional Services
Hon. M. Scrivener	Minister of Government Services
Hon. H. C. Parrott	Minister of Colleges and Universities
Hon. J. A. Taylor	Minister of Community and Social Services
Hon. B. Stephenson	Minister of Labour
Hon. R. McMurtry	Attorney General
Hon. L. C. Henderson	Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Mr. F. Drea	Assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Mr. R. G. Eaton	Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
Mr. D. A. Evans	Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications
Mr. W. Hodgson	Assistant to the Minister of Housing
Mr. T. Jones	Assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Mr. N. G. Leluk	Assistant to the Minister of Culture and Recreation
Mr. L. Maeck	Assistant to the Minister of Education
Mr. K. Norton	Assistant to the Treasurer and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs
Mr. D. J. Wiseman	Assistant to the Minister of Health
Mr. P. J. Yakabuski	Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Wednesday, March 10, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I have here a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, signed by her own hand.

Mr. Speaker: By her own hand, P. M. McGibbon, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain additional sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1976, and recommends them to the legislative assembly. Toronto, March 10, 1976.

Perhaps before we start the proceedings, I might announce this is an historic day in the House, I think you will agree. In accordance with the decision of the House last session, the Speaker's advisory committee suggested that today and for a few days an actual test be made of filming the proceedings of the House. This will allow the technicians to study the minimum lighting requirements and other technical matters.

Also, the new sound system is not really functioning at its top performance, so the House might have to put up with something less than maximum desired performance for the first couple of weeks. There will be several adjustments made during this two-week period and tests made. Then, during the break two or three weeks hence, hopefully the thing will be put in proper order. I would ask that the background noise be kept to a minimum for one thing, and that everyone speak up and speak directly into the microphones as much as possible.

Statements by the ministry.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, the supplementary estimates that the House leader just tabled for the 1975-1976 fiscal year amount to \$207 million. I just wanted to remind the House—

Mr. Lewis: Now, that's restraint.

Hon. Mr. Auld: —that these supplementaries are included in the revised expenditure total published in the January issue of "Ontario Finances." I want to stress that they are not in addition to the deficit that we published at that time.

KIRKLAND LAKE TEACHERS' NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement and bring the House up to date on a situation concerning the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and its secondary school teachers.

The contract of the secondary school teachers of that board expired Aug. 31, 1975. Well before that date and since that date they have been negotiating for a new contract. As part of the process under Bill 100, those teachers voted to go on strike and they struck the Kirkland Lake Board of Education on Jan. 12, 1976. I might say that there are 96 teachers involved and 1,650 pupils. Since that time, negotiations have continued off and on between the board and its secondary school teachers.

Last week I asked the Education Relations Commission if it would report to me as to whether the programmes of the students in the Kirkland Lake Secondary School would be affected by the continuance of this strike. The Education Relations Commission held a hearing in Kirkland Lake last Saturday and a further hearing with the board and the teachers here in Toronto yesterday. The parties negotiated from yesterday afternoon until 4 o'clock this morning; however, they came to an impasse. I would have to say that negotiations in this particular dispute appear to be at an impasse and nothing further seems to be taking place nor does it seem possible that anything further will take place.

This morning I received a letter from the Education Relations Commission and a statement regarding this dispute, and I will quote from the summary at the end of their two-page summation and decision on this matter. They say: "In summary, however, it is our

opinion that the continuation of the strike in this dispute will place in jeopardy the successful completion of courses of study by the students affected."

Therefore, we are doing as we did in the dispute between the Metropolitan Toronto Secondary School teachers and the boards in Metropolitan Toronto. Having reviewed the situation and considered all the alternatives, and particularly the fact that an impasse in negotiations appears to have been arrived at, we have arrived at this conclusion. This government feels that we have no alternative other than to introduce a piece of legislation this afternoon forcing the teachers back to their schools, ending any lockout, if such were to exist in that area, and having the matter settled in the same manner and through the same procedures as the Metropolitan Toronto dispute was settled. Therefore, the piece of legislation that we intend to introduce this afternoon is, I would say, a parallel type of legislation to the one we introduced in the Metropolitan Toronto dispute. I intend to introduce it at the introduction of bills later on this afternoon.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: Is that your resignation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister for Correctional Services has the floor.

Hon. J. R. Smith: I rise on a point of privilege, not in response, I may say, to the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) to apologize through the House for the language used with respect to the most recent report by the Ontario Economic Council dealing with education, housing and social equity.

The council has, of course, every right to comment upon or differ with present or past government policy—

Mr. Singer: What a fall was that!

Hon. J. R. Smith: —or to advance new alternatives to broad public discussion.

Mr. Roy: Did the Premier (Mr. Davis) write that for him?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Any suggestion in my speech of March 8 to the contrary or the

suggestion that such activities in some way are subversive, I deeply regret. My disagreement with some of the suggestions in the report should not allow me to comment detrimentally on the role of the council or its right to offer views or criticisms based on its independent assessment.

I apologize to the Legislature and to the council for my inappropriate remarks in this regard. I thank the House for its indulgence with respect to the point of privilege.

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you resign?

GO TRANSIT

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to the House that in order to relieve crowding on the GO Northwest trains operating between Georgetown and Toronto, a fourth train in each direction is to be added to the five-day-a-week schedule.

Specific times of the new schedules, which will become effective in late April, are being studied by the CNR and the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority. Details are expected to be announced early next month by the transit operating authority, which administers GO Transit on behalf of the government.

The additional trains, combined with minor rescheduling of existing trains, will enable commuters to choose between earlier and later departures both morning and evening. The new early-morning run will enable commuters from Brampton and Georgetown to reach Malton and Etobicoke for earlier day-shift work.

I should add that even with the addition of these trains, the service provided in the northwest corridor is not likely to keep ahead of demand. Since its introduction in May, 1974, the northwest service has grown from an average of 1,500 passengers per day to more than 4,000 and that kind of growth is expected to continue.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

PAYMENTS TO WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Lewis: I was asleep at the switch, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services, who clearly anticipates it: Can I ask the minister to provide for the Legislature a single concrete example from anywhere in the Province of Ontario of a

group of single-parent families, mother-led, who have refused to work when offered jobs, in order to back up what can only be described as his fatuous and offensive remarks about single-parent families and women on social allowances everywhere?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I simply refute the comments that my remarks were fatuous. On the contrary, the proposals that my ministry has in terms of tightening up legislation and regulations with regard to the eligibility of recipients of welfare have been known for some time and we are proceeding with those regulations. If there are persons on welfare who are receiving payments who should not—

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean “if”?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —be receiving payments, then I am sure he will agree they need to be weeded out. If the member expects me to review all of the welfare system files, then—

Mr. Moffatt: Give us one example.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. Basically what the member is doing is making an accusation.

Mr. Martel: You are making the accusation.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: He doesn't agree with what I am prepared to do in terms of general welfare. He doesn't agree with that. He would have everyone on welfare if he could, because that's the policy of his party; but if he would care to review the files, the general welfare assistance files, throughout this province, I would be happy to accommodate him in that regard. If he wishes to review the family benefit files, I would be happy to accommodate him in that regard. All he is trying to do is to make an accusation and to adopt a position contrary to what we have been trying to do in terms of tightening up the welfare system.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should keep this to a question period and not so much of a debate. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may proceed.

Mr. Lewis: May I say, Mr. Speaker, in your presence, that that offer is accepted. We will accept it. I accept it on behalf of the caucus, to review the files. We will do that. Now, the supplementary is simply this: Does the minister not think that he as a minister who

supervises the entire social allowance programme in Ontario, supervises the entire day-care programme in Ontario, has a political and moral obligation to provide facts on which his assertions are based? And did he know that it is his ministry which has consistently refused to provide the support services to these very women when they have requested jobs?

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again it's a matter of another accusation or statement on your behalf.

Mr. Lewis: We will document it chapter and verse for you. My own riding—I can read it to you—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right, you can say that if you wish but it's not correct at all.

Mr. Bounsall: Absolutely true.

An hon. member: It's only partly accurate.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you want the facts? You know you've always had the facts from me. Whatever you've requested in terms of facts I've provided you with facts; I've provided you with figures in the press.

Mr. Cassidy: We have had rhetoric and rubbish.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Look at your correspondence that you've had from me. I've been most co-operative and sensitive to the needs of the people and you know that.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister tell us to which body of psychological expertise he has referred when he decided that single parents—single mothers in particular—of school-age children are better working in industry than they are working at home to provide a secure environment in a family already bereft of one parent? Which body of psychological expertise has led him to this brilliant conclusion?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly not yours.

Mr. S. Smith: You have reached a new height.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say this: There have been no suggestions that the child should be taken away from its mother. We are eliminating the area of discrimination in terms of sex which, of course, you have been advocating, I'm sure, for a long time.

Mr. Nixon: Force the mothers out of the home.

Mr. S. Smith: You are going to force single parents out of the home.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're not discriminating as to whether it's a male or a female. There has been no suggestion that young children be taken away from parents.

Mr. S. Smith: No, you're taking the mothers away from the children.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We haven't suggested that at all. I certainly haven't suggested that.

Mr. Cassidy: Of course you have.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But there are situations where—

Mr. Lewis: Get them out of their bathrobes is what you said.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you wish to learn and if you wish to listen, I can tell you this—in talking with the welfare administrators throughout this province, if you want some empirical evidence then you go and talk to them about their working experience—

Mr. S. Smith: I already have.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and you will learn something. You will find that there are, in fact, dependent children who may be 18, 19 or 20 years old who are not in the work force but are receiving benefits as dependent children.

Mr. Warner: And there are lots of jobs available?

An hon. member: That wasn't the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you wish those children to receive public welfare and to sit at home, then come out and say it. Stand up and say that you're in favour of not only the parent but dependent children of that age, for example, sitting at home, whether they be male or female.

Mr. Lewis: You should resign.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order. It's very difficult to hear with the sound system, as I mentioned earlier, as it is. Please, we would like fewer interjections. It's very difficult to hear.

Mr. Bullbrook: If you cut down the answers you will get fewer interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow another supplementary from the member for Wentworth. Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question: How does the minister equate his current position that mother-led, single-parent families should go out and find employment with the actions of his ministry to cut off the home daycare programme for the very women who are currently in the job market, operating and working, and who are not going to be able to take advantage of it?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, it is cut off.

Mr. Deans: It is cut off.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, you're just giving another example of a distortion and something that is basically incorrect.

Mr. Deans: It is not.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. If you want to learn something I'll give you another little lesson. In the fiscal year—

Mr. Nixon: Jim, what can he learn from you?

Mr. Lewis: It's good this is on television.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's why you're jumping up.

Mr. Singer: That's why you should sit down.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In the fiscal year 1976-1977 there will be \$6 million in capital funds put into new daycare construction in this province.

Mr. Martel: That was carried over from last year.

Mr. Deans: I asked about home day care.

Mr. Martel: That's carried over from the \$15 million.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: All in Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is no question about that. There are 56 daycare centres involved in the capital expenditure of \$6 million in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Deans: That's not the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right, you're talking about day care, I'm telling you there's going to be more day care.

Mr. Deans: Home day care?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In regard to those day-care places, that will involve 2,250 new daycare places—

Mr. Deans: On a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. Let me finish.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are afraid of the answer.

Mr. Speaker: This is generating into a debate and it is not slackening off. Yes, the hon. member with the point of order.

Mr. Deans: I specifically referred to the home daycare programme. I wasn't talking about daycare centres. I wasn't asking how much the government was spending on them. I was asking how the minister was able to equate his current position with the cuts that his ministry is currently effecting in the home daycare programme which will take people out of jobs and back onto welfare. Try that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister replies as he sees fit, of course, to all questions; that's true. Does the hon. member for St. George have a supplementary? This will be a final supplementary on this question then.

Mr. MacDonald: He should deal with the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we'll have the other supplementary, the final supplementary.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say how pleased I am that the minister doesn't choose to discriminate. I wonder if he would tell the House just precisely what steps he's taking to equate the obligation of the footloose and fancy-free father of the children in this programme?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Very simply, the regulations will apply equally to the male and the female. You can see that for yourself in so far—

Mr. Cassidy: Just as they get equal pay when they go to work.

Mr. Lewis: That's the first non-sexist policy of the government.

Mr. S. Smith: Let's not waste the whole question period on this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should get on to the next question. Does the

hon. Leader of the Opposition have further questions?

OHIP PAYMENTS TO PRIVATE LABORATORIES

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Health, if I may. Has the Minister of Health been made aware that the public relations office of the ministry is indicating that OHIP payments to private laboratories in the year 1975-1976 will reach a minimum of \$66 million—up 45.4 per cent over the amount of 1974, up almost \$7 million even over the Henderson report estimate—and that it looks as though the figure may climb to \$80 million, given the method of payment? What exactly does he intend to do to intervene in the gross and ill-advised public expenditures on private labs?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly aware of the totals; the figure of \$60 million to \$70 million is the range I would expect to hear for private labs.

I think, though, to single out private, profit-making labs as a culprit and the only culprit in the growth of hospital and health costs would be unfair. I feel the member is singling them out because they make a profit, not because of anything else.

Mr. Bounsall: Exorbitant profits.

Mr. MacDonald: That's why Leslie Frost introduced public hospital insurance—to eliminate the profit!

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think one has to realize that the source of their business remains the medical profession and remains the hospitals of the province, and that in fact the hospitals themselves have pointed out, quietly at times, that they've transferred business they could have done from their labs in the hospital to the private sector. I'm very concerned about that because obviously we gave them a global budget for functioning of their labs in a given year. I can assure the member that in the very near future we will find means of utilizing spare laboratory capacity in public labs in this province that are in the hospitals, because I have no intention of hospitals being able to shift some of their costs out of their global budget and into OHIP.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, is the minister willing to launch either a judicial or legislative inquiry into the methods by which OHIP pays the private labs and into the apparent practices of some of the labs as they are related both to the performance of their work and their relationship with the medical profession?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I know the Premier (Mr. Davis) some time ago said we were considering the matter and were prepared, if necessary, to have an inquiry; and I certainly would totally agree with that point of view. I think what we have to do is find out whether this is as widespread—in other words, the illegal part—as reported in the press or not widespread. I'm very concerned; the laboratories are concerned about it; the Ontario Medical Association is concerned about it. Long before the press got the story we had been preparing our own internal review, which incidentally I was just getting ready to prepare when Abko's name hit the press.

Mr. Shore: They just beat you to it, is that it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is that we will keep an open mind, I think, as the OPP collects information on the first of these cases. We will have a better idea when we've straightened out their books.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton West with a supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Given that the minister admits his tremendous concern about the fact that the private labs are an extremely expensive vehicle right now, and possibly being misused, how can he justify closing the public health labs, such as those in Woodstock and in Kenora, an area which is disadvantaged in Ontario? How can he justify closing these admittedly efficient, well-run labs, in order to make imaginary savings and transferring automatically certain proportions of this work into the private sector?

Mr. Laughren: He is a private enterpriser, like you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member has made a couple of assumptions, and a little bit of truth always sounds pretty good.

Mr. Nixon: That sounded fine.

Mr. Reid: Let's have some from over there.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: He knows the provincial public health labs do certain types of tests not done by anybody else at all, and therefore—

Mr. S. Smith: Some are.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, roughly 10 per cent in some cases.

Mr. S. Smith: Between 10 and 15 per cent.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is that in a case like North Bay we are able to transfer the great bulk of the clinical work into the local hospital labs, where it should go, and I am told without any budgetary change. Now those two are unrelated statements. The question is, we have a lot of labs in the province. We froze the licensing of them, I think it was in 1972. Scarcely a new lab has been licensed since. We are now on the point of cutting back and we will be cutting back in the near future on the types of tests individual labs can do.

Mr. Speaker: The member for High Park-Swansea with a supplementary.

Mr. Ziembra: I am curious about the \$80 million figure; and the minister is suggesting that it could be \$60 million or \$70 million. Does he recall the meeting at Seneca College, when I suggested that private labs would be paid about \$80 million for the year 1975 and he said that was wrong, and it would be no more than \$50 million? How come, in the space of two weeks, he has added an extra \$20 million?

Mr. Shore: Apologize, right.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am not permitted to ask him a question, I guess, am I, in response?

Mr. Roy: You can ask; he can't answer.

Mr. Deans: He can't answer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: A sudden thought crossed my mind. I am wondering if the fact that he is trying to be a facsimile of the former member for that riding—

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: Deal with the issue.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —has anything to do with the fact that I have been told a facsimile of him has been going around saying he is an inspector of my office.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am just wondering if it has. It's something quite serious if it turns out to be true.

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer to the question?

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, if I may, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MacDonald: What has that got to do with the question?

Mr. Lewis: The minister is raising something that he obviously—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Has the hon. minister completed his answer?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't know whether anyone in the NDP has ever said he was working for my ministry and gone into the laboratories.

Mr. Davidson: I can't think of anyone who would want to.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Please let me ask the member that question privately. I'll speak to him later.

Mr. Lewis: I will rise on a point of privilege after the question period and ask the minister to explain.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: I have another question of the Minister of Health: In view of the increasing evidence from all of the small community hospitals which he has closed down that the figures provided by the ministry are in contradiction to the figures which are provided now by the communities themselves, will he review each and every decision on these hospital closings, and will he allow a considerable period of retreat, six months or more at least, so that the Legislature can make an assessment of the propriety of this programme?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, certainly in visiting some of the hospitals where I asked for closure, I pointed out that my basic purpose was to trim the number of beds in a geographic area to those we thought were necessary, and at the same time effect savings by so doing. As members know, only a few beds were saved through total closures of hospitals—in a range of, say, 500 in round figures. Another 1,500 or thereabouts may have been saved through wing closures, rather than hospital closures.

We pointed out that the dollar savings per bed effected by closing a total hospital were generally higher than those obtained by closing equivalent numbers of beds in wings of hospitals. So in a given area it might be hard to supply all of their needs and get all of the savings we deemed were possible.

[2:30]

I haven't closed the door at any time upon suggestions for alternative ways of saving those dollars in a given geographic area in which I selected a hospital. I suspect some suggestions of this type will come to me. I've heard rumours that they're working on some alternatives. I know the Premier (Mr. Davis) is meeting with members of hospital boards—I believe tomorrow and probably next week again—and I'm sure we will be quite interested in any alternatives.

Mr. Lewis: One supplementary if I may—a quick supplementary: Has the minister yet prevented the imminent resignation of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) by providing him with proof of the cost savings for the Doctors Hospital closing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I sincerely hope I have. I think one will have to let the member answer that question.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: In view of the minister's statement that he would be willing to entertain suggestions from the various regions where these hospitals have been closed and where these town economies are being threatened and destroyed—in view of this suggestion that he is now open to other suggestions from the community to find alternative ways of saving the money apart from closing these hospitals—may I take it that that is an invitation to the people in the area of Chesley and the area of Durham, and all the various centres that he has closed, to reopen the negotiations? And may I ask him why he couldn't have asked them to do the sensible thing in the first place, instead of announcing that he is going to close the hospitals?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In the case of Chesley, the answer would be no. The decision is final on Chesley.

Mr. S. Smith: Which ones are not final?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The cameras are on you; just wave your hands a little more.

Mr. S. Smith: Never mind insulting me.

An hon. member: You know the facts. You know the facts about Chesley.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will please answer the question.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You just need to check with your members. They're talking to me regularly and they know it and you know it.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Sargent: Wouldn't the minister agree that with the hospitals he is closing, the total of dollars involved is a bit less than \$9 million, and with the 5,000 people that we're talking about involved in the whole picture, the net saving may be \$4 million? Wouldn't he agree that he should leave the closings alone? He's only saving \$9 million in total.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Only \$9 million is a lot of money.

Mr. Drea: That's fast Eddie.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The problem with my budget is that if one talks percentages, they're always tiny. If one talks dollars, they're immense. I keep repeating, one per cent of my budget currently is \$34½ million.

Mr. Sargent: It is going to cost \$5 million to relocate those people.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In effect, I have to find savings where I can find them.

Mr. Sargent: So your net savings are \$4 million.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What level of savings is worthwhile? If \$9 million is not, what is worthwhile in your opinion?

Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton West with his series of questions.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, continuing on this particular matter, I would like to ask the Minister of Health a question. Could he please provide us and provide the people of Ontario with a list of which of the small-town hospital closings are still open for reconsideration and which are not? How much additional time is he prepared to give to this matter for the communities to come forward with suggestions?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have told each hospital as I've visited them.

Mr. S. Smith: Tell us.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Will you listen?

Mr. S. Smith: Yes.

Mr. Roy: Tell us.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Just hope Pierre doesn't get mad at you, Smithy.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I might say—no, I won't say it. Each hospital was told the day I visited it that it had the right to appeal my decision. I tried to say—particularly clearly, I would say, in Clinton because that was the last of the cases—I tried to say in other areas that we would consider alternatives. The hospital that has been in so far is the Paris Willett hospital. Doctors Hospital has not yet been in but I understand it is coming in next week. I understand that Clinton is coming in tomorrow; Durham is coming in next week. I understand that those are all the hospitals yet to come. Bobcaygeon has been in to see me.

Mr. Sargent: Chesley isn't going to close. I will tell you that. You wait and see.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: I did not ask him who had come in to see him; I appeal to him. I had asked which are the hospitals on which he is still willing to reconsider the closing order. I presume he is willing to reconsider Clinton, Paris and Durham if they are able to effect other savings by alternative means in the area. Is he also able to give us the whole list of hospitals for which he would be prepared to consider alternatives rather than closing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's it. You've got it.

Mr. S. Smith: This is not a game; these towns are suffering.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Can the member name other ones that are involved?

Mr. S. Smith: Doesn't the minister know which hospitals he has closed? They're Coper Cliff, Virgil, Bobcaygeon, Kemptville—

Hon. F. S. Miller: I mentioned Bobcaygeon a moment ago.

Mr. S. Smith: Just give me the list. That's all I ask.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is only one person on the floor at a time. A supplementary from the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Can I understand what purpose this exercise is

designed to serve? Is the minister saying to the hospital that he will consider an alternate medical use of the facility? No? That is not allowed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I don't mean that quite that way at all.

Mr. Lewis: Just so that the minister takes the Legislature into his confidence, since we have not been sitting, what kind of alternatives can the hospitals put to him which he will then evaluate? For instance, Durham and Clinton—there are two good examples.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes I'm glad to answer these questions. The member knows he has three more hours with me right after 3 o'clock.

Mr. Lewis: Not on this subject.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I suspect it will come up. The fact remains, though, that if there were alternative uses for a facility being proposed by communities—perhaps for argument's sake, and this shouldn't be construed as a possible specific case, the Paris hospital came along and said, "We'd like to be half-chronic and half-nursing care," and made a suggestion to that effect, if we had deficits in those kinds of areas, sure, we'd consider that as an alternative use. We're talking about the appeal, though, from hospitals which say they want to remain active treatment hospitals as such.

Mr. Lewis: You will allow that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No. I'm saying they had the right to come back to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and state their case and be heard, after which the decision would either be reaffirmed or changed.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Grey.

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the member for Grey. He is on his feet.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have an alternative for the Minister of Health. Would he consider taking a further one-half of one per cent cut in the hospital budgets across Ontario which would give him the same \$10-million saving to allow these 10 hospitals to stay open?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I wouldn't for this reason: This year, after a great deal of discussion with hospitals, we agreed to selectively cut budgets of hospitals.

Mr. Good: It would hit too many Tory ridings.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Some hospitals have had \$1 million plus taken out of their base this year. Others have had none taken out of their base. That choice was made with the consent of the Ontario Hospital Association and the hospitals which said that penalizing the efficient in the future was not a fair way of maintaining the inefficient.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with a final supplementary on this.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I to understand from the statement made by the Minister of Health that I can convey to the board of the Willett Hospital in Paris that the minister would give favourable consideration to the continuation of the Willett Hospital with chronic care and some other care associated with it, rather than the minister's programme now which would result in its being boarded up and abandoned?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We will not manufacture uses that don't reflect a need in a community. That's fair enough, isn't it?

Mr. Nixon: It is.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member will recall that the day they came in, I touched on chronic care, and he may remember that they said they weren't too interested in it. Does he recall that?

Mr. Lewis: No, they did not say that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The Leader of the Opposition was not there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Does he mean that the eavesdropping system works that well? The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was there. Did they or did they not imply that?

Mr. S. Smith: All right. Is it still open?

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister asked me a question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but you are not allowed to answer it.

Mr. Nixon: —is it proper then to assume that the Paris-Willett is one of the hospitals whose closing is not complete, final and irrevocable?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, because the member has not received replies from the Premier (Mr. Davis) through me.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, we got a nice letter from the Premier.

Mr. Shore: What has the Premier got to say about it?

PROVINCIAL TAX REVENUES

Mr. S. Smith: We will give the Minister of Health a rest and we'll turn our attention to the Treasurer. Since it is obvious, even with the institution, admittedly, of needed economies at the municipal scale, that nonetheless there are going to have to be very substantial mill rate increases in the vast majority of municipalities across this province, could the Treasurer explain to us why, in his view, property tax is now considered by him to be a more appropriate method of raising revenue than other forms of taxation open to him at the provincial level?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, there are several assumptions in those questions which I don't necessarily agree with.

Mr. S. Smith: There won't be any rate increases?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: There are indications that there will be tax increases in the province this year. My own guess is that they will not be as severe as we at one time had thought. I noticed, for example, in the city of London that they expect to strike a rate for the municipal side of about four mills, which I would guess—

Mr. Peterson: They have not got them.

Mr. Good: They haven't got the education centres.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's on the municipal side, and it will work out to a not unreasonable amount, I am sure. I am sure that across the province generally serious efforts are being made, both by municipalities and school boards, to cut expenditures and to cut back to essentials; and I am satisfied that when that is done, the tax increases in the province will not be all that unreasonable.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the Treasurer assure us that any increase in provincial revenues during 1976-1977, including those generated by tax increases and the expiry of last year's pre-election tax cuts, will be shared with municipalities according to his Edmonton commitment—or has he reneged on that totally?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that these are matters which will

undoubtedly be discussed at the time of the budget.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Hamilton West have any further questions?

Mr. S. Smith: No.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Grossman: Not yet being convinced, I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Shore: Are you still a member?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health is not in his seat.

An hon. member: He has left.

Mr. Grossman: I think I see him coming.

Mr. Speaker: He is approaching.

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you join Smith and Taylor and quit?

Mr. Grossman: My question, Mr. Speaker, is that since all of us associated in any way with the Doctors Hospital are convinced on whatever analysis it be, even if it be a per diem statistic, that the hospital remains one of the most efficient in the province, would the minister therefore either acknowledge that efficiency or inefficiency had no part whatever in the decision to close the Doctors Hospital; and if it did have a part, could he specify the ways in which the ministry believed the hospital to be inefficient?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have never said any hospital was closed totally because of inefficiency.

Mr. Good: You said it just five minutes ago.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Listen a second: I made selective budget cuts in hospitals that were inefficient, not total closures. Closures were based upon the supply of beds in a given area—such as the Huron county area, such as the Grey county area, such as the Metro Toronto area—and we had a job to decide which hospital should close. In the case of Metro Toronto, several factors not related to efficiency were my reasons for choosing Doctors Hospital. One was its size; it happened to be lower than the total number of beds we required. Somewhere in the order of 400 within the city had to be closed: it had 319. Second was the fact that it had made proposals to me, which I accepted in good faith, saying it needed to be rebuilt at a cost of \$15 million. Those two basic reasons were the primary reasons for its selection in Metro Toronto.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Is the minister able to provide any concrete evidence of the beds that are available in the downtown core to which Doctors—

Mr. Grossman: I have a supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: I'm sorry; I didn't realize. My apologies.

Mr. Speaker: The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, I'm sorry, I didn't see you.

Mr. Grossman: You will have to get used to looking this way a little bit—at least until we finish this subject.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to ask the minister, in view of that answer, since there will be 12,000 cases displaced this year to Doctors Hospital due to the closing—and I think it's fair to assume that those will be spread over three or four adjacent hospitals, since two of those hospitals, Western and Mount Sinai, did not get a decrease in their budgets—

Mr. Singer: Question.

Mr. Grossman: Here it comes—would it be fair to assume that those hospitals, Mount Sinai and Western, would qualify as somewhat inefficient.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the very fact that they did not get a budget cut would qualify them as efficient.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary.

Mr. Grossman: Supplementary: Surely the fact that they did not get a budget cut is related to the fact that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member had his supplementary. The hon. Leader of the Opposition with his supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: Very quickly, can the minister provide any evidence to the Legislature, can he provide us with any material to show where these surplus beds are in the downtown core to which the 12,000 patients over the year will be referred, because I want to tell the minister we can't find them.

[2:45]

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I have been a bit appalled that you looked to your left instead of your right in selecting questioners. But let me just say this; in the downtown core we have estimated the number—in fact, in Metro Toronto—the number of beds available on a population basis.

Mr. Lewis: Where is it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can only say this; the assumption that we are closing hospitals because beds are empty is not correct. Beds are not empty in any hospital to speak of in the Province of Ontario. It's axiomatic that doctors fill beds with patients until, in fact, the hospital is running very close to its overall ability.

Mr. Roy: Why did you close all those hospitals then?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Sometimes there are patients in halls. These are used as examples, then, of an overload in the system. The fact remains that medical management does not improve until the total number of beds is brought in line with the total needs of the population. In other words, people are there unnecessarily.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Armourdale with a final supplementary on this subject.

Mr. Givens: Why did the minister permit Doctors Hospital to make an expenditure of \$350,000 on the installation of a new air conditioning system only last December if he intended to close it down in February?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think, Mr. Speaker, when one looks back at the approvals for any given institution they usually take in several—

Mr. Sargent: That would keep us open for a year.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They have usually taken several years to come to a point where they are actually done.

I think it is safe to say that while staff in my ministry for some years have fought and recommended to various people that hospitals could be closed, it has just not happened before. So it is quite understandable that routine approvals for improvements in plants, such as that one, carried on on the assumption buildings would continue to exist.

Mr. S. Smith: You don't plan a year ahead in your ministry!

Mr. Peterson: You need more staff.

INCO SMELTER WORKERS

Mr. Martel: A question of the Minister of Health: Is he prepared to table the report on the converter workers at the Inco smelter, undertaken in 1973?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will get an answer to that question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martel: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If as indicated in the report, three times as many converter workers have chronic bronchitis as do refinery workers, what does the minister intend to do about it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think it would be rather presumptuous of me to tell the member until I have learned something about the problem.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary on this, because the last answer doesn't really indicate much room for a supplementary question. But we will hear the question from the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: To the Minister of Health: If, as we believe, the report indicates that there is three times the incidence of chronic bronchitis among the converter workers, will he then advise the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) to include chronic bronchitis as a compensable industrial disease?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all I don't make that decision. But in the last while the Province of Ontario has shown—in fact, it is the only place in North America—that it is willing to recognize classes of disability before a person had to stop work because of illness. I am taking that approach in the general attitude. I am sure my colleague in the Ministry of Labour is going to be, too. We are trying to protect the workers.

Mr. Martel: The minister has been sitting on the report for 18 months.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. Bullbrook: I would like to direct a question to the Premier in two parts, if I might.

Firstly, has his government in any way formulated a policy of response to the pronouncement by the Prime Minister of Canada that his government is contemplating the unilateral repatriation of the constitution? Secondly, in light of what might well be a confrontation with respect to the constitution, would this government reconsider its position and permit us in this assembly to debate the consequences of Ontario entering into an agreement with the federal government abdicating our rights and responsibilities under the anti-inflation programme?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think they are really two distinct questions from the member for Sarnia, with respect, not entirely related. But I shall endeavour to deal with the two questions because I knew he felt perhaps he wouldn't have an opportunity to ask the second.

With respect to the first question, Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the Prime Minister of Canada, he did indicate to the premiers of the provinces some months ago that he was anxious to once again set in motion consideration of constitutional reform and patriation of our constitution.

In response to this, he had one or two individuals visiting the various governments in Canada, and I think I am right in this, I think I recall meeting one of the representatives personally to whom I indicated that by and large Ontario's position would be approximately what it was in Victoria in 1971. I think I gave the impression, hopefully so, that I assumed there would be some first ministers' conference, that it would be discussed openly and that it would be done with the total support—this is giving and taking a little bit on individual items—of all the provinces in conjunction with the federal government.

The first minister's statement, in his observations to the Quebec wing of the Liberal party of Canada—that is the same group in Quebec that is represented here in the House, I guess, in Ontario—his observations—

Mr. Roy: What are you trying to say?

An hon. member: Don't make Pierre mad.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What was your position in 1971? You didn't have a position.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —at that time indicated—and as I say, it was an indication from the press; I have not gone to the Prime Minister personally—that he was considering doing this, perhaps, on a unilateral basis. I made it clear, I hope, in a few remarks in public on Monday at noon, or 1 o'clock, that I thought this was regrettable and that any alteration to our constitution or how it is to be dealt with should be done in consultation and with the support of the provinces, and that remains my position. I just question, Mr. Speaker, whether the Prime Minister would in fact seriously consider moving ahead without consultation and the support of the provinces of Canada.

I also made the observation, Mr. Speaker—and I don't want this to be misunderstood

and I hope the first minister of this country heard those observations—that while Ontario was quite prepared to sit down and discuss matters on the constitution, that if I had a scale of priorities at this moment, and as I said to a public gathering of some 1,300 people, I think if any of that 1,300 were establishing a scale of priorities, the question of constitutional reform would be very close to the bottom of the list.

Mr. Sargent: Hospitals are first, though. Closing hospitals is first.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And I want to say this to the House, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Shore: What would be the next closest?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no; I am not being partisan in this at all. I am saying to members of this House that, you know, we can only accomplish so many things. Government can only do so much and that I would like to think that the energies of the first minister and the government of Canada, and the energies of myself and the ministers and the members of this House are directed toward the economic problems that face Ontario and Canada today—

Mr. Bullbrook: Don't do this. Answer my question. We don't need a speech.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and not that of constitutional reform.

Mr. Bullbrook: We don't need a speech.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no; but listen—

Mr. Bullbrook: With the greatest respect, just answer the question.

Mr. Yakabuski: You're getting the facts, so don't wreck it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —I think the member for Sarnia really should want to hear my reaction.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Premier has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Now, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Reid: Are you supporting Bourassa? What's your policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Premier has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I called the Premier of Quebec. I read the headlines Monday morning and I did call him. I was offering him a membership in the federal Tory party of Canada.

Mr. Reid: Which party? Which one?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to say, in fairness, he did not accept that, he did not accept that.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: What did you say to him on the phone?

Mr. Bullbrook: After what you did to Wagner, he wouldn't accept, I will tell you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, to answer the second question, which was really not related or supplementary, from the member for Sarnia, as to whether or not there would be an opportunity to debate the legality or the constitutionality, if that is the right term, of the federal bill itself or of the agreement that was signed by this province with Ottawa, I would say with respect, Mr. Speaker, we have asked the federal government to have questions directed to the Supreme Court of Canada where the two matters that I think are really relevant in the total issue would be considered by the Supreme Court of this country. I would think, Mr. Speaker, until an answer is received from Ottawa as to whether or not they will do this or support this, and if the answer to that is in the affirmative, and I sincerely hope it will be, then I would think that we should wait determination by the Supreme Court of Canada as to their views as to whether or not it was constitutional or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary. The member for Sarnia.

Mr. Bullbrook: One supplementary, if I may, with respect to the second question and the Premier's latter response. Wouldn't the Premier agree that an application with respect to our right to debate, and the validity therefore of his signing the agreement, won't be necessary if he permits us to debate? One recognizes, if I may, the question of the constitutionality of the federal statutes, but we can avoid any application on the second matter by permitting us to debate the matter here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the member for Sarnia is committing the parties opposite, both parties, that if we go through a day's debate, that he will support the agreement that has been signed by the government of Ontario with the government of Ottawa, then I would agree with him.

Mr. Bullbrook: I did no such thing—no such thing at all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course he's not saying that, so that a debate in this House does not solve that problem. I can't follow the logic.

Mr. Bullbrook: It is a parliamentary procedure called debate.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Premier why he does not take advantage of the Ontario Constitutional Questions Act and refer it himself through the mechanism of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to the Court of Appeal, instead of waiting for Ottawa to do something which he should do? Because what is being questioned by members of this House and by the professor in the arbitration—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the question has been asked.

Mr. Singer: —was whether or not Ontario acted constitutionally.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I haven't practised law for quite a while, unlike the member for Wilson Heights, so I won't presume to give a legal opinion. But I think I can go on the assumption that if there were a preference to the Court of Appeal in Ontario, that if either party who undertook that reference wasn't totally satisfied with the result, there would be a further appeal then to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Singer: In the meantime you wait while Ottawa dallies about.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Recognizing the great public interest, and properly so, and the urgency of the situation, we think it is very advisable to move to the highest court immediately to get that decision.

Mr. Singer: The only thing that is happening is the school board is going to—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I recognize that may not be the logic of the member for Wilson Heights, but I think, with respect, it certainly makes a great deal of sense to get it to the Supreme Court of this country and get the final decision as soon as we can.

Mr. Singer: And slough off the responsibility that you should take.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes presented the annual report of the Ministry of Housing for 1974-1975.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that the report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses and the returns from the 1975 general election and the preceding by-elections have been tabled and distributed to the members through the post office.

Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that standing committees of the House for the present session be appointed as follows:

1. Procedural affairs committee.
2. Administration of justice committee.

Committees 1 and 2 combined, under the chairmanship of the chairman of the administration of justice committee, will function as the private bills committee.

3. Social development committee.
4. Resources development committee.
5. Miscellaneous estimates committee.
6. Public accounts committee.
7. Regulations committee.

Which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, provided that all boards and commissions are hereby referred to committees No. 1 to 4 in accordance with the policy areas indicated by the titles of the said committees.

Public accounts for the last fiscal year are hereby referred to the public accounts committee and all regulations to the regulations committee.

All standing committees shall report from time to time their observations and opinions on the matters referred to them, with the power to send for persons, papers and records.

That there be no duplication of membership among committees No. 1 to 4 inclusive; or between committees No. 5 to 7 inclusive.

That substitutions be permitted on any committee provided that notice of the substitution is given to the chairman of the committee prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this motion carry?

Mr. Singer: No, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of questions that arise out of this motion, as there usually are when this motion is put every year.

Let me ask the minister, first, what is the usefulness of the regulations committee? The regulations committee was established a few years ago with lots of sound and fury; it was going to give the Legislature an opportunity to question the usefulness of the regulations. What in fact it has got to now is whether or not the regulation is within the four walls of the enabling statute, and anyone could draft a regulation within the four walls of any of the regulatory powers in any of the statutes.

[3:00]

So the committee does absolutely nothing. It is a useless committee, and unless this House gives more power to that committee to question policy behind the regulations, then it's just an exercise in complete and utter futility. We are going to take up the time—very little time, because the committee doesn't do anything—of 12 or 13 members of this House who are going to assemble regularly and pass whatever is put in front of them. They are going to incur the extra expense, I suppose, of the chairman's salary; and I suppose it was rather clever when the House leader arranged all this that he passed off that chairmanship on one of the members of the Liberal Party and therefore we were supposed to keep quiet about it. But we are not going to keep quiet about it. I think it is a pointless and useless exercise. Why we have to follow that kind of a position, because a number of years ago somebody said it would be well to have a vehicle whereby we can question the usefulness of regulations, to do it in this form, I don't know. I would like to hear the minister explain that at some substantial length.

The second point I'm concerned about, and this House has been concerned about over a great number of years, is the question of substitutions. Why there should have to be a notice of substitution to the chairman of a particular committee in advance of the hearing of the day, why it shouldn't be permitted at any time, I don't know. I think that is a very strong feeling of many members of this House. Certainly it is my feeling.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we ran into this problem earlier in so far as select committees are concerned. I think this House should spell out in this resolution, as it proceeds through its process, that there is a right to any member of this assembly to attend at any hearing of any committee established by the assembly and to take part in those proceedings, subject to the ordinary rules of order.

Now something new came forth. The member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) evolved as a

new member, a brand new idea that committees could cut off other members of the House, and as chairman of a select committee he did that. I think that is wrong. I think it is a negation of the democratic process and I think it's time this House established a method whereby the rights of the members are recognized, and the time to do it is in this resolution. Those two suggestions, I think, are very important toward the proper function of the committee system, and I would hope that the minister would see fit to embrace them in some form in the resolution that is presently here.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Ottawa East.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, just briefly on the regulations, I think the House leader is aware that the Camp commission is looking at the role of certain committees, and in fact the regulations committee, and I would like to get the House leader's response to whether he is prepared to change the terms of reference of that regulations committee? As my colleague has said, the only way we could, in fact, ensure that the regulation was within the four corners of the Act would be to have a whole legal committee scrutinizing every regulation. I think the minister knows the amount of regulations that are put through, and have in fact been pushed through by the government, which have received no scrutiny whatever from anyone.

I'm saying to the House leader that unless some substantial change is made to the regulations committee and the power of that committee to look at the merits of the regulations, then the regulations committee is a useless institution. It is, in fact, involved in a very useless exercise. So I'm saying to him, unless we in this party can see some substantial changes coming forward in the operation of this committee, I say to the House leader that we should not encumber ourselves in a meaningless exercise of having a committee set up, and I suppose the only purpose of it is for the chairman to make some extra dollars by being paid something extra.

Really, let's get involved in a situation where we in this House are involved in a useful and meaningful purpose, to look at the merits of these regulations. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, the original approach of setting it up to peruse regulations could have been a very meaningful and useful process. No one really looks at the merits of these regulations, and unless that's changed I don't think we should continue being involved in this charade.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Lakeshore. Before the hon. member commences—

Mr. Nixon: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if we could have the Conservative caucus meet elsewhere while this debate is on?

Mr. Speaker: That is what I was just going to draw to the attention of the House. Order, please. The level of background noise makes it almost impossible to hear; so could we please have fewer or lower, or both, conversations? Thank you. The hon. member for Lakeshore has the floor.

Mr. Lawlor: I am sorry, I much prefer the foreground noise.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You didn't know Hughie was over here.

Mr. Lawlor: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, what has been said on this issue is right, and reconsideration of the role and ambit of authority of that particular regulations committee ought to be made. It was first initiated under the aegis of the McRuer report. A very strong case indeed was made for the validity of such a committee in reviewing them, because as we all know regulations have the same weight as the law itself, and may divert, may distort. Policy decisions that go into the thing are as important as what is discussed in this House, and from that point of view itself there is a recognition that as things presently stand on the terms of reference there is a serious deficiency.

What on earth is holding the government up with respect to the rectification of that? We have argued for the past couple of years on this particular matter. Either abolish the committee completely or make an amendment that makes the committee have some viability.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, there is one matter which you personally, I believe, could deal with. It was raised by my colleague, the hon. member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer), and that is the question as to whether each of the individual members of this assembly has the right or has not the right to participate in the work of any committee. Certainly it was always understood that they did have the equal right, even with committee members, to participate, except for voting. I may be incorrect in that, but in my experience they weren't even asked to sort of sit in a corner and speak last if they chose to do so.

The members of the Legislature were considered; certainly in standing committees at least, and I always considered it to be the same in select committees, individual members could participate in the debate and influence the course of events to the extent of their own ability and knowledge.

Now if there is some question about that I believe you, sir, are in a position to set that aside. It may be very difficult, if not impossible, to have the matter settled by motion of the House, and I feel that it is in your realm of responsibility, with whatever advice you seek, to make a pronouncement on that and it would be acceptable. I would ask, sir, before the committees start to meet, that you make it very clear that each individual member of the assembly has the right to participate in the workings of all of the committees, except of course with a vote.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments concerning substitutions. It's been my experience in the past that it would be by far better to allow each individual party to have, for the number of members they are allowed on the committee, unlimited substitution without reporting necessarily to the Chair.

For example, we are allowed three members in one of the committees. One of the members may be called out for an urgent telephone message. In the meantime there are other members from that same party who are present; they should be allowed to vote in lieu of the other member, without necessarily reporting to the chairman. We are only allowed three members and it shouldn't matter which of the three members vote. The party itself decides which of the three are going to represent the party position at the time of the voting. I certainly would hope, Mr. Speaker, that any member be permitted to speak on any topic at any time in any of the sittings. He may not necessarily have the right to vote, but he should be allowed to express his own thoughts and his own feelings, and this is especially true when it comes to the public bills.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House leader will consider not necessarily recording the individuals who are going to vote on behalf of the party before the meeting takes place, but doing so just before the votes takes place. There will always be a leader for each of the caucuses there and that individual can state who the voting members are going to be.

Mr. Good: Numbers are all that is required.

Mr. B. Newman: Numbers are all it means, really.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to contribute to this debate? Yes, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I really don't want to contribute to the debate, but you recall last year, because of the particular wording of the motion, my colleague, the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), who was chairman of the estimates committee, found himself in some difficulty. I am really vitally concerned about the wording of the motion itself, and unfortunately there is only one copy. Do you mind rereading the motion dealing with the fact that there is adequate power within the committee? Do you recall the problem we had, sir, last year—you were going to rule on it—that there is adequate power in the committee to summon all documents that are required for their purposes?

I don't see it in here. Frankly, it is the very problem we had last year. Maybe I'm not reading it properly, and I hate to hold the time of the House but—

Mr. Singer: Why don't you take it back and rewrite your motion?

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm wondering if the House leader could possibly respond?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It says, "the power to send for personal papers and"—

Mr. Bullbrook: Thank you very much. It is included.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Bellwoods.

Mr. Bullbrook: I didn't realize the hon. House leader was omniscient, because sometimes we make mistakes—like last year he made the mistake. He left it out. He left it out last year.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other hon. members to participate in this. Does the hon. House leader wish to sum up or respond?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to these two points. I think there has to be a little bit of understanding at the beginning of a session, and if this isn't the way we're to work, I think perhaps we might then have some instructions from our respective caucuses as to how they would prefer that we do work. The House is in complete control of this situation. This is the motion to set up the committees of the House. We had thought that with House leaders appointed from each caucus there was to be some degree of negotiation and discussion which would be taken back to our respective caucuses with respect to the ordering of the businesses of the House.

The House leaders met some days ago—it seems like at least two weeks ago—and we discussed all of these matters to provide ample opportunity for them to go back to their caucuses and to ascertain whether or not these arrangements were satisfactory. The point being that if, in fact, there was some way to avoid undue delays in getting on with the people's business here, we could have that opportunity to do it.

Mr. Nixon: Why didn't you call the Legislature back a couple of weeks ago?

Mr. Reid: Why didn't we come back in January?

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I must say this, we don't have this particular problem with the official Opposition. I always know where we stand with the official Opposition in this House.

Mr. Nixon: You are always in bed with them.

Mr. Roy: Why do you take the time of the House with that? Just answer them.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. House leader has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Welch: If, in fact, we're simply being told there is no way to arrive at some consensus from the third party's group, and we're going to go through this all the time, I can assure them that it just will make it that much more difficult to order the business of the House.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Are you trying to remove the rights of the individual members?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If the third party doesn't want a regulations committee, then why don't we just dispense with the regulations committee?

Mr. Bullbrook: He will send you back to run Wintario.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Wait a minute. The point is, the rules call for the—

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The point is, we are advised that this is a statutory requirement, to have a standing committee.

Mr. Nixon: You will have to change the law, Bob.

Mr. Reid: You were just advised.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It just indicates the amount of co-operation that exists between the two parties.

Mr. MacDonald: You know where we stand.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You obey the law and they don't, is that it?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is sufficient to say at this point that, really, perhaps the simplest way is to leave the motion the way it is, constitute the committee, as the member for Wilson Heights so correctly pointed out—although I resent the fact that it was sort of thrown to the Liberal Party as a pawn.

Mr. Singer: Well it was.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The member wasn't at the meeting. In fact, it is quite obvious that all he does is wait for the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) to go to the meeting and then he harpoons him after he has been to the meeting making agreements.

Mr. Singer: I come to some of my best conclusions if I am not at the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I wouldn't take the member for Kitchener's job for three times the salary, working with you guys.

Mr. Roy: How good are you in controlling Smith over there?

Hon. J. R. Smith: We are good neighbours, Albert.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith) is in control of himself. There is no question about that.

Mr. Roy: That is why he apologized today.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. House leader continue. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Why don't we let the committee go ahead? The members are going to check and if, in fact, the Camp commission studying the whole committee structure has some other ideas, then we can perhaps discuss them at that time.

On the question of substitution, I don't know how else we can really run an orderly shop without having some indication at the beginning of the meeting who is, in fact, representing who for the purposes of the vote. I think we've taken 15 minutes to

discuss these matters, which is just some indication on the part of a couple of members that they didn't want their House leader to recognize that, notwithstanding the agreements he makes, they reserve the right to appeal here in the House.
[3:15]

Mr. Singer: What is the matter? Did they ignore you, too?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No such problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that a select committee of 12 members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient dispatch a list of members to compose the standing committees ordered by the House, such committee to be composed as follows:

Mr. Villeneuve, chairman; Messrs. Belanger, Germa, Good, Hall, Hodgson, Lane, Lawlor, Makarchuk, McNeil, Moffatt and Worton.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Bullbrook: Does the chairman of that get \$2,000.?

Mr. Singer: Yes.

Mr. Bullbrook: Does he really? That is obscene.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further motions?

Introduction of bills.

KIRKLAND LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS' DISPUTE ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think I gave an explanation before the orders of the day about this bill. I understand that an arrangement has been made that we will begin debate on it tomorrow and, hopefully, secondary schools in Kirkland Lake will be open next Monday.

REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1975

Hon. Mr. Welch moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Nixon: This is establishing the constituency of "Sanity Island."

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this amends the schedule of the Act changing the names of two electoral districts, Durham North, by this legislation, will now be known as Durham-York. And the electoral district of Welland will be known as the electrical district of Welland-Thorold.

Mr. Samis: "Electrical?"

Hon. Mr. Welch: Electoral; did I say "electrical?"

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was there the other day.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Is this the important business we have to get on with?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, this bill has really two provisions. One, it amends the requirements for vehicles hauling ready-mixed concrete having public commercial vehicle licences. The second provision deals to some degree with the one-way trip leasing of trucks over 28,000 lb.

MEMBERS OF COMMODITY BOARDS ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Members of Commodity Boards.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to prohibit a person from being a member or continuing to be a member of a commodity board while he or she is in violation of its own regulations and rules.

Mr. MacDonald: It's what you call a Joe Hodgson amendment.

Hon. W. Newman: On the contrary—

DRAINAGE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Drainage Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, this is basically an Act to allow us to use a lawyer with 10 year's experience or more when we can't find a judge to sit as a referee.

TERRITORIAL DIVISION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, this is purely a technical amendment intended to bring the Territorial Division Act up to date in regard to a minor point of wording. In the passage in question the Act deals with territory around the head of Lake Ontario and refers to townships in that territory. Since there are no longer any townships there, this amendment simply substitutes the term "local municipalities".

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, this amendment provides the municipalities with greater flexibility in the arrangements they may make for the financing of local improvements along boundary roads, in which the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) has some interest.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the amendments in this bill deal with the administration of the Act. Under the first amendment in this bill, responsibility for the administration of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973, is transferred from my ministry to the resources development policy field by means of a re-definition of the term "minister" as used in the original Act.

This transfer of responsibility is simply a reflection of the fact that the Niagara Escarpment Commission is now thoroughly established and is moving ahead on its plan for the Escarpment and the surrounding area and is therefore concerned with the broader issues of policy that are also of concern to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

A second amendment establishes the commission as a legal entity with the power to appeal various matters to the Ontario Municipal Board and to the courts.

A third amendment clarifies a point that was strongly implied but not specifically stated in the original Act in respect to the status of municipal bylaws in instances where development control has been imposed and then withdrawn. Under this amendment, which is retroactive to June 10, 1975, municipal bylaws which have been set aside during the period of development control are automatically restored once development control is lifted.

The fourth and final amendment to this bill deals with another aspect of the administration of development control. This amendment removes the element of what one might call personal licence from the right to develop a given piece of land so that the right to development, once granted, runs with the land regardless of who may assume ownership of that land. This change is based on a principle that is widely recognized as being in keeping with good policy and practice in regard to development control in the broadest sense of the term.

GIFT TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Reid: I thought you said we weren't going to have much legislation?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the major purpose of this bill is to provide an exemption from tax under the Gift Tax Act for

contributions made in accordance with the Election Finances Reform Act, 1975.

A second amendment in the bill would restrict exemptions from tax to those recipients of a gift who are resident in Ontario. It also stipulates that the aggregate of exemptions claimed by a donor with respect to gifts of shares in a small active business corporation which is also a farming corporation cannot exceed \$75,000 so that two exemptions cannot be claimed for the same gift.

The third and final amendment is a tax simplification measure which will remove the requirement for filing returns under the Gift Tax Act, 1972, and paying tax thereunder when an allowance or refund of tax will occur under the recapture provisions under the Succession Duty Act. This will avoid the payment of gift tax which would subsequently be refunded in any case.

INCOME TAX ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the major amendment in this bill parallels federal amendments to the foreign tax credit provisions of the federal Income Tax Act. The amendment is required under Ontario's income tax collection agreement with the government of Canada.

The second provision shifts the calculation of the provincial tax reduction from tax payable to taxable income for Ontario residents paying \$61 or less in Ontario income tax.

The final provision alters the taxation year for which tax credits can be claimed so that, for example, an Ontario resident who became a bankrupt and who turned 65 years of age in a particular calendar year is not precluded from claiming his pensioner tax credit for that year.

EMERGENCY MEASURES REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. MacBeth moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, the title of the bill is self-explanatory.

[3:30]

BLIND PERSONS' RIGHTS ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to provide for Certain Rights for Blind Persons.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, this Act prohibits the barring of trained guide dogs accompanying a blind person in any public accommodation, facility or service, or in the occupancy of any self-contained dwelling unit. This act will replace the present White Cane Act and will significantly extend the rights enjoyed by blind people in Ontario.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the County Court Judges Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, this amendment is complementary to recent amendments to the federal Judges Act. Its purpose is to extend to county courts the procedure now available in Supreme Court whereby a retiring judge may elect to hold office as a supernumerary judge and thus be available for further judicial work.

JUDICATURE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Judicature Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is threefold. It increases the number of judges of the High Court by five, from 31 to 36 judges. It extends to the divisional court the provisions now applicable to the Court of Appeal whereby a judgement of the court may be rendered notwithstanding the death, resignation or retirement of one of the judges who heard the appeal. It also extends to the divisional court the ability now enjoyed by the Court of Appeal to have a single judge of the court dispose of in chambers procedural and technical issues instead of having them dealt with by the whole court, in open court.

EVIDENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Evidence Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the amendment removes any doubt that might exist about the propriety of using as evidence in any action or proceeding an affidavit sworn before or in the office of the solicitor of a party to the action or proceeding.

SURROGATE COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Surrogate Courts Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, this provision actually is a repeal of a provision which provides for additional allowances paid by Ontario to county court judges in respect of surrogate court work load. The repeal of this provision is necessary by reason of federal legislation which provides for such allowances. The additional allowances in respect of provincial duties are now all contained in the Extra-Judicial Services Act.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Authorities Protection Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, briefly, the amendments provide as follows: Firstly, the provision amended prescribes a limitation period of six months for actions against public authorities. The amendment changes the time of when the period commences to run from the time the act was done to the time the cause of action arose to ensure that actions are not excluded when consequential damages do not occur until a later date. In other words, there may be an act or omission which occurs on one day but the actual damage which gives rise to the cause of action may not occur until some months later. This is to extend the limitation period accordingly.

Further, the proposed amendment also allows the limitation period under the Limitations Act, which is six years after the cause of action arose, to apply to proceedings against a sheriff for an error in certifying as to a writ of execution which binds land, and to proceedings against a land registrar for an error in performing his duties under the Registry Act or the Land Titles Act.

Finally, the amending legislation will permit actions to be brought under the pro-

posed amendments even though they are presently statute barred.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP. AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Burr moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corp. Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to allow the profits from Wintario to be used to support any non-profit project of any community-based organization.

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day, I wish to inform the House of an unfortunate incident which occurred during the interval between sessions. On Jan. 20, at approximately 4 o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the vault in the office area of the Clerk of the House.

Primary investigation by the fire marshal indicated that the cause of the fire was a non-thermally protected ballast in a fluorescent light fixture. However, subsequent laboratory examination has not been able to pinpoint the exact cause of the fire.

Considerable damage was done to some of the records of the House, principally from 1968. However, I'm happy to report to the House that the provincial archives personnel report the majority of the documents lost will be replaceable. Because of the time required for electrical and construction work to be carried out in the fire area, members may experience some delay in obtaining copies of documents they would normally receive from room 110. However, the Clerk of the House has assured me that every effort will be made to maintain the usual service.

I'm sure the members of the House would want me to express their gratitude to their city of Toronto fire department, personnel of the Ontario Government Protective Service, the Ontario fire marshal's office, the Ministry of Government Services and particularly to the conservation staff of the provincial archives who are continuing to work diligently on the restoration of the sessional papers of this House. It was through the diligence of patrol superintendent George Sloan of the protective service that this building escaped more serious damage, which could indeed have been disastrous.

Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. minister have an opening statement?

Hon. F. S. Miller: A very brief one, Mr. Chairman. As members are keenly aware, the costs of health care in Ontario, as in the rest of the world, have been rising at an extraordinary rate.

During the earlier part of this year a great deal of news coverage and discussion centred on my ministry's very necessary constraints programme. While savings have been achieved within the ministry already, and the savings in the system will be achieved in the coming year, certain supplementary funds are required in the current fiscal year.

For hospitals we will need an additional \$85 million, and payments by OHIP will cost an additional \$18.5 million, for a total of \$103.5 million. The original estimate of \$723,972,200 for payments under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan provided for a 3.5 per cent increase in the use of medical services. However, the actual increase experienced this fiscal year is about seven per cent, or 3.5 per cent above the rate provided for in the 1975-1976 estimates. Consequently, supplementary funds in the amount of \$18.5 million are required to provide for this 3.5 per cent increase.

In the estimates, no provision was made for the Ontario Nurses Association wage settlement. From July 1, 1975, to March 31, 1976, this settlement will cost \$35 million. I might add here that the cost for a full year is estimated at \$63 million. As may be expected, with the advantage of hindsight the allowance for inflation during the year was underprovided. The inflation allowance contained in my 1975-1976 estimates represented 12.6 per cent for the fiscal year, exclusive of nurses' salary adjustments. These figures have been reassessed at 16 per cent to Dec. 31 and 10 per cent from then to March 31, 1976. An additional \$34 million will be required for these and other salary adjustments.

[3:45]

There were also some necessary commitments for which no provision was made in the estimates. These account for the balance of the \$85 million and include such items as the hospitals of Ontario pension plan,

\$2.9 million; transfer of psychiatric services from Oxford Regional Retardation Centre to Woodstock General, \$203,000; incentive payments to the hospitals for 1973, \$1,323,000; and the Canadian Red Cross blood transfusion service, \$2,669,000.

Finally I would like to say a word about our hospitals. Despite budgets already strained by earlier constraints, the hospitals in Ontario managed to live within one per cent of their global budgets this year. I have to say that's a pretty good achievement, considering the size of the system.

The need to restrain advancing health care costs has forced everyone in the health system to be more imaginative, innovative and productive during the past year. Our recently announced constraints package will draw the lines even closer, but I am confident that, with the kind of people and the kind of facilities we have in Ontario, the public will continue to enjoy the benefit of the finest health care system in the world.

Mr. Chairman: If it is agreeable with the House, the two critics for the respective opposition parties will be allowed, hopefully, a brief opening statement on the supplementary estimates generally, with a brief response from the minister. Then we will get into the two items that we have to cover separately: health insurance, and general hospitals and related activities. Does the member for the official opposition have an opening statement?

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, did you say two speakers?

Mr. Chairman: The two lead-off speakers.

Mr. Sargent: We have a number of speakers.

Mr. MacDonald: You have only one lead-off speaker.

Mr. Ferrier: You have a lot of speakers over there.

Mr. Chairman: There will be two lead-off speakers who will speak to the estimates generally, and then we will get into the separate votes.

Mr. Nixon: Just before we proceed, Mr. Chairman, are we to understand that after the lead-off speeches from the two opposition parties, any member can participate in the votes as you call them, expressing their views and getting further information?

Mr. Chairman: Precisely.

Mr. Sargent: I am not clear. Do I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the third speaker cannot go into it full steam, or does he just speak to a certain vote?

Mr. Nixon: Well, he'll have to establish the background to make the request clear.

Mr. Chairman: That's right.

Mr. Sargent: Why do you draw it at two, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: What the Chair is trying to establish is that there will be an official party position by the lead-off speaker for the official opposition and then one for the Liberal Party, at which time, if the Minister wishes, he can reply. Then we will deal with the two specific items, Nos. 1 and 2, where anybody will be given an opportunity to speak to those specific votes.

Mr. R. S. Smith: On a point of information, Mr. Chairman, as far as the two items are concerned—one is health insurance and the other general hospitals and related activities—are you going to allow debate on the provincial laboratories on the first item and the hospitals generally in the second item?

Mr. Chairman: Anything dealing with OHIP payments will be dealt with in the first vote.

Mr. Nixon: That's pretty general.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Parkdale.

Mr. Duksza: We in the New Democratic Party agree wholeheartedly with the minister that health care in Ontario could be made more efficient. As anyone with common sense understands, efficiency can be achieved in one of two ways: One, service can be maintained at present levels and costs lowered; or, two, costs can be maintained at present levels and services improved. Yet it is also clear to every person of common sense that the minister's recent actions achieve neither of these objectives. The policies, if they deserve that title, are irrational and inefficient. He intends to reduce services significantly and he will fail to achieve any significant saving in cost. He attempts to mislead the public into believing he will rationalize costs and services, when in fact he will do neither.

Instead of attempting genuine improvements, the minister is simply pursuing political expediency. We must not be deceived by the minister's present performance. He is attempting to transform his government's image from that of being a spendthrift and

deplorably lax administration to a tight, tough budget-conscious government wanting to trim that budget even in the face of personal abuse and political opposition.

The recent cutbacks in social services and health services do not so much undermine the system as they represent a non-system, an absence of social policy. The programme of social services provided by the government of Ontario has always been unplanned, underfinanced, fragmented and fundamentally without any set of social objectives. The system is a catastrophic bureaucratic failure and the Premier (Mr. Davis) and his ministers must take responsibility for the system-wide impact of their policies. By this I mean not only an evaluation of the functioning of the total health care system but of the broader social service system.

Now let us examine in more detail the so-called savings. In its announcements on restraint programmes involving both bed closings and dismissal of staff, the ministry provides data about the supposed savings. Typically, with that accountant's mind of his, the minister goes into no discussion of people, work lost, opportunities wasted and human misery—only figures which, as in the past, reflect not financial reality but only the obfuscating and tendentious wish-fulfilment of the minister and his incompetent but expensive gnomes at the Ministry of Health.

The minister has closed the 10 following active treatment hospitals: Chesley; River-view; Doctors; Virgil; Durham Memorial; Willett; Oxford (with the nursing home not affected); Hillcroft; Copper Cliff, and Clinton. He has closed two psychiatric hospitals, God-erich and Northeastern. He has closed four public laboratories. In addition, he has reduced the number of beds in 36 other hospitals and has reduced staff in 69 hospitals. The minister wants us to believe that these actions will save \$40 million. The fact is that these so-called savings will not be real at all.

First of all, Mr. Miller is going to give most of this money back to doctors in—

Mr. Chairman: I must remind the hon. member that you refer to another member either as the member for Muskoka or the Minister of Health, not by his surname.

Mr. Duksza: The hon. Minister of Health, okay.

Mr. MacDonald: The Minister of Health, anyway.

Mr. Duksza: —back to the doctors in the form of an 8.1 per cent fee schedule increase. Where, then, are savings?

Secondly, because of the staff reductions caused by these cutbacks, taxpayers will be forced to pay out more in the form of federal unemployment insurance benefits. In other words, what we will have in tax dollars at the provincial level is going to cost us more at the federal level due to increased unemployment. Is this a source of saving?

When all the health cuts are effected, there will be over 3,000 health employees out of work yet the provincial government would have us believe that unemployment resulting from the cutbacks will not be a serious problem.

The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) also has demonstrated his incredible incapacity for compassion and understanding by sloughing off the employment forecast for these 3,000 hospital workers, comprising nurses, nursing assistants, service staff, etc., as not being all that distressing. The Treasurer has suggested that nursing positions in Ontario show a 25 to 50 per cent turnover rate per year, thereby providing ample opportunity for the recently dismissed employees to find positions within a couple of months' time.

Not only is this suggestion unfounded, it is both cruel and preposterous as the following findings show. The Ontario Hospital Association in its newsletter of Jan. 30, 1976, reported the results of its personnel research study to which replies were received from 66 per cent of all hospitals, representing 73 per cent of rated beds.

This study indicated that out of a total of 43,965 positions in 19 categories of hospital work, including nurses, only 554 were currently unfilled. That is a vacancy rate of 1.26 per cent. Of the 21,199 positions for nurses only 172 were unfilled, a vacancy rate of 0.81 per cent. If we assume the other hospitals which did not report have the same vacancy rates, there are 759 jobs available in 19 categories—including nurses—of which 246 jobs are for nurses specifically, whereas there will be 3,000 people knocking at the door.

The turnover rate that the Treasurer has alluded to is caused by nursing staff moving from one job to another in the health field, not moving outside to other jobs. It is therefore ridiculous to assume that cutting out 3,000 positions will not increase unemployment drastically.

The Minister of Health has stated that he will establish a committee to arrange admitting rights in other hospitals for physicians from the closed hospitals. But what of the hospital staff who will not be provided with similar opportunities? Are they going to find jobs elsewhere? The prognosis is bleak, even

according to Donald Robertson, spokesman for provincial hospital administrators.

Mr. Chairman, let us examine the levels of health care service beginning with hospitals. The hospital system in Canada has been over-financed relative to the rest of the health care. Historically, this arose for a couple of reasons.

First, hospital services were the first health services to be widely insured. Thus, to take full advantage of hospital insurance coverage both doctors and patients tended to use hospitals for general primary care. Second, hospital services are cost-shared with the federal government and have been since the mid-1950s. Many alternative services have not been. Thus there exists an incentive to over-finance hospitals. In the boom years of the 1960s this is what the Tory government chose to do. Now, in lean times, it cuts back.

After 20 years of going along with the hospitals' empire-building and their desire to become the focus of outpatient care as well as bed-patient treatment, the ministry now turns around and closes down hospitals as if they were just beds. But what happens to the thousands of people for whom those hospitals provide all their health care? Those hospitals, in other words, which have been successful over the years in endeavouring to provide more than bed-patient treatment? What happens also to the people presently using hospital beds for lack of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities?

What the government has chosen to ignore is that hospitals, and particularly the community hospitals which the minister is closing, are much more than beds. They are also places where people go to see doctors, where people get their primary medical care. The province should know this having supported, as I said just now, these hospitals' efforts to become centres for all health care.

Hospitals have contended that they are the logical places from which to offer such care because they have the experts on their staff and they have had the experience. The province has agreed, giving hospitals the money to run family practice clinics and community health clinics which are really hospital-based, general practice clinics.

People served by these hospitals are losing far more than just beds.

Further, although most people would not argue with the minister's assertion that we do have an excess of active treatment beds, the question is far more whether these beds are appropriately distributed, both by geographic and specialty placement, throughout the prov-

ince. Yet this issue is one which the rationale for the present cutbacks at no time addresses.

Also, at present these excess acute care beds are often being used inappropriately and expensively to serve people who need nursing care for chronic conditions, because there is a severe shortage of chronic care facilities. But the programmes that were already promised for home nursing, meals-on-wheels and other less expensive alternatives are also cut back. With acute care beds cut back to "rational" levels chronic patients who are now in those beds, however inappropriately and expensively, will have nowhere else to go.

In addition to being hospital-intensive, the present system is also specialist-intensive. This is another area which the Conservatives have never addressed themselves to. Specialists require expensive hospital facilities. Specialists cost a lot of money to train. Specialists make a great deal of money. Yet the current cutbacks in hospital beds are not generally being made in the expensive specialist hospitals but, by and large, in the smaller hospitals which provide both primary and secondary care.

Education in the health services is related to both these factors: It is hospital-based and specialist-focussed. Nurses get their practical training in hospitals; doctors get their training in the most expensive and specialized settings imaginable. How in heaven's name can we expect there to be a shift in current health practice patterns when all the personnel are trained to perpetuate these patterns?

[4:00]

Let me expand on this point a little. The capital grants programme of the Ministry of Health favours the building of teaching hospitals. These are highly specialized and, without exception, are based in urban areas. They encourage a distortion in the spending of health dollars. The teaching hospitals in Toronto have been engaged in warfare for beds; facilities; hardware; and teaching privileges. There has been a move to concentrate medical teaching in Sunnybrook Hospital. As a result, Sunnybrook has embarked on building more expensive facilities while of course there already exist complete surgical units, tertiary care, beds and teaching facilities in all Toronto teaching hospitals. The ministry has obviously gone along with this approach: in that damned, topsy-turvy fashion of theirs, in this year of restraint, they propose to fork out more money for extra and largely tertiary care surgical facilities, which Toronto needs like a hole in the head, while the much-needed community services provided by Doctors Hospital are being abolished.

Does, in fact, the left hand ever know what the right hand is doing at the Ministry of Health? How can the minister close 319 beds at Doctors Hospital, beds which have an 83.9 per cent occupancy rate and cost \$98 per day, and a fully functioning surgical unit, and then in turn match half a million dollars given by the federal government to provide additional space for an operating room and laboratory in the hospital teaching unit at Sunnybrook Hospital? Sunnybrook has already renovated, at great cost, a 215-bed ward which is empty for lack of money for staff.

The same things are going on with psychiatric care. The closing of psychiatric hospitals and beds, with a significant reduction of staff, will diminish the ambulatory services provided, such as community-based industrial therapy workshops and also the quality of outpatient supervision which is necessary to keep psychiatric patients ambulatory and in the community.

The minister has approached this problem like an accountant dealing with furniture appraisals as he juggles bed counts with treatment appraisals. On Feb. 2 of this year he himself said: "I can weigh life or good health against dollars." This approach has not led him into selective examinations and pruning of a system based on a rational analysis of the need, the deficiencies and excesses, but into cuts in those areas of health which are either the easiest to cut or are highly visible, or are obviously correlated with quick returns.

A ministry that chooses the management function of using balance sheets over improving health care and saving lives is bereft of any sense of morality. It is clear that the minister has chosen this approach because he feels uncomfortable grappling with the real health costs, which involve the physicians. OHIP payments to physicians in 1974 totalled nearly \$600 million, or 25 per cent of the total cost of health in the province. This is a quote from the Minister of Health's "A Financial Strategy for Ontario Health Services, 1976-1980," page 1, appendix 2:

Next to hospital staff, physicians represent the largest component of expenditure in the health system and are, therefore, of primary importance in terms of developing a strategy for controlling growth.

This document from the ministry, however, says that it is too complex and politically sensitive an issue to deal directly with these costs. Let me quote again:

While wage and fee schedule settlements affect the operating cost of health services

more than any other factor, this component of the strategy has not been considered in any further detail . . . because of the complex and sensitive political issues normally involved.

Actual OHIP fee-for-service payments per registered physician in 1974 were \$42,650. According to the document I just quoted from, the ministry projects the following: that in 1976 there will be 15,084 projected registered physicians in Ontario, with a forecast average OHIP payment of \$49,200, which by 1980 will have been raised—in projected figures—to 17,436 registered physicians earning an average of \$72,000. The actual OHIP payment of \$42,650 in 1974 is very low compared to the average physician's gross income as indicated by tax figures. That is because the ministry's estimates divide OHIP payments by all registered physicians in this province, and not just by those who bill OHIP—i.e., physicians who are teaching, on salary, and so on.

The key difficulty with OHIP has been that what started as a compromise between the interests of the consumers and the interests of the providers of health—i.e., the provision of universal health care financing while at the same time preserving a degree of professional independence for the physicians—has ended up as a system with no in-built controls over the way the bills are presented and consequently over the way the money is disbursed.

There has been virtually no control over whether or not the physician has actually performed a service. It is reasonable to assume that physicians, like the recipients of welfare, on the whole do not cheat. However, there is a more insidious distortion that occurs and that is one which is perfectly legal under OHIP rules. The physician can ask or "order" his patient to submit to further tests, repeat visits and consultations. All in the name of better health care, but often in reality an unnecessary repetition of services costly to the community but profitable to the physician.

The present method of paying doctors, fee-for-service, is an essential and unquestioned element of the present medical system. But it is a barrier to the lowering of medical costs. It links the patient's treatment to the physician's financial motives, and places the physician in a conflict of interest situation. He has no motivation to reduce his costs of service; on the contrary, he is motivated toward a perfectly honest overproduction of his services.

The rate of surgery involving non-vital organs has been estimated at 70 per cent to 100 per cent or more higher for doctors paid

on a fee-for-service system, as compared with those on a salaried system. Thus, we have far greater numbers of appendectomies, tonsillectomies, and surgery involving prostate and haemorrhoids. The only way to explain why there are so many more of these types of operations is the financial incentive to do them. Doctors on fee-for-service are pushed toward rapid, routine operations and surgery rather than toward more thorough examination and diagnosis of the patient's condition. There is no incentive for doctors to participate in health teaching and preventive measures, or to trace the medical history of their patients.

Another contrast between salaried and fee-for-service physicians is the lower hospital utilization rate by the former. Patients of salaried physicians spend 20 per cent to 30 per cent less time in hospital than does the total population. The present fee-for-service system actually encourages doctors to over-hospitalize patients. With patients concentrated in one hospital and with laboratory and medical personnel readily available without charge, the doctor is able to increase the rate of his visits and reduce his average costs and office expenses to a minimum.

Mr. Chairman, now that we have demonstrated that the minister will not achieve any real savings in cost, nor improve services, we must ask why he chooses to act as he does. It is now perfectly clear why he has to have savings of \$50 million. He wants to give it to the medical doctors.

Health care spending is controlled by doctors. Virtually every single service which the Minister of Health budget pays for is accessible only through a doctor. Why then, to cut spending, are we cutting hospital beds, public health laboratories and psychiatric services?

The closing of Goderich and Northeastern psychiatric hospitals will save supposedly nearly \$9 million. The several hundred patients from Timmins or South Porcupine, when in need of psychiatric care, will have to take an ambulance, train, get a police escort, or walk the 220 miles to North Bay Psychiatric Hospital or a psychiatric unit in a general hospital.

The 89 employees dismissed from St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital can, after all, go on unemployment; that is not paid by the provincial but by the federal government.

The 61 employees dismissed from Hamilton are generally psychiatric nursing assistants, not doctors, so maybe they don't count as much.

The Woodstock public laboratory and other public laboratories have to be closed because, after all, the owners of private labs have to make more money.

Doctors Hospital in Toronto is to be closed. After all, many of the patients there do not speak English so they won't complain all that much.

But we in the New Democratic Party, Mr. Chairman, are complaining. In place of the minister's spurious policies, the New Democratic Party believes very strongly that, even if beds need to be closed, it should not be done by fiat from Queen's Park. The local community must have a say. There has been no local involvement in the decisions which the minister has been announcing.

In no way has the minister addressed the issue of over-production, which is so fundamental to runaway costs. No guidelines or incentives have been set up toward providing efficient, widely available health care. Rather, the opposite has occurred and our present system has many inducements that work toward increasing costs and providing the most expensive care.

It is the doctors providing health care on a fee-for-service basis who decide what services will be given and how often. They decide who goes to hospital and for how long. Records show a fantastic increase over the past few years in the number of services per patient—in fact, gross over-utilization of services—and this is the fault of the medical profession and not of the patients. Any health insurance programme built on the principle of the more services, the more fees, is bound to encourage runaway costs.

Hospital beds cannot be closed without planning and implementing alternative community-based services. Provision of such alternative services would ensure that patients currently in hospital would not be left without care and that people now employed in hospitals could be retrained and employed elsewhere in the system. To close beds with such a blatant disregard for patients and employees is totally unacceptable. Alternative services must be ready before closings occur.

Hospitals have emerged as primary care centres in many communities, but this is probably an inappropriate use of hospitals. New Democratic Party policy in this area has always been clear: The active development and support of community-based primary services which in the short term, and more importantly also in the long term, will reduce the need for expensive hospital care. Many of these primary services and preven-

tive measures could be performed by nurses or other aides more cheaply than by physicians. Increased attention to preventive medicine is vital to the health of the public as well as to the health of the government budget.

But here again let me repeat that although using hospitals as primary care centres may be inappropriate, and although one in five patients should not be in a hospital bed but in a nursing home or investigated on an ambulatory basis, we cannot simply throw him or her out to fend for himself or herself. Let me repeat: There is no alternative at this time for dealing with this type of problem outside of the hospital.

At no time does the minister attempt to redress the imbalance between the highly serviced and very expensive teaching hospitals in urban areas and the poorly serviced rural areas. Why doesn't the minister talk of shifting the focus of medical education away from the large urban hospitals? Students trained in smaller centres would be more likely to return to those settings. The presence of students in smaller communities would encourage an examination of the kind of care the communities are getting. Decentralizing teaching would allow a redistribution of tax dollars away from the cities, a redistribution of our health priorities so that they are relevant to the whole province.

Finally, instead of hinting at increasing our regressive OHIP premiums, is the minister not aware that residents of Ontario are already paying the highest health insurance premiums in Canada? The Maritime provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan all have no premiums at all. Why should one of the richest provinces in the country continue to charge premiums which are regressive rather than to finance health care from general revenues which are collected in at least a somewhat more progressive fashion?

Any increase in premiums surely affects one sector of society more than others—the working poor and our more disadvantaged, who do not have the cushion of “company benefits” to defray premium costs. Any increase in premiums is unjust and unfair most of all to that one sector of our population that can least afford to lose yet another chunk of income.

The Minister of Health has embarked on this restraint programme through an abuse of power, never once appearing before this House for advice or consent. He claims that this so-called rationalization of services will serve to hold down rapidly escalating costs. If the minister is indeed concerned with

saving money, then let him respond to the following few more pertinent questions:

1. What is the minister doing to provide alternative forms of care to replace the hospitals he is closing?

2. What thought is being given to the hundreds and thousands of people being put out of work? There won't be other jobs for these people within the health system. They are trained in health care and health care is being cut back.

3. What is the government doing to directly influence doctors' behaviour to minimize excessive use of expensive facilities?

4. What consideration is being given to local communities and their perception of their own needs? Why are these decisions being made in a centralized, arrogant and secretive way without any reference to those who will be affected?

5. Why is the minister demonstrating his intention to cut back, if not cut out entirely, the training programme for nurse practitioners? Is the minister blind to the obvious savings that the nurse practitioners' services could mean in the delivery of health care?

[4:15]

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I recognize that the hon. member has completed his remarks, but I'm wondering if you would rule on Rule 16(a)4 as it relates to the long reading of speeches within the Legislature?

Mr. Chairman: You're quite right. The member for Sault Ste. Marie points out that—

Mr. Sargent: What are you going to do when we come to your estimates?

Mr. Chairman:—standing order 16(a)4 precludes members from unnecessarily reading at length from any document. He wasn't quoting; he was actually reading his speech.

Mr. MacDonald: You will live to regret that when we hound every one of your members when he gets up with a written speech. That is sort of a silly intervention.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether it's silly or not. Some of the veteran members of this House prepared these rules and I'm only trying to abide by them.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Chairman, I know it was prepared by veteran members and I know it's a rule in every House, but I know, for a variety of reasons I won't take time to

elaborate on now, that the rule is often ignored, and more often on your side of the House than on this side. It's that sort of a petty—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Remove the rule.

Mr. MacDonald: Okay, take it out of the rules then. The next time the Premier (Mr. Davis) gets up and reads a lengthy statement and we interrupt him, then you'll regret your obstruction.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Huron-Middlesex has the floor.

Mr. Riddell: In connection with the point or order which was made, I would draw to your attention, Mr. Chairman, that when the minister got up to give his remarks he read his comments, as did the member of the NDP.

Mr. Kennedy: Are you reading now?

Mr. Riddell: In the absence of my leader, who was unable to participate in this debate this afternoon, as he has quite a heavy schedule—

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Huron-Middlesex has a right to be heard.

Mr. Riddell:—and owing to the fact that he is the critic of the health ministry, I know he would like to be here to lead off in the remarks on these particular estimates. However, it does give me a great deal of pleasure in being able to lead off on his behalf.

The fiscal nightmare, which the former Treasurer of Ontario, Charles MacNaughton, referred to in remarks which he made in the House when dealing with the provincial health scheme and its related cost, turned out to be something more than a nightmare. It was a prophecy which came true. It may well be recorded in history as the last of the big spending by the Davis government. Perhaps our children and our children's children might read a chapter in history entitled, "The Fiscal Nightmare of the Ontario Government". It could quite conceivably be recorded in the following way.

In the days when Sir William was ruler of the land called Overspendario, there lived a man whose name was Lord Darcy. He was the keeper of the treasury but like his predecessors he squandered the riches of the land. Sir William did not interfere because

many of his friends became quite prosperous from the contractual tasks which they performed for their ruler.

Then it came to pass that all the treasures had disappeared, and Lord Darcy said unto Sir William: "What do we do? For now here is a shortage of many millions of gold pieces." So Sir William borrowed from other lands at high rates of interest and levied taxes on his own people to repay the loan.

But it was not enough. The only people who had any money left were William's friends, and he did not want to tax them any more. So Sir William said unto Lord Darcy: "No need to worry." And William went to Francis the Great and said: "You are the doctor; you fix it." And Frank said: "Let us close a few hospitals."

Mr. Chairman, you suggested that we try to keep our comments brief. I say to you how can you keep your comments brief when the death knell has been sounded for hospitals in small communities throughout rural Ontario and even for the small community itself? We have been threatened with the closure of 10 hospitals and severe budget reductions and bed closures in over 100 hospitals across Ontario. Strangely enough, the majority of hospitals slated for closure were located in rural Ontario; and strangely enough the hospitals closures in Ontario have nearly all been in non-Conservative ridings. Oddly enough, the major recommendations of the report of the special programme review committee, under the chairmanship of the former federal Auditor General, Maxwell Henderson, suggested that consideration be given to phasing out surplus beds and treatment facilities, particularly in urban areas. I want you to note the words "urban areas". But, no, the minister has chosen to victimize the small communities by closing hospitals which, as a matter of interest, are not the property of the government.

It is my understanding that the legality of such undertakings will, in all probability, be challenged in the courts. So I do not intend to pursue this matter further.

Suffice to say at this time that the community-based hospitals have been a source of considerable pride and the object of more charitable support than most other institutions in the various towns. People have supported these hospitals with substantial gifts during their lifetime and even by their wills, some to the extent of their entire estate.

One man alone, in the Clinton area, made a contribution of \$40,000 to the Clinton

hospital, only to witness the erosion of the faith and self-help attitude that keep the community strong by a process of the Ontario government known as regression analysis.

This is the name given to one of the mathematical techniques used by computer experts to interpret statistics. Such statistics—or the criteria of four beds per 1,000 population—need to be questioned, particularly in rural Ontario where the percentage of older people who live by choice in the smaller communities is much higher than in the larger urban centres. Is it right to deprive the elderly people of the medical attention which they need and depend on at this stage in their lives? This, in itself, is a frightening story of social degradation.

I would like to ask the minister, through you Mr. Chairman, if he paid particular attention to the age group of the people who met him at the doors of the hospitals he visited to announce their closure? It was the old people mostly, because they had the most to lose. Old people, sick people, people with no political power.

Those sick people who were forced out of the Goderich psychiatric hospital, and those who are about to be forced out of the Clinton hospital, have been used as pawns in the game of politics, without regard to their feelings, their families, and in some cases perhaps even their lives.

This is a spectacle which any civilized country must find deplorable and more so, since hospital closures—especially closures of general hospitals—affect mostly the very old and the very young, because they have the most sickness. This mindless, pointless and useless closure of local hospitals has set community against community, hospital board against hospital board and man against man.

My colleague the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) refers to it as divide and conquer. If, as it almost appears, the provincial government is waging war on its own people, then it is the sickest of all and all this can be called the degradation of people.

People and equality of opportunity; that takes me back to the days when you and I were students educated in rural Ontario. We were taught to expect that in a sense we would be second-class citizens. That we would not have equality of opportunity. That covers the whole range from equality of education to equality of services. The schools we attended had no auditorium nor gymnasium. We did not have the benefits of artificial ice arenas. And in some cases we

were either devoid of hospitals or had hospitals that required renovations or expansion. Twenty-five years ago when money became more readily available, we were told we would have equalization of opportunity—and, indeed, new schools were built with an auditorium and gymnasium. New arenas with artificial ice surfaces were built; as were hospitals or additions to hospitals.

It was interesting to note that when the well ran dry and the budget constraints were announced, and when the crunch came, it came first of all to the town of Goderich or the town of Chesley and not to some large city hospital.

Certainly it is hard to be negative about a package that promises to save the taxpayers something like \$50 million in health, or \$1.6 million in overall costs over the next year or two. For quite some time now the Liberal Party has been calling on this government to exercise some fiscal restraint.

Our position on this issue has been very consistent. Consistency also marks the annual consideration of supplementary estimates. It seems like every year this House is asked to vote the government more money. Every year it increases our deficit by spending more than first intended. The government is consistent when it comes to the introduction of supplementary estimates, but unfortunately it is not a consistency that it can be proud of.

These supplementary estimates are coming at a time when this government has embarked on a ruthless retrenchment programme in health care, with little regard for community impact, the future of small towns and efforts to decentralize. This government has once again demonstrated that it has no regard for the real concerns of rural Ontario.

In all, the province has decided to close 10 hospitals. Most of these decisions have been an admission of poor planning. While some of the physical plants are old, some have only recently undergone renovations and additions. We in the Liberal Party are especially concerned about the impact some of these decisions will have on the communities involved. They will almost certainly have a dramatic effect on small, rural communities. They take the economic heart out of these towns and villages and they will cost us more in the long run.

Decisions to close rural hospitals fly in the face of the admitted need for decentralization. They mock any efforts to keep these towns as attractive places in which to live.

In our opinion, hospital replacement need not come as a surprise to anyone in the community. Hospital closures should not either.

There is no reason why all information leading to these decisions should not be made public. There is no reason why consultation can't take place between the Ontario government and the affected parties. There is no reason why the criteria used to make these decisions can't be exposed for public consideration.

The basic element of trust is lacking in the government's approach to these matters, and this lack is the hallmark of the distance which now exists between the government and the people of Ontario after 33 long years of Tory rule.

Can you people hear me over there, or will we turn the mikes up?

The problem with hospital closings in rural Ontario is this: While ministry officials and bureaucrats can tell us that closing entire hospitals can save considerably more than closing single beds, they are not telling us, and probably can't tell us, what impact closings have on rural Ontario. Closing hospitals in a community like Clinton clearly has a greater impact than a similar closing in a larger centre with several hospitals.

The closing of these small, rural hospitals is in keeping with the centralizing philosophy of this government. How often have we been told that centralizing municipal government, school boards and other services would save money and improve services? Now we are being told that by closing small hospitals, we will save money and become more efficient. With this government's record, why should we believe it?

Three points must be made in any discussion of hospital and bed closings. First, poor planning and the distorted priorities of the Conservatives have led to our present difficulties. In some places they overbuilt hospitals, sometimes as electioneering largess, while in other places bed shortages have been permitted to occur. Even if we were not going through a period of austerity, and even if money were plentiful, proper planning and organization of health resources would still dictate bed closures due to the poor Conservative planning of past years; and this is my second point.

This point has been made by the federal Health minister and admitted by the provincial Health minister, yet has not been stressed sufficiently in the public discussions.

[4:30]

Third, the government has been told frequently that hospital beds would have to be closed down, and yet it postponed these difficult decisions until now. On this latter point,

we note that "The Community Health Centre in Canada, 1972," the Hastings report, recommended the reduction by provincial governments of acute general hospital in-patient bed facilities. This report also observed, and I quote:

The chief means of controlling costs within the hospital sector is to be found in a reduction in the present acute bed-population ratio, and a consequent reduction of in-patient services and facilities.

In 1974, the Ontario government health planning task force report stated:

Where an excess in the number of beds persists, facilities should be consolidated by the closing of some units, hospitals or wings, in preference to making fragmentary cuts in all facilities.

Key questions concerning any programme to close hospitals or beds were asked by my leader on Nov. 20, 1975, during an emergency debate called over the decision to close Chesley Hospital. I quote:

Mr. S. Smith: The fact of the matter is that we now find it becomes necessary to close beds. Now the question is by what criteria; under what plan; which hospitals; why those hospitals; why not other hospitals; what are the means by which these things are decided?

It is our firm belief that real economies must be made in the health care system. The dramatic closing of hospitals and beds is good public relations, it gives the impression that you are doing something. But we should be asking whether long-term economies are being made. We are certainly denying doctors beds in which to put their patients, but are we making any effort to check their excessive utilization of hospital facilities? Are we getting at the root of the problem or are we just taking punitive actions which are not really positive in nature? I hope I have made the point abundantly clear that we in the Liberal Party cannot endorse the closure of small community hospitals or even the closure of so many beds at this time when hospitals still bear the heaviest burden of health care delivery in the province.

There must be clear evidence, shared with the public and the hospitals, that the government has an objective, well-considered programme that it will pursue vigorously and thoroughly for all communities. Surely the direct link between government and the people in this situation must be voluntary hospital boards. Surely a more logical approach to the closing of hospitals would be for the minister to meet with the hospital board chairmen and administrators of all 240 public hospitals in order to present his proposals directly to them.

The minister did not have to close certain hospitals or arbitrarily cut beds. If the minister had said to the hospital boards of Huron county that he wanted to save \$1 million, the five boards would have been prepared to sit down to ascertain where that money could have been saved. While bed reductions might have been part of that programme, the boards certainly did not want to commit themselves to it at this time.

The reason for this is that the hospital boards find the minister's argument for closing hospitals in order to save money extremely shallow. The boards are not convinced that hospital costs have been outstripping all other areas of government spending. According to the government's own figures, the health services are actually using a smaller percentage of the gross provincial product than in previous years at a time when Canada itself is actually reducing its proportion of the gross national product spent on health care and reducing it to a level below that of most other western countries.

It is really a misconception to pretend for the purposes of political gain that closure of hospital beds will save taxpayers money. Will the closure of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital save us money? In that instance, we have seen the virtual extinction of an active psychiatric hospital considered by the accreditation review board to be one of the most progressive and modern in the province and its replacement by an unnecessary and unwanted mental retardation centre and later, as a sop to the enraged populace, a Mickey Mouse psychiatric unit of 20 beds.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll remember that.

Mr. Shore: Don't threaten him.

Mr. Riddell: That's right. The annual budget of the active 230-bed psychiatric hospital was of the order of \$3 million. The cost of the unwanted mental retardation centre is already estimated at over \$2 million and the cost of the little residual 20-bed psychiatric unit is estimated at around \$750,000. Add to that the cost of transporting our patients around the province, the cost of alterations and the cost of increased administration and where have we saved money? If the Ontario government wants to exercise some degree of integrity and honesty, would it not be prepared to admit that the transfer of the psychiatric hospitals to the mental retardation centres, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry and Community and Social Services, was nothing more than a means of justifying the expenditure of grants from the federal government earmarked for mental retardation?

The expenditure of these grants was questioned in the House last session and to save face the government made a paper transfer of assets from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The government is obviously prepared to go to any extreme to make amends for its lack of accountability; and as a result of such measures the citizens of western Ontario have lost the following services through the closing of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital. I would just like you to listen to these services.

Resident patient care; intensive care for acute psychiatric disorders; alcohol and drug addiction programmes; progressive community psychiatric services, which include outpatient follow-up care and boarding facilities; outpatient crisis intervention and prevention of admission where necessary; reductions of readmission of cases by regular follow-up appointments after discharge; short-term stay in hospital for patients who would otherwise remain for an undetermined period in hospitals far away; services to the legal system, probation and parole, court and police, public health, Children's Aid Societies, VON, home-care programme; Manpower consultations regarding psychiatric assessment and needs of people.

Other services lost are the weekly clinic information and counselling centre twice weekly in Exeter; orientation visits for students from surrounding schools; marriage and family counselling; child care and children's outpatient clinic; homes for special care and nursing home psychiatric service; consultations and care in hospital; psychological service readily available for schools; patients' yearly vacation and camping by Lake Huron in the summer time; hospital visits by local chaplains; church services for the patients in beautiful surroundings.

The highly accredited hospital which is a leader in modern psychiatry, which accents the very need of people; the hard-working and organized band of volunteers in active community psychiatry; nursing students affiliating in psychiatry from Lambton College, Conestoga College, Fanshawe College, Victoria Hospital in London and St. Joseph's Hospital in London. A hospital affiliated with the University of Western Ontario. A building which is new and in no need of repair, functioning at the 90 per centile range. A hospital which complements a general practitioner's practice in co-operation with the general hospitals around. Also lost will be the hard work of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital in establishing the Stratford Psychi-

atric Clinic funded through the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital budget.

The citizens of western Ontario simply could not comprehend the reasons why this hospital was closed. The hue and cry against the government's decision to close the hospital seemed to focus on the 300 jobs that would be lost as the psychiatric hospital did employ a large number of county people. And indeed, they should not lose their jobs, but stressing this gives the wrong emphasis to the province's decision. It encourages us to look at a psychiatric hospital as just another patronage plum; an institution that gives jobs to a riding that votes the right way.

That may have been part of the reason Huron got the psychiatric hospital in the first place. They have been rated right up there with prisons as job-creating institutions to be located in loyal ridings. The prisons come from the feds; the hospitals from their provincial brothers. But political plum or not, the Goderich hospital provides many desperately needed services, as I've just outlined, to a rural population. Its most important job is that it gives psychiatric care to the people of Huron, Perth and Bruce counties.

Before its closure we could get help for alcoholism, for family problems and for mental illness at the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital. There were counsellors there who have helped many people. Before the hospital opened those with emotional problems had to go to the city for treatment or sit and suffer. It is hard to believe the Health minister's contention that the overall quality of health care won't be hurt when those who got help from Goderich will now be expected to go to Owen Sound or London for treatment.

Emotional illness is often related to environment. Doctors, counsellors and other staff in Goderich are familiar with our mostly rural community and how it works. They understand that what is 'abnormal behaviour' in Huron county is not necessarily considered strange in Toronto, and vice versa. They know that the pressures in a fast changing but still bedrock conservative rural area are not the same pressures that drive people around the bend in our cities.

As a teacher put it, and I quote: "Say some poor kid from Hullett township is getting help in Goderich. After perhaps five years of living here, his doctors are just beginning to understand this area. Now if he has to travel to London for help, he will have to start all over again, perhaps with a counsellor who

is city-oriented and about as familiar with Hullett township as with the far side of the moon."

This is what the closing of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital will mean in human terms to its many outpatients, as well as the 230 people being treated in the hospital, and to their families. The Ontario government's attempt to cut back on ever increasing costs are admirable, but why does all the fat have to be trimmed outside the large metropolitan areas?

Now that the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital has been closed, people in that part of Ontario will be left without any kind of close-at-hand help for emotional illness. At the very least, the psychiatric clinic and the counselling services should have stayed in Goderich. Without local treatment available for local people, any claim to equality in health care is mythical.

Now what rational approach was there to the closing of the Clinton Public Hospital? The community's reaction to the Health minister's announcement to close the hospital was one of shock and dismay by almost the total population served by this facility. The unanimity of feeling by the people was well demonstrated at a public meeting held, with very little advance publicity, within four days of the announcement—and well over 2,000 people turned out in a town of about 3,000. The hospital has deep roots in a community which started it about 70 years ago and has supported, maintained and been served by it over the years.

I have already made reference to the support that people have given the Clinton hospital with substantial gifts during their lifetime and through their wills.

What makes the closing of this hospital difficult to understand is the extent and breadth of the activities presently carried on by the hospital. The hospital has been fortunate in putting together a highly qualified and very effective and compatible team of physicians, nurses and other personnel capable of providing a full range of health care procedures for the community they serve with an efficiency that is second to none.

Except for very specialized procedures, practically all of the major and minor surgery generated by the area served is performed at Clinton. To accommodate this, the hospital has on its staff two surgeons, an internist and four general practitioners with special training in anesthetics, as well as qualified nursing support. It is the only hospital in Huron county using a laparoscope for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Patients come from well beyond the immediate area because of this. Clinton is the only hospital in Huron county with a functioning remote cardiac monitor and resuscitation team, including a round-the-clock team of trained nurses. In 1975, the successful resuscitation rate for ventricular fibrillation patients was 100 per cent. It has taken several years to reach this efficiency and it is a source of hospital pride.

Clinton was asked by the University Hospital in London to establish a renal peritoneal dialysis unit for patients in this area. This facility is functioning efficiently today and it is the only one in Huron county. It is significant that a patient pronounced terminally ill with renal failure at Toronto General Hospital was kept in reasonable health for 18 months at the instigation of the local team before the unit was established in Clinton.

Clinton serves as a hemophilia treatment centre where local hemophiliacs receive cryoprecipitate and have been instructed in self-administration. The Clinton public hospital had the original physiotherapy department in the county and it continues to be active and provides vital, essential services.

These services, and many more, are provided in a facility that operate more efficiently than most hospitals through the province; and this is the one that is being closed down.

Now I would like to outline some aspects of the community served by the Clinton public hospital. Clinton is located in an essentially rural area at the junction of two main highways. There is consistently a high incidence of motor vehicle and farming accidents and a significant need for the hospital's emergency facility. There are within the town and in a six-mile radius therefrom 3,000 students in seven schools and the Clinton hospital provides the emergency facilities required by the schools.

[4:45]

Clinton is located geographically in a very heavy snowbelt region. It is common during the winter to experience many days when travel is difficult and hazardous. During the past winter, for example, there have been eight days during which it was impossible because of the weather to travel by motor vehicle from the town.

Located adjacent to the town is Huronview, the county home for the aged, with a capacity of 310 beds. Then there is Heather Gardens, a halfway institution for psychiatric patients, with 60 to 70 patients and prospects for an increase to double this figure. These

facilities are serviced largely by Clinton Public Hospital and practically all geriatric medicine generated by these institutions is handled at the hospital.

Did the minister consider all the services that were provided at this hospital when he made his decision? Furthermore, did the minister take into consideration the economic impact that the closing of this hospital would have on the town and surrounding areas?

The same can be said for the closing of any hospital in any small community but I will deal specifically with this area as I am most familiar with it.

The economy and distribution of settlement in Huron county has evolved in response to exploitation of local resources with minimum economic intervention or subsidization by central government. Military bases in Huron during and after the war altered the pattern somewhat but with their closing the former patterns have by and large been re-established.

One feature of the natural and demographic pattern in Huron has been a hospital established in each of the five towns by local initiative, serving a local area and being a major employer in the town's economy.

The intervention of the provincial government to close the Clinton hospital interferes with the natural economic and demographic forces in this region, deleteriously changing the relativity of Clinton to the other towns. To the people of Clinton this means disruption to some lives; a diminution of the town's prospects; and a reduction of the health services which the town has created over the years and undoubtedly paid for.

The government has given no demonstration that this intervention is justified or that the patterns which will develop subsequently will be as desirable as those which evolved without intervention.

The Clinton Hospital is presently by far the largest single employer in the town. With its closing some 84 jobs representing the livelihood of 169 people will be lost. These people, of course, will be eligible for unemployment insurance which, if the people are not re-employed quickly, will soon effectively use up any savings accomplished by closing the hospital.

Present indications are that 28 families will have to leave the town immediately to obtain employment elsewhere.

Although the loss of cash flow from hospital payroll will be partly offset by cash flow from unemployment insurance, the amount will be substantially reduced both

because insurance is less than wages and because people will leave the town. The hospital supplies account will, of course, disappear from Clinton. If persons who would otherwise be visiting Clinton Hospital have to go to other towns to visit patients there is a high probability that some shopping will be lost to the town of Clinton. The most probable results of reduced and diverted cash flow will be closure of some retail businesses in Clinton and the departure of the operators.

* Other things being equal, an industry, business or institution wishing to locate in Huron county will locate in a town where there is a hospital. Similarly, people thinking of a place for retirement will prefer a town which has a hospital. The closing of Clinton hospital, therefore, greatly impairs the potentiality for growth of the town. Houses which go vacant on the closing of a hospital are not apt to be filled by newcomers.

The overall effect of the factors discussed is a preliminary decline in the population of the town with subsequent multiplier effects leading to further decline with no offsetting factor apparent.

During the economic depression of the 1930s the population of Clinton declined to 1,789 people. This population possibly represents the town as a minimal service centre for the surrounding agricultural community. With a new local depression created by closure of the hospital, there is no clear reason why the town should not revert to that function or to a similar population.

During the by-election of 1973, it was obvious that the people of Huron were not prepared to continue their support of the long-established Conservative tradition since they were strongly opposed to regional government which was a major issue of the by-election. The Premier (Mr. Davis) and his colleagues tried to say we were dragging in red herrings—as they did when the resolution was adopted by the Liberal caucus—when they met in the riding in the course of the by-election, during which reaffirmed our party's stand to put an immediate stop to the expansion of all regional services, to preserve local institutions such as local hospitals and local PUCs, and to put a freeze on all beds or staff reductions in all hospitals less than 100 beds. Does the closing of hospitals and the subsequent deterioration of our communities suggest that this was a red herring or is it evidence of the further centralizing tendencies of this government?

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the minister to reconsider his execution of the hospitals in the small communities in rural

Ontario. There are alternatives which would either save the taxpayers' money or generate new revenue which could be applied to hospital care in the Province of Ontario.

I have already referred to the one approach which I think should have been taken by the minister, and that is direct consultation with the hospital boards throughout Ontario, advising them that there would be a budgetary cut and giving them the option to decide how they could best effect the saving that the minister was requesting of them. I think I could safely say that every administrator would have found a way to continue the operation of the hospital and live within the budget restraints.

In our estimation, the place to focus the control of health expenditure is on the role of physicians. Most doctors are careful and responsible professionals. Nonetheless, the present system does nothing to encourage thrift with the taxpayers' dollars. We believe that the government must see to it that the medical profession acts to control health costs. Doctors must learn the discipline of limited resources. Not only must individual doctors exercise restraint, the profession as a whole must police itself to ensure that uneconomic practices do not occur.

The government talks of penalizing the patients for using the system. We say financial arrangements must be established to correct those doctors who unnecessarily over-utilize the system and reward those conscientious doctors who do not. What is this government doing about our excessive rates of surgery in comparison with other jurisdictions? What is the government doing about the over-utilization of lab facilities by doctors who order test profiles instead of individual tests?

The minister has had recommendations from the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories since Jan. 27, suggesting that all profiles not included in the OMA fee schedule be eliminated from lab requisitions by April 1, 1976, that he set up an advisory committee to develop methods to audit the work of labs properly, and that all questionable arm's-length relationships between doctors and labs be publicly documented. What has happened? Nothing that we are aware of. The situation has become so bad that the association has itself called an inquiry to clear the air.

Has the minister given any consideration to the generation of new revenue to be applied to hospital care? We have in existence at the present time the Wintario lottery; it is my understanding that there is \$29 million of excessive funds in the lottery and that the government doesn't know what to do with it.

Why can't this money be applied to hospital care?

Has the minister ever considered increasing OHIP premiums with consideration being given to those who cannot pay? If the people were approached and told they had a choice between paying a little more towards the premium and having the hospital closed down, I am sure those people would say they could afford the additional cost of the premium.

Has the minister considered fewer hand-out programmes to those with means? This would probably necessitate a means test, but really when it comes to giving free drugs to all citizens over 65 years of age, many of whom do have means, many of whom would be pleased to pay for their drugs—and I have spoken to many of them—in place of the closing-down of hospitals, is there any reason why nursing home patients or senior citizens home people cannot pay their way if they have the means whereby to do so? Why is it that many of these people are able to will their entire estate to their offspring and rely on the government for support in these various institutions?

Has this government ever considered putting a sales tax on cigarettes? If people can afford luxuries such as smoking then I think they can afford to pay for these luxuries. Has the minister considered that a seven per cent sales tax on cigarettes would generate a revenue of somewhere between \$40 million and \$50 million, which is the saving that the minister is looking for in his health budget? Has the minister considered that if a 10 per cent sales tax was put on cigarettes it would generate a revenue of somewhere between \$65 and \$70 million? Has the minister considered that those people who use the cigarettes are also the people who, at some time in their lives, use the hospitals? And it's rather important that we have the hospitals for the use of these and other people.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I hark back to the remarks made by a professional and a very prominent citizen of Huron county, when he was expressing his concern over the closing of small community hospitals. His remarks were as follows: "If the funeral bell should ring out marking the death of any of the hospitals of Huron county, then do not ask, my friends, for whom that bell tolls. It tolls for thee."

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. minister wish to reply?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was told by your predecessor to reply briefly, Mr. Chairman, and I'll try to be brief. I'll try to take the remarks

in some semblance of order as delivered by the two speakers. It's intriguing to me that both speakers have accused me of making these cuts for political expediency—

Mr. Warner: That's right.

Mr. Martel: To pay for last year's bills during the election.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —to win my seat or to win my party's position. That's a long way from the truth. I don't recall any of you talking to me privately that way, in the quiet of our negotiations. I don't recall that kind of thing said to me when you came in and asked me for certain help, but in public it's a kind of a smart thing to say.

Mr. Riddell: But 75 per cent of the people are saying this.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They may well be saying it. You haven't said it privately, have you?

Mr. Riddell: No, I have not, but I am just telling you what the people are telling me.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right, I'll remember some of the other things you told me privately later on today.

Mr. Nixon: You're full of threats today.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I am.

Mr. Ruston: You're not laughing today, Frank.

Mr. Nixon: I think you should go back to Florida and settle down for a few days.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact remains that political expediency was probably the furthest thought from the minds of this government and this cabinet when I was charged with the duty of constraining the costs of health care to an 11 per cent growth next year.

Mr. Nixon: Less than a year ago you made a \$400-million giveaway. What was that if it wasn't expediency?

Hon. F. S. Miller: A \$400-million giveaway, what's that?

Mr. Nixon: Taking the sales tax off cars and a handout to home owners. Political expediency.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You don't understand an economic incentive when you see one, then.

Mr. Nixon: Maybe I disagree with you.

Mr. Ruston: It was an election year and you know why it was put there.

Mr. Nixon: A giveaway.

Mr. Shore: Frank, let Darcy protect himself.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All I say to you is that I took that job on as a duty and because I believe it should be done. I do not believe we have cut the quality of health care for necessary services in this province one bit.

[5:00]

Mr. Warner: Explain Goderich.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can explain Goderich. But, please, you noticed that I did not interject once, except to say to one member that I would talk to him later.

The fact is that this government allowed me to go forward with this project, fully believing that it was about as unpolitical an act as could be taken. It did it unlike members of the other two parties, who in their talks to me today said: "Spend more, collect more". Those are the answers I got just now: "Spend more, collect more in taxes here, collect more in OHIP premiums. Do it. Don't worry about whether you're wasting money."

We went around and said that over the years, admittedly in the enthusiasm of the people of this province, hospitals have been built in many locations that exceed our current needs.

Mr. Warner: What about Hanover?

Hon. F. S. Miller: There was a belief in the Thirties—

Mr. Nixon: You approved every one of them.

Mr. Warner: You made the mistake, not us.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just a second, I bet if we go back and document letters to those of you who have been around here awhile—and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has been here a long time—you could find many occasions where you appeared on behalf of a hospital in your community or somewhere saying: "We would like to build something new. Our community asks for it. Please, Mr. Minister, do it." I can go through my records—

Mr. Nixon: Of course, but you have the power of responsibility to stop it if

you feel it should be. You approved every one of those additions, everyone of them.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I turn around and say to you that because under those conditions it was accepted that more hospital beds meant healthier people. The fact is, that has proved to be untrue.

Mr. Godfrey: Not so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is absolutely true, that more beds have not made healthier people. You better check with your critics because they've been telling me the same thing for some time. The current leader of your party has been telling me that for some time. Other critics have been telling me that for some time.

We decided a second round of cuts in the services in this province was necessary. I say a second round because the member for Huron-Middlesex homed in on the fact that it appeared this is the first round and that we hit only rural Ontario. The fact is the first round occurred in 1973. It occurred, I think, when Dr. Potter asked for some 1,600 beds to be closed in Ontario and about 1,800 or 1,900 were closed.

I think if you check where those were closed you will find in the main they were in big hospitals in major cities in this province. I quite agree that, as the balance of Ontario, whether it is in your part of rural Ontario or mine, created more hospital beds and developed better skills and had more specialists available, in fact major cities did attract fewer patients needing their particular facilities. So there were cuts made. The Toronto General came down—I don't know if it was by 300 or 400 beds in 1973. And I'm sure you can go through Toronto and find a number of others the same. We have tried to trim the most costly part of the health care service down to the basis of the number we need.

I will raise through the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) all the moneys this ministry needs to run programmes. I will not ask him for moneys that are wasted, and herein lies the difference. We can prove to you that admissions to hospitals increase, that unnecessary surgery occurs, that lengths of stay are long, and that discharges are not well done as long as doctors can gain access to this system.

If your answer is to have the state standing behind the doctor and determining whether or not each patient should receive a certain procedure or admission, then you have an entirely different concept of medi-

cine than I have. The state has a role but it certainly isn't in the diagnosis room or the admitting room of a hospital. That is a doctor's role and it must remain so. The fact remains that you, I, the doctors and the system encourage waste as long as access to those facilities is reasonably easy.

Who in this room who has been in hospital has not been admitted for tests well in advance of any surgical procedure? Certainly, I can tell you I spent six weeks in 1966 sitting in Toronto General Hospital waiting for them to decide whether to carve me up or not.

Mr. Godfrey: That's the philosophy you have now—10 years out of date.

Mr. Laughren: Did they make the right decision?

Mr. Nixon: We're glad you are so well.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What I am trying to point out is that we cannot afford that kind of convenience, whether it be for the physician or for the patient. We have to—

Mr. Makarchuk: Are there any hospitals you trust now?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Look, gentlemen, I am quite happy to talk back and forth, but I would like to try to stick to something of an orderly way.

We feel that the key ways of controlling unnecessary service and unnecessary costs are the number of physicians to the number of beds. Study after study has said that. In fact, you quoted a couple of them. You quoted Dr. Hastings as saying to cut back, and quite properly so. You quoted other studies as saying to cut back. We are doing it—and we have done it in as selective a manner as we could.

Mr. Riddell: Cutbacks but not complete closures.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Now, you know I challenged the people in Clinton to come up with an alternative, do you not? And I am waiting for that response. Is that not fair?

Mr. Lewis: No, it's not fair. They're traumatized, for heaven's sake.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member is not prepared to say it is fair.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: After the event?

Hon. F. S. Miller: After the event.

Mr. Lewis: You left them a confidential document, which they had on their table after you walked out of the room, which showed the basis on which you made your cut, and none of it corresponds with rationality. Good grief. And then you say to them, "Come to me with an alternative."

Hon. F. S. Miller: Okay, that's your privilege.

Mr. Lewis: We haven't talked about that document yet in the House.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member for Parkdale (Mr. Duksza), who I recognize did his usual good job of looking up statistics and preparing a thoughtful document, pointed out that I have looked at things from an accountant's point of view and not from the point of view of human misery or jobs.

Certainly I have an accountant's point of view at many times in this. At the same time, I hope that never precludes the other aspect, the human side. You can of course capitalize on the changes; of course people are losing jobs. But if you can tell me how money is saved in our system of hospitals, taking 53 cents out of every dollar in my budget without involving jobs, then you've got a mechanism that as yet I haven't found.

Mr. Lewis: You just described it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's the other 47 cents.

Mr. Lewis: No, you yourself described where the excesses come.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, sure I did—and I am explaining the ways I will cut down, but that does cut down on jobs.

Mr. Lewis: That's why it is the wrong way. You won't deal with the doctors—

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am dealing with the doctors—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: You won't deal with the medical profession; that's what it comes to.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, I would like to talk to you some day; they say I deal with them pretty ruthlessly.

Mr. Lewis: What the devil, you are the—

Mr. Warner: They are laughing all the way to the bank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's interesting, though, that in a state that has been governed for a good number of years by a party similar in philosophy to the NDP, Great Britain, there are very serious problems as you know.

Mr. Lewis: Not very serious problems.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are using 60 cents out of every dollar earned in that country to run the state. We are using 40 cents in Canada, and we think that's far too high.

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean, to run the state?

Mr. Wildman: The British state almost came to a halt under the Tories.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's 50 per cent more of the gross product of the country going into state-run organizations. That, of course, is where we tend to differ in our basic philosophies.

Mr. Lawlor: Conditions in Britain are totally different.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Thank goodness they are.

Ms. Bryden: Only 25 per cent of the 40 per cent are claims for goods and services. That leaves 75 per cent for the private sector.

Mr. Lawlor: Britain carried the load in the last great war and was virtually bankrupted in the process.

Mr. Chairman: Order please. The hon. minister has the floor. Would you give him the courtesy of allowing him to continue.

Mr. Bounsall: They have no resources as we have.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We won't have any resources if you guys run this place.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: That's the way you guys give it back to the mining industry as you did yesterday.

An hon. member: We're not closing hospitals—you are.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Lewis: Why don't you go to the province on this?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to.

Mr. Lewis: Go ahead; test your credibility.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to. Challenge me; challenge me. Put up or shut up!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Take your whole restraint programme to Ontario.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to.

Mr. Lewis: There it is; you go ahead and call it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You are in the opposition; you call it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: You're the government; name the date.

Mr. Lewis: I am in the opposition, Mr. Chairman; I call it. Now what happens?

Mr. Sargent: Very unparliamentary.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Nixon: Of all the fatuous exchanges, this has got to be the most fatuous.

Mr. Lewis: That is the most fatuous exchange—

Hon. F. S. Miller: We have been elected to run this province until you throw us out. Now you throw us out and we'll go to the polls on whatever issue you choose.

Mr. Lewis: This hospital programme will rally the province against you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Whatever issue you choose, we will go out on.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, fine; good.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I simply said this session would start like March—you know, a little noisy—but it would end in a very tranquil way.

Mr. Lewis: I did not say that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, you did.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I don't want to be proved wrong.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I realize that. I have a couple of pills that will help reduce you to the tranquil state before we're through today.

An hon. member: Did you say "pills" or "bills"?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It depends on how you take them.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think I should try to correct a figure. Either the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) was wrong or the member for Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) was wrong on one estimate of turnover in the hospital field. I think he used a 25 to 50 per cent figure and credited it to him. If he did use it, I don't recall it but I would like to correct it. My figures tell me that the traditional turnover rate has been closer to 10 to 12 per cent in the business.

The thing I would point out is that the number of positions vacant at any point in time is not related to the turnover rate. Two years ago, after I was minister, we were investigating the shortage of nurses in Toronto. We were investigating why hospitals had to use employment agencies and pay them premiums to get staff. In 1974, there were substantial awards in salaries made to nurses; I think it was 25 or 30 per cent in that year.

We've seen a dramatic change in the trend of turnover rates in hospitals, possibly because some people are nervous but also because, in many instances, the rates of pay have increased to the point where people think they are pretty good positions to hang on to. That, of course, does complicate the problem I'm faced with in trying to help the people who are displaced through the closures and help them get other jobs.

The doctors you referred to, saying, "We need to help them." I think that is relatively simple. In the case, though, of the nurses and the other workers I admit the problem is more grave. I have been talking to various organizations, the hospital associations—and I understand the nurses' association has been talked to, not by me directly—the OMA and the Ministry of Labour. In fact, once the hospitals have accepted the closures, I think we will be in a position to try to help people get relocated.

Mr. Sargent: They are not going to accept them.

Mr. Godfrey. Are you going to guarantee the living of these people in the interim?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No. But, again, let's look at that comment. I don't see the solution to unemployment being the state providing unnecessary jobs.

Mr. Warner: You took their jobs. You put them out of work.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: We don't consider that the solution to inflation is unemployment. That, at least, makes sense.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The state can only provide employment by taking money from other people. That's so simple that I hope—

Mr. Duksza: Income redistribution is essential.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I am. I'm a throw-back, aren't I?

Mr. Warner: You put them out of work.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. We're dealing with the minister's reply to opening statements by the critics of the two parties. You will have ample opportunity under these votes to get into specifics. Will the hon. minister continue?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am trying, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: If the minister would refrain from responding to some of the interjections, it may be more helpful.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Would you please note where they are coming from?

Mr. Lewis: You would be a lot better off if you were not so Pavlovian.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I shall bark and froth because I believe one has to do both if one is Pavlovian.

Mr. Sargent: Why don't you resign?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have to put my glasses on for a second or I'll not be able to keep to my notes.

I was interested in the comments on surgical operations. I share the members' concerns about unnecessary surgery. I'm just touching on that point.

I was looking at some statistics today and I was rather intrigued at my staff's fear that I may not understand some of the medical terms. They were listing some of the appendectomies, tonsillectomies, hysterectomies,

prostatectomies, etc., and beside hysterectomies was a little asterisk. I looked down and it said, "female patient only." Beside prostatectomies were two asterisks—"male patients only." It made me realize what confidence the ministry staff had in their minister when they sent me that information.

Mr. Lewis: What did the statistics say? [5:15]

Hon. F. S. Miller: The statistics were interesting in this sense, in that we have a higher rate in Canada than the United States has for tonsillectomies by a considerable percentage and a lower rate for appendectomies, and that rather intrigued me. I would say there is no significant difference, as I recall, in the hysterectomy-prostatectomy series; but in those first two we had exchanged the lead, and by a considerable amount. We do a lot more tonsillectomies in Canada than they do in the United States, and I believe quite a fewer appendectomies, as a percentage of population.

Mr. Lewis: Do you have a comparison across Canada?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't have statistical facts. I believe it was just a little table summarizing those particular factors. We've been studying that kind of thing for some time.

Mr. Duksza: What are you doing about it? There's an unnecessary shortage.

Mr. Lewis: He's closing hospitals.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You asked me, I think at the end, five questions. This is the member for Parkdale again. You asked me what alternatives there were. The interesting thing about the alternatives to active treatment care is we built them in before we cut the beds; this is something people keep on forgetting. Dr. Potter, to give him credit, in 1972 came forward and said: "The federal plan of cost-sharing has encouraged hospital bed building." That was echoed by the new leader of the Liberal Party in his first speech on the estimates, I believe. He then went on and said: "We must find those alternatives to the high cost of the system and therefore we should provide insurance for people in nursing homes and we should provide home nursing care."

Mr. Bounsall: Put it in place first.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We did. We have 26,000 nursing home beds licensed in the province; another 10,000, roughly, in homes for the aged. That's 36,000; almost as many beds in intermediate care as we had in the whole

active care system. As a result, we've only closed perhaps 3,300 active treatment beds in the province.

Mr. Ferrier: You changed the whole nature of the old age process.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We didn't change the nature of it. The old age homes, of course, became de facto nursing homes because the other benefit wasn't there to share in advance. I think that's exactly how most people got in. Communities which had one took anybody for many years. In the last few years they've become more selective—if they could become more—as nursing homes became available. I'd like to think—

Mr. Warner: More expensive.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —the ultimate solution is the combination of those two types of facilities into one. I don't know whether it will ever happen.

Jobs; we've talked about that briefly and I have to tell you that we cannot afford to create jobs, but it's our duty to provide help to those misplaced to get relocated.

You asked me the question as to what I'm going to do about behaviour of MDs and use of hospitals, I believe. I mentioned that briefly in my first comment. I really think the profession of medicine must be responsible for its own professional ethics. We, in turn, have to provide enough facilities for them to practice in to allow the good practice of medicine, but not the unnecessary practice. We felt that we were providing too many facilities and, therefore, we cut it down so that some of the things you complained about will not happen simply because peer review, as you know, will have a profound effect upon wastage or inappropriate admission.

The nurse practitioner programme has been slowed down for one simple reason. I firmly believe, in the long range, it's a very valuable part of the health care system, as other paramedicals are. The fact remains that when you have a surplus of doctors, it's pretty hard to justify a cut in the cost of the system. That's an Ontario surplus, Mr. Chairman; I can tell from the look in your eye.

Mr. Warner: There's no surplus in the north.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, but we are coming a long way toward matching it—

Mr. Warner: Producing a surplus?

Hon. F. S. Miller: —and meeting it around the north.

The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) chatted to me for while in an allegorical way or something to begin with—I think it was, wasn't it? Was that an allegory?

Mr. Warner: An allegory.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Or was it just a poem; a bad poem?

Mr. Laughren: Was there an asterisk beside it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Perhaps it was an Aesop's fable.

Mr. Worton: John Donne was the author?

Hon. F. S. Miller: By the way, I was intrigued to think he was talking about the mismanagement of this province by the PC government. That was the first thing he started on, as I recall. One thing I would to refer back to is that this year our budget goes up 10 per cent. This year the federal Liberal budget went up 19 per cent. I just question whether that doesn't indicate which party is willing actually to put the screws on.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I couldn't quite hear you, sir.

Mr. Nixon: They had to pay automatically half of your medical bills.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No they don't They don't pay half my medical bill.

Mr. Nixon: They pay half the Canadian average—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, but they limited the growth of the medical component to 14.5 per cent.

Mr. Nixon: They are about to limit it by closure, I understand.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, they are. Bill C-68 will be stopped by closure. I question, when he talks about the fiscal nightmare we have, how he can then complain about me taking action to cut costs. I question the analysis of several platforms in the past—I think the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has said there was \$332 million to save in my budget. I am trying to save \$50 million of it in the hospital field and getting quite a bit of criticism. I question when he tries to place the blame on rural Ontario and say that the majority of changes occurred in rural Ontario. Where would you make them? Which cities would you choose? Where would you go?

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me start down the list and name some of the cities that I cut.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I hope I can call Thunder Bay a city. I certainly would think so, could I not? Is Mr. Foulds in the House?

Mr. Lewis: Maybe Mr. Chairman might know.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just about \$1.2 million out of Thunder Bay; a closure of a little more than 100 beds in Thunder Bay. Windsor, \$4.2 million—

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Chatham, a closure of 20 to 44 beds and a change of another 50-odd to chronic care; \$350,000 saving. London, savings amounting to \$2.5 million, apart from any changes we will make at Westminster.

Mr. Nixon: Next you will have regional government there.

Mr. Riddell: These are bed cuts, and not hospital closings.

Hon. F. S. Miller: These are a mixture of the both of them. Look, I closed 500 beds in hospitals around this province, 319 of them are in the city of Toronto; 319 beds, \$6.5 million.

Mr. Sargent: How much did you save in Muskoka?

Hon. F. S. Miller: There was \$155,000 cut out of the budget there.

Mr. Sargent: You are building a new hospital there.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Both hospitals. I am not building a new hospital, I am building a replacement hospital like I am at 600 other locations in the province.

Mr. Sargent: That's a gutsy approach to take. You close our hospital and build yourself a new one!

Hon. F. S. Miller: My hospital was condemned in 1969.

Mr. Sargent: Where do you get the right to do that? Who do you think you are?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Now Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: That money belongs to the people of Ontario, not to Frank Miller.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's right.

Mr. Riddell: The point is that you are closing hospitals in small communities that—

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would the minister refer to the member as the hon. member for Grey-Bruce?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The hon. member for Grey-Bruce.

Hamilton, 220 beds cut; \$2 million.

Mr. Mackenzie: Who is going to decide what beds in Hamilton?

Hon. F. S. Miller: St. Catharines, 125 beds cut; \$1.3 million.

Mr. Nixon: How about Milton?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Milton? Milton was taken out. Milton was rescinded because of population changes.

Mr. Nixon: Okay, go ahead, tell us about that one. Are you going to let that hang there?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh, I missed Toronto. Would you like Toronto?

Mr. Nixon: Would the minister permit a question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Would you like Toronto?

Mr. Nixon: Will he explain to the House why it was that his announcement closing of the beds in Milton was rescinded? What was the reason for the change?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The announced closures of beds and the budget cuts are all handled by staff rather than by me. And, in fact, we got a population growth figure based on January, 1966, which supplanted the one we had prior to that. We had a 1975 figure which showed in fact the surplus was well below the 25 beds.

Mr. Nixon: I believe the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) phoned you up and said, "You can't close them, and just—"

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. Nixon: "—do whatever you have to do—"

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On that same basis, I would have rescinded every other closure in the Conservative ridings since every Conservative member called me up and said that.

Mr. Nixon: You just flip-flopped when your seatmate told you to.

Mr. Ruston: He doesn't sit beside you for nothing.

Hon. F. S. Miller: And every Liberal member called up and said that.

Mr. Nixon: Darcy tells you to do something and Jim tells you to do something else.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the minister continue?

Mr. Lewis: How do you make those mistakes?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We based it on the current statistics and the towns in fast-growth areas—and you would admit that Milton is in a fast-growth area, would you?

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: So, I take it that you did not rely on the Minister of Transportation and Communications in deciding about the hospital bed closures?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Did you also ask if I got a call from the member who represents that riding? Did you ask if I got a call from him?

Mr. Sargent: A call or a letter?

Mr. Nixon: Don't answer a question with a question.

Hon. F. S. Miller: From the member representing the riding also? I got a call from both of them.

Mr. Sargent: Good. I want to find out when you got the call.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Listen, before the letter went out—I was on vacation that week, as you may recall—before the letter went out, I had said to my staff I would like a double check on Milton because I think Milton is one place where there are only 62 beds or something in the total hospital; 25 seemed to be a pretty large cut.

Mr. Nixon: We believe almost everything you say, but that one is a little tough.

Mr. Sargent: I want to find out, Mr. Chairman, yes or no, whether you were influenced by the Minister of Transportation and Communications?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. Sargent: You weren't? Well, what does the letter that we have seen prove then?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't recall getting a letter from him. I certainly recall getting a phone call from him.

Mr. Sargent: A member of this party has a letter to the effect—

Hon. F. S. Miller: It may well be. From me?

Mr. Sargent: The Hon. Mr. Snow.

Hon. F. S. Miller: From me or to me?

Mr. Sargent: From the Hon. Mr. Snow. He has a letter.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Only one member should be on his feet at once.

Mr. Sargent: The point I want to assess is, somewhere along the line was your department influenced by a request from the Minister of Transportation and Communications?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, it was not, nor was it influenced by the requests from say the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) or the member for any other place. Now, it is my turn to stand up because you are supposed to be listening.

Mr. Warner: You still haven't explained either.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am just checking down here, because I have covered quite a few of the points and I don't want to go over them again. Okay, Goderich Psychiatric Hospital and Timmins were closed not as a result of a sudden study but as a result of one done across the summer. I explained that some while back. It was because over the past few years our 15 psychiatric hospitals had, as time went on, fewer and fewer in-patients in them and we had been letting attrition take place wherever we had a drop in patient load, until we got to the point where some of our psychiatric hospitals were really very low in numbers, and justification for closure of one or two or three or even four could have been found. A review was made and we had a couple of prospects in southwestern Ontario, the one in Owen Sound, the one in Goderich; we looked at St. Thomas and St. Thomas was large enough that it couldn't really be closed. We chose Goderich because it was relatively easy to look after the patients elsewhere, remembering that very few parts

of the province have their own psychiatric hospitals—

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —and remembering that bricks and mortar don't make a mental health programme, contrary to what you believe. The building is only the visible evidence of it; the programme in many cases is one which depends a great deal upon services, either given at that point or somewhere else, which don't depend upon beds.

Mr. Riddell: Surely you are not questioning the effects of the programme in Goderich?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Therefore, many of the things you have talked about won't disappear. You have made the assumption they will. We did listen to reaction from your community. I certainly would not have closed a hospital and gone through all the turmoil and personal concern that I had and that the community had if I did not believe that hospital should have been closed.

Mr. Bounsall: Why did you—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Your assumption that it was a trading of dollars is wrong. The Ministry of Community and Social Services was going to create facilities somewhere. It would have made good sense, after we had made our decision, that they use a facility we otherwise were going to leave vacant. I think you could agree with that. It is better there than somewhere else in a new building.

Mr. Riddell: But not accepted by the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded?

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right, they accepted it up north and they didn't accept it down south.

Mr. Ferrier: They weren't very happy about it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, one is a schedule 1 and one is a schedule 2 facility. I think we can say that safely. We did provide 20 beds for acute care in the area and I think that was a major concession and the savings are net.

Mr. Lewis: Come on! It's not a major concession.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think it's a very important concession.

Mr. Riddell: It was a concession that we appreciate but it was really—

Mr. Lewis: Where is the rationalization study? Why can't the Legislature see it? Why can't you reply to my letter of about six weeks ago?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will look into that and tell you.

Mr. Duksza: Will you have it by tomorrow?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In summary, I am intrigued to see that the member for Huron-Middlesex said he thought the free drugs shouldn't be given to all senior citizens. One of the interesting things I found as I went around this province is how angry were senior citizens, who couldn't pass the means test and whose savings had dwindled through inflation, because they in turn had worked all their lives, saved their money and found they weren't eligible for benefits that other people were eligible for. Of all the groups of society, I would say we do owe that to people over 65 who have been caught in the dollar squeeze of late. Therefore I was quite happy to expand the free drug programme and I really wouldn't like to go back to a means test for those people over 65 on drugs, as you suggested.

Mr. Riddell: You say you would or wouldn't?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I wouldn't like to. I think you would find that your suggestion of the means test for those people was very unpopular with them. You are suggesting that we raise OHIP premiums. Sure, OHIP premiums may have to rise. I don't know. That's going to be the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough) decision but the fact remains that OHIP premiums today are covering only 16 per cent of my budget, I would guess—somewhere in that range. They used to cover 25 per cent. The balance is collected in taxes of a less regressive nature. The people in Ontario do pay the highest premiums because only two provinces pay premiums; but it happens, I think, that the people in this province would still rather pay a direct premium than a hidden tax. If I have heard anything as I went around this province, it was that they want more information about how much benefit they get.

I am digressing, but I got a cheque today which kind of made me feel warm. It was from a man over 65, in the category that you are talking about. He was from your part of the province; not your county but that way. He said: "My wife's in hospital. She is having surgery. We have had quite a bit of medical

care in the past three or four years. We have free OHIP premium and we feel we have got more than our dollar's worth over our lifetime out of the system. Attached is \$1,000 for you to give to the Treasurer."

Mr. Swart: Are you sure he didn't have a PS saying: "Please keep the hospital open"?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No. I was very impressed with that letter and I thanked the gentleman—and accepted his cheque, by the way.

Mr. Bounsall: That is what the people are like in Ontario.

Mr. Lewis: It is a commentary on how you might have rallied the people instead of closing their hospitals.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, of course, I must say I never expected anybody in any community affected to sympathize with what I was trying to do. I guess the Globe and Mail's "Morning Smile" this week summarized it best: "The politician's view of waste is when a dollar is spent in somebody else's riding." And obviously the converse is true: "A politician's view of economy is a dollar saved in somebody else's riding."

On vote 2903:

Mr. Chairman: We are dealing with item 1 of vote 2903, health insurance. The hon. member for Scarborough West.

Mr. Lewis: Can I wait the minister's return? Can you adjourn for a minute or hold in abeyance for a minute? We can all read the "Morning Smile."

Hon. F. S. Miller: The pills are very effective.

Mr. Lewis: Don't say anything. So much for the Grace Hospital; you've just closed it down.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, no.

Mr. Lewis: No? Okay. I just want to get into this discussion for a moment, Mr. Chairman, because I suspect that we'll be on these health estimates for some little time, a few days anyway, and obviously the matter of the hospital closing will, appropriately, be discussed under the second vote, I believe. I don't want to transgress on votes, I did want to pick up with the Minister of Health a couple of observations he made in reply and related to one of the most controversial OHIP charges that the province is now dealing with, those related to labs, and to get

some response from the minister today or in other days.

The Minister has put the proposition, in his response to my colleague the member for Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) and to the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), that he had to cut, he just had to cut the \$50 million. I don't imagine it will be \$50 million; it will be around \$40 million I imagine—\$40 million plus?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's \$43 million plus some other savings.

Mr. Lewis: All right, \$43-odd million, as a demonstration that he was serious about cutting back on health care costs, and I understand that argument, of course. I fail to understand his recitation of the fundamental problems in the system with which the government will not cope because of some distorted view of state intervention. If it is true, in the minister's position, that somehow the system is abused by doctors; if it is true that somehow the system performs too many operations; or that admission policy is too easy, or that length of stay is too long; or that testing is too routine and of too great a proliferation, or that efficiency is down; then it seems to me an awful penalty to impose upon small communities to close down their hospitals instead of dealing with the fundamental problems of the system. I just don't understand the logic.

You recite the litany of wrongs in health care delivery in Ontario and then you say, rather than confronting those clear abuses and inefficiencies: "I, as the Minister of Health, have determined on two courses: One, to reduce the number of doctors by reducing the immigrant population of doctors; and two, by closing down hospital beds." Well I cannot think of a more inopportune way of approaching health care delivery. You've gone to the trouble of identifying the deficiencies and then you wash your hands of it.

The New Democrats are in the process of putting to you in the area of health care costs, one small proposition but an interesting one, and that has to do with the lab system. I want to just remind you of certain figures, because they nonplussed me a little bit and I want to get them on the record. In the period left in 1971, OHIP payments to private labs amounted to \$17.8 million. In 1972 it was \$20.7 million, for a 16 per cent increase. In 1973 it was a \$32 million payment, for a 54 per cent increase. In 1974 it was a \$45 million payment, for a 29 per cent increase. And in 1975 there is an estimated \$66 million

payment, for another 45.4 per cent increase; meaning that in the period from 1971 to 1975 the increases to the private labs from OHIP amount to almost 150 per cent.

I challenge the minister to show us where there has been a corresponding increase in medical costs in another aspect of the medical care delivery system. This is surely the single most startling and most disproportionate leap in costs; totally uncontrolled as far as we can see, totally without rationale and at an enormous drain on the public purse.

I want to point out something else which hasn't been adequately looked at—this \$66 million figure for 1975, estimated, is probably a bogus figure. There is this fascinating wrinkle in the payment of fees to medical labs through OHIP, that they can charge up to six months later for the fees or the costs they assume today. So there is every reason to believe that the estimates of the Ontario Hospital Association of \$88 million may be right, or at least that the estimate of some of the private labs themselves of \$80 million may be right; or at least that the minister's lowest figure, or figure of today in the question period, of \$70 million, may be right.

In other words, we are heading this year for the biggest single percentage jump in payments to private labs from the public purse of any year since private labs were brought into the public sector. I want to say to the minister that that is really an intolerable proposition.

Let me take it the next step, Mr. Chairman. What is absolutely fascinating about all this and equally indefensible is the revelation that OHIP doesn't know what the devil it is doing where payments to private labs are concerned. I have heard enough from colleagues and others of the police investigation that is presently under way, and I have heard enough from journalists who have stood mesmerized and bewildered as your staff attempted to cope with the computer in OHIP—enough from both sources and via both sources to know that OHIP doesn't have even the basic idea of what it is paying exactly, to whom the payments are made, whether the payments are legitimate, what the amounts of increase are for any of the individual labs; and that in fact OHIP is floundering desperately in an area where costs have gone up almost 150 per cent and where we this year will be paying between \$66 million and \$80 million out of the public purse.

Were I a Minister of Health looking for a place to save \$8 or \$9 million and I was dealing with an area so obviously padded,

disproportionately out of line, clearly wasteful, entirely unjustified, I would not move in on Durham, Clinton, Paris-Willett and all the other little community hospitals; I'd save that \$9 million out of the private lab system and I'd be certain that it was effective. It's a devil of a price for these little communities to pay, that the government's ineptitude in one aspect of health care is visited on them in the other.

Hon. F. S. Miller: One doesn't justify the other.

Mr. Lewis: One may not justify the other, but when you come before this Legislature beating your breast with bravado about closing down little hospitals, then you should make darned sure that your flanks aren't exposed; and when you can save as much money in the private labs as you've saved in all those little community closings, then you're wrong, Mr. Minister, you're dead wrong.

Hon. F. S. Miller: And I will, and I will.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, but when it all began your position was, "We can get down this much, we can reduce by this . . ." one per cent or two per cent or three per cent or whatever the \$50 million represents or the \$43 million. I guess it is about 1/4 or 1/2 per cent—

Hon. F. S. Miller: From hospitals.

Mr. Lewis: You said, "We can make that reduction on the basis of the hospitals." Nowhere did we hear about the private labs and the payments that were being made.

(You see, some of us remember the debate in 1972. Some of us remember and have read recently the exchange involving the member for Riverdale. God bless this fellow Jim Renwick; he has an almost clairvoyant sense of what may be important one day. I was looking back at that bill which was debated with Dr. Potter on the private labs and the legislation at the time, and noticed that Jim Renwick had raised exactly the questions which are now central today, and received the assurances from Potter in 1972 which you in your press conference hadn't even heard of. Four years later we are still paying the price, for a promise that was never delivered, to labs out of the public purse. Given studies that you've said you've initiated, yet nothing has come of it. That just seems to me to be absolutely inexcusable.

[5:45]

Let me take it the next step, Mr. Chairman. What is even more inexcusable than the total

amounts paid out and then OHIP's clear incompetence in this field, is the emerging revelation that these private labs—some of them; one of them spectacularly—may well be involved in unscrupulous billing practices and corrupt kick-back practices and all of this with public money.

I may say that that really is pushing the opposition, and therefore the public, to the wall to understand what is the rationale behind government policy? We are not talking about profit in this instance. We are not talking about profit; don't deal with us in terms of bogies.

We are dealing with whether or not you can justify this kind of increased health cost without scrutiny, when it may even have illegitimate and unsavory practices associated with it. But you never demonstrated the same passion about the private labs that you demonstrated about all the little hospitals.

(You didn't say to me, as you said with that cocky spunk of yours after we had had a little television programme together: "I am leaving from the Grosvenor St. exit of the Parliament buildings tomorrow morning, 8 o'clock. My licence plate is Ontario 009; follow me if you will. I am going west."

Hon. F. S. Miller: You asked me.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't say: "I am going out to a laboratory to look at their books," did you?

Hon. F. S. Miller: You pondered that question.

Mr. Lewis: No. You didn't say, "I am going out to a private lab to close it down." You didn't say, "I am going out to start a judicial investigation into the abuse of public funds." No. You said you were going out to close some helpless little community hospital because you won't take any action where it should be taken. Some bravado for the minister.

Hon. Mr. Miller: You are using the oldest technique in the game.

Mr. Lewis: You are pretty tough, you Tory people, when it comes to restraint in the health sector, when you can deal with vulnerable communities. Boy, are you tough at the expense of the little communities. You can make a case for political restraint but you absolutely refuse to deal with the fundamental questions of the relationship between some members of the medical profession and the private labs; about the behaviour of the private labs themselves; about all of

the costs associated with it; about what it means for the health delivery system. All of those fundamental questions which amount to the costs for Ontario, you refuse to deal with. But when it comes—

Hon. F. S. Miller: May I interrupt you for a second?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, you can interrupt, with pleasure.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You keep on talking about the little communities on the assumption I did nothing to the larger ones. Eighty per cent of the total cuts in this round came out of cities; 20 per cent out of rural Ontario.

Mr. Lewis: We will deal with the cuts, wards and staff—these staff that you feel the state isn't responsible for—on vote 2 and we will deal with them in the Throne Speech. For the moment what I am doing, and doing very deliberately, is juxtaposing those small community hospitals against the clear area of saving which you, for whatever reason, refuse to take.

I must admit that when I listened to the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) I can feel for him; as in fact you can. I have visited Durham; I have visited Goderich; I have visited Clinton; I have visited Paris-Willett; I have visited Doctors'. I have met with the medical boards and the concerned citizens, the various staff members and the various boards of directors. I want to tell you I haven't seen a case made for one of those hospitals yet.

I have looked at the confidential report you left behind for Clinton. I just can't wait to get our teeth into that when we come to vote 2. I have looked at the material which the Ministry of Health supplied to the long-term-care study group in Brant county on Paris. A greater set of contradictions and inconsistencies I haven't laid my eyes on and can't wait until we get into vote 2. We have seen the kind of stuff that comes out in a detailed way about Doctors Hospital and the same thing applies.

The Chairman is about to call me to order so I will come back to what I was originally pointing out: That is, very simply, there is no rationale for those little hospital closings; there is even less rationale when you look at what you might save.

You said to the press, or somebody said to the press, that you were considering three or four way of dealing with these private labs. One of those ways was positively delicious. It could only come from the Ministry of

Health. You thought you might put a surcharge on the patient who is referred to the lab.

Now that's not bad. It is in an article from the Ministry of Health—one of your four suggestions. Suggestion No. 4 was a deterrent fee for the patient. Now that takes creative inspiration. That's really something. Your first solution, which is probably the one you'll arrive at, was equally inspired. You'll lower the payments to 60 per cent of the OHIP fee schedule.

You'll notice that it never occurs to the ministry to deal with the fundamental problem which is how the devil is it working and why is it working in this fashion and what went wrong? You'll find every other rationale or excuse in the world but you won't deal with the fundamental problem because it involves, may we suggest, a direct confrontation with the medical profession. Not those who would distort medicine, because a vast majority of the medical profession are committed to the science, but those who have too easily used the relationship between labs and doctors—or should I say abused the relationship between labs and doctors.

We come to the next point which relates to the question which the new leader of the Liberal Party raised with you today. I thought it was absolutely dead on—how come you move in on small community hospitals? You have this incredible documentation of waste, inefficiency and, perhaps, corruption in the private labs and you choose to save \$400,000 on the public labs. Can anything be more foolhardy and more offensive to the communities than that kind of decision, because they understand it? I don't expect Woodstock or North Bay or St. Catharines or Kenora had that full a knowledge, as a community, of their public labs but North Bay alone got 20,000 to 25,000 signatures against the government's decision on the North Bay lab involving 11 employees, simply because of the absurdity of the way it was executed and the illegitimacy of the decision itself. Imagine arousing whole communities on that basis. No illegitimacy? You closed down the lab; then, two weeks later, after public pressure is put on, you make arrangements to re-employ all the staff in other sectors of the government—in other parts of the public sector. Yet your original saving rationale was the elimination of the jobs. You explained that earlier this afternoon in response to others.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Not the individual ones.

Mr. Lewis: The positions are now being absorbed in other parts of the public sector. Where is the saving? Perhaps the saving is in the courier service you are establishing to take the samples from North Bay to Timmins, North Bay to Sudbury, North Bay to Orillia and North Bay to Toronto. Would you like to give anyone in this House a dollar value of the courier service?

Would you like to tell us how much it costs to provide the containers within which the samples have to be transported so they won't freeze in the winter or melt in the summer because some genius in your ministry suddenly discovers that you can't convey samples without special transportation equipment? Would you like to tell us how much it is going to cost to bring the mobile units in to North Bay to do what the permanent lab can no longer do, with the special screenings for kidney ailments, for kids in the elementary school?

Would you like to explain to us after it is all over how the devil you're really going to save on these public labs and what possible argument you can construct, as a minister, which justifies \$400,000 off the public labs and not a penny off the private labs? How is it you show such enthusiasm to move on the public sector illegitimately and so little enthusiasm to move on the private sector with absolute legitimacy?

How is it that you've not attempted by the year 1976 even the slightest rationalization of the lab services in Ontario? Why is it that you cannot stand before us and say: "Here is the role of the public lab. Here is the role of the hospital lab. Here is the role of what remains for the private lab and, as a result of this rationalization, we will save these moneys"?

No, because that gets at the root of the problem, that gets at health delivery. Instead, you wander off to the small rural communities and close down hospitals. It's so much easier and it builds the dramatic high-profile, totally cynical objective of saying to Ontario, "We have the guts to support restraint. Endorse what we're doing even if you don't like the way we're doing it."

I must say I think the people of Ontario, as the other perspectives are provided in the Legislature over the next weeks, are going to find all of that behaviour pretty blessed offensive.

We come back to what we've put to you before and want in all earnestness to put to you again. There must be a select committee of this Legislature or a judicial inquiry established by the government into the labs. As a

matter of fact, there must be a judicial inquiry established into the whole private lab operation; the way they make charges; the procedure about samples that are taken; how it is checked and whether or not there are any unsavory or abusive relationships between doctors and private labs.

The select committee of the Legislature could do an enormously useful job in appraising the odious operation as it relates to the private labs and in working out a rationalization of the public labs, hospital labs and private labs. We appeal to you as strongly as we can to do just that because it's the only way we're going to work our way out of the laboratory morass.

I will take my seat. There are many ways in which we could trim here and there in the health system. We have not been shocked in this caucus into the kind of rout that you would wish to impose on politicians when you talk about health expenditures because we've noticed that, as a percentage of the gross provincial product, health in Ontario has ranged from roughly 4.2 per cent or 4.3 per cent to 4.7 per cent or 4.8 per cent over the last five years. That's not undue. As a percentage of provincial expenditures in the budget, health has declined from around 30 per cent in 1970 to around 26 plus per cent in 1975.

No one should be stampeded by the absurdity of the ministry. You can save money in health legitimately without doing violation to whole communities, to thousands of working people in an illusory and indefensible way. And if you wanted to, you could have saved your whole \$43 million over the last couple of years from the private lab system alone at the very least, save it now in the private lab system and restore, we say to you, every single community hospital you closed.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House may I indicate that tomorrow, following question period and orders of the day, we will take in debate second reading of Bill 2, introduced this afternoon by the Minister of Education (Mr.

Wells). Following the consideration of that legislation, we will then resume the estimates as indicated.

Mr. Lewis: Sorry, what estimates? Will the Minister of Health be here tomorrow afternoon, if we finish the bill before us?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If we finish Bill 2 before 6, then we'd have to do Housing.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, as you know, we will take the Throne Speech into considera-

tion tomorrow too, tomorrow being Thursday. We will have the mover and seconder in the Speech from the Throne and, following that, Bill 2. If there is still time before 6 o'clock, we'll do Housing and then back to Health estimates in the evening.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Thursday, March 11, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on Feb. 18 last, I wrote to the federal Minister of Justice requesting that his government direct a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada to determine the constitutionality of the federal anti-inflation legislation and the legality of the agreement entered into between the government of the Province of Ontario and the federal government in relation to the application of the federal anti-inflation programme.

Mr. Renwick: The Court of Appeal of Ontario is the proper jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In furtherance of this matter, on Feb. 20 the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and I attended in Ottawa and met with the Minister of Justice and the federal Minister of Finance to pursue our request with respect to an early reference to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice advised me that such—

Mr. Renwick: I cannot understand it. It is in total subversion to the system.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —a reference would, in fact, be directed to the Supreme Court of Canada, and I am advised by the federal Minister of Justice that the details of the reference will be made known later this afternoon.

Mr. Renwick: Who would be able to intervene on behalf of the people let alone the government of the country? This is the most improper statement made by you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: This is the most improper statement that has been made by you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the member for Riverdale.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, please tell the hon. member opposite to learn how to behave himself; he has been here long enough.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: I rise on a point of privilege. My privilege and the question I put to the Speaker is, is it the role—I would like to have the attention of the Attorney General and not the smile. The Attorney General plays to the cameras all the time, let's get it straight.

Mr. Deans: He even brought the cameras in so that he could play to them here.

Mr. Renwick: My question to the Speaker of the assembly is a very simple one: In the democratic system, as we understand it in this province, is it proper, when there is a case before the courts of the Province of Ontario, for the Attorney General and his cohort, the Treasurer of Ontario, to interfere in the regular judicial process which would permit a case before the courts to go to the divisional court, to the Court of Appeal of Ontario and to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are debating.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: The reason I ask that question is that the rule—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I would like—

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, will you hear me out?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Renwick: May I continue my point of privilege? When a matter is sub judice, which is part of the standing orders of this Legislature, is it appropriate or proper for the Attorney General of the province to subvert the system by intervening, as he

has done in the assembly? I refer to the precedent set out in the Legislature about the ruling on sub judice, and in particular to my letter to the Attorney General about this very intrusion which he has made upon the system of justice in the province.

Mr. Speaker: I am in no position to comment on anything that is before the courts and therefore sub judice at this point in time.

Mr. Renwick: There is, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am not aware of that, so I haven't anything further to say at this time.

Mr. Bullbrook: What brought this all on anyway?

Mr. Singer: Where is the sub judice rule? Which rule is that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. member: Simmer down.

Mr. Renwick: I won't simmer down at all. You don't understand the constitution of the country. He doesn't have the dignity—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Riverdale please obey my request?

Mr. Renwick: He doesn't even have the dignity to reply to the letter that I addressed to him on the subject.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think I will give the Attorney General a moment to respond.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have been called upon to reply to what I view, Mr. Speaker, as a most ludicrous and irresponsible statement made by the hon. member for Riverdale.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: To suggest that the Attorney General of this province is in some manner subverting the—

Mr. Renwick: You certainly have.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —justice processes, or indeed the constitution of this country because it is our desire to have a ruling on this matter by the highest court of the land at the earliest possible opportunity—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Renwick: And it will never have the benefit of the Court of Appeal of the Province of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: It should be understood by my friend that this is in the very real interest of the administration of justice of this province. There will obviously be a number of interveners in the Supreme Court of Canada in order that all interests will be represented.

For the member to suggest that the Attorney General was subverting the administration of justice, in my view is the most irresponsible statement that I have yet had the privilege to hear in this Legislature.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask that the matter be dropped. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, in view of the seriousness of my friend's allegation—

Mr. Nixon: The Speaker said to sit down.

Mr. Cassidy: You are subverting this House as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is obviously a difference of opinion. We will begin the question period. I will call upon the Leader of the Opposition to put his first question.

Oral questions.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have carefully evaluated the arguments of the Attorney General and the member for Riverdale. I agree with my colleague.

Interjections.

RESIGNATION OF JEFF PERKINS

Mr. Lewis: I would like to put my first question, if I could, to the Chairman of Cabinet: I gather that on Jan. 28, the Chairman of Cabinet was assigned the overall responsibility for co-ordination of policy in relation to native affairs on behalf of the government. Can I ask him in this new capacity what extraordinary bureaucratic foul-up occurred to force the resignation of Jeff Perkins, the co-ordinator for the government of activities in Grassy Narrows and Whitedog in the northwestern part of the province?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I would say that Mr. Jeff Perkins—I have known him for quite some time—is a very able and excellent resource officer. He used to be in my area and

did excellent work and then he was transferred to Kenora and continued his work with the native people as a community resource officer under the Indian community secretariat.

I believe it was some time in January that he was appointed a special co-ordinator to provide special assistance to the two reserves, the Whitedog and the Grassy Narrows Indian reserves, which were, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, severely affected by the contamination of the English-Wabigoon river system. The federal government, in turn, also appointed a co-ordinator, a Mr. David Jacobs, I believe, also to provide assistance. I visited those two reserves about two weeks ago and I was quite impressed with the work that is being done by the two levels of government, working closely with both Indian bands.

I was surprised to hear that he was leaving us. At the same time, he has only been, as far as I know, with the ministry for two years. Prior to that, I believe he was in the Northwest Territories and now he is going to the Province of Alberta to work again in a similar role. So again, I believe it's a personal decision on his part and again I regret very much that he is leaving us. However, we certainly will be filling his position.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, does the minister realize that in the process of leaving his post, he indicated publicly that the reason involved the difficulty, the impossibility for him, of dealing with the bureaucracy in the Ministry of Natural Resources at Queen's Park and that he could not fulfil his mandate to the people of Whitedog and Grassy Narrows because of the interference of government? Is the minister prepared to correct that and how can he explain it?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I would say to the hon. leader that what he should do is get in touch with both Indian bands in those communities and they will attest to the positive steps that have been taken. This government has allocated \$50,000 specifically for those two bands. A substantial part of those amounts has already been spent in resource developments and so forth. I would say that the hon. member should get his facts first before—

Mr. Lewis: I spoke to Mr. Perkins this morning.

By way of a supplementary, did the minister know that the straw that broke the camel's back was a request for \$1,000 for Whitedog for women to do handicrafts and that that couldn't even be cleared sufficiently

quickly to allow the band to use the money? [2:15]

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I wasn't aware of that specific request but, again, I would like to show that substantial sums of money have already been sent in the last month to assist the Indian bands.

GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services: Am I right in understanding that the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society, in 1975, had a disagreement with the ministry over the total amount of the budget which should go to that society? The society said it needed roughly \$19,700,000, your ministry said only \$19 million and it went to a board of review which decided that the figure would be \$19,400,000 plus. If that is so, and that is provided under the Child Welfare Act, why then do you base your increase to the Metro Children's Aid Society on the lower figure which you determined and which the board of review repudiated?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I explain that initially it wasn't really a dispute insofar as the initial budget of the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society was concerned. Of course, it was reviewed and approved at a certain figure. There was a dispute in regard to the number of additional personnel that the Children's Aid Society thought it should hire and which it did. As a matter of fact, I think it wished to hire an additional 115 persons up to the end of last year. I believe they've hired about 91. The appeal process was exercised and the hearing took place. The recommendation was made. I accepted that recommendation and provided the additional funding.

Insofar as Children's Aid Societies throughout Ontario are concerned, it has been the practice in past years to carry operating deficits into the next year and then to incorporate those operating deficits as a part of the base and build from there. I looked upon the additional money that was required as an operating deficit and, of course, that wasn't included, in accordance with the guidelines which applied and apply to the 50 Children's Aid Societies throughout Ontario.

Insofar as the impact of that is concerned, of course, much has been said in terms of the effective rate. May I say, while I'm on

my feet, that several weeks ago I met with the chairman and directors of the Toronto Children's Aid Society in connection with the particular problems surrounding that society, and the whole budgetary problem has been under review since then on a day to day basis with our respective staffs. I expect to be meeting with Mr. Edwards early next week to finally resolve the matter of the budget.

Again, if I can impose upon the time of the House to explain in conjunction with this question, I have indicated that I was actively seeking additional funding because of the transfer of burdens to Children's Aid Societies because of such things as the repeal of section 8 of the Training Schools Act. I have done that and I may say that I feel confident of success in that area and I expect that whole matter to be resolved.

In the meantime, the board of directors of the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society indicated and promised me that we would deal in good faith on an ongoing basis and there would not be any pressure through publicity action to try to interfere with that process.

Mr. Lewis: They're quite desperate.

Mr. Cassidy: You're blackmailing them. You're telling them to shut up.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Unfortunately, the president has informed me that he is unable to control the activities of his staff and the association, and he apologized for that. But I am confident that early next week we'll have the whole matter resolved to our mutual satisfaction.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's not a question. When you ask a question, I'll respond to your question.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask then by way of supplementary, does the minister recall the name, and could he give it to the Legislature, of the person who chaired the board of review, whose decision he repudiated by refusing to base the increase upon that decision? Can he promise us now that the amount of the budget on which the increase for the Children's Aid Society will be negotiated will be the board of review level so that that society does not have to strip its preventive services and take kids out of institutional care because of the folly of government?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again the member is making an accusation; he is making a statement which is not based on fact at all. It is just another distortion that he proposes as accurate.

Mr. Lewis: That's what they have said.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Please let me respond to your question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Let me respond. I stated that the report was rendered and I accepted the recommendations of the report. The member has just accused me of repudiating the report.

Mr. Lewis: Who was the chairman?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Who was the chairman?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The chairman of the committee was William McMurtry.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, yes? The honourable one.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not honourable now.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: That's whose words you threw out in the process.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: He has always been an honourable person and a very capable person but he's not a member of this House, if you are trying to impute that.

Mr. Lewis: Then you should have accepted it.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? A supplementary, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). I am sorry, one moment; the member for St. George with a supplementary first.

Mrs. Campbell: May I get through to this minister and just get a simple answer to a simple question?

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: Good luck.

Mrs. Campbell: Is it not a fact that the 5.5 per cent increase which you have allowed to them has been based upon the figure which you permitted to them last year and not upon the figure approved by appeal? Can the minister answer that directly?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a simple question from a simple person and—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: Withdraw that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the question period proceedings would proceed much more smoothly if we kept personalities out of this. Does the hon. minister have a short answer for the question?

Some hon. members: Withdraw.

Mr. Breithaupt: Is the Speaker so minded to require the hon. minister to withdraw those remarks?

Mr. Speaker: I consider such comments most unparliamentary and unnecessary and I regret to have heard them. I would think that the hon. minister might withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Lewis: Typical of him.

Mr. Speaker: If he has an answer for the hon. member, would he give it please?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, the simplicity wasn't—

Some hon. members: Withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —wasn't intended to reflect on the cerebral abilities of the member opposite.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I didn't ask for an explanation of the remark.

Mr. Lewis: Everything to the right of Bob Welch is falling apart.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister please do as we requested?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will withdraw the word "simple."

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer to the question?

Mr. Singer: You are certainly a gracious person.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly I will.

May I say, in response to the question, that the 5.5 per cent is based upon the approved budget for 1975; that was the basis of the 5.5 per cent.

Mr. Lewis: But not the amount that William McMurtry authorized.

Mr. Ferrier: Or the actual expenses.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Bellwoods with a final supplementary on this.

Mr. McClellan: Since the minister has assured the House that he will be bargaining in good faith with the Metro Children's Aid Society, I wonder if he will give this House an assurance that we will not witness a repetition of the kind of attack he made on the Metro Children's Aid Society on Feb. 16 when he used senseless statistics with respect to the relationship between Catholics and non-Catholics in Metro Toronto which don't bear the scrutiny of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, where he uses statistics which don't bear up to figures in his own memo of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This doesn't seem to be a supplementary. You will please allow the minister to answer.

Mr. McClellan: I simply want to ask the minister to assure this House that he will in the future avoid attacking agencies which he has put into a vulnerable position by his own actions when they try to assert their rights.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If that's the question, Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to respond. There has never been any attack by me or my ministry upon any Children's Aid Society in this province. We work together in partnership to share a common concern in connection with the activities of the societies and the care of children in this province and we will continue to do so.

Mr. Lewis: Oh come on. Then accept Bill McMurtry's report.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Furthermore, it's not a question of bargaining with Children's Aid Societies—

Mr. Cassidy: That's what you are making it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to ensure that children who are in need are adequately looked after.

Mr. McClellan: What a hollow remark that is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I made a representation right around this province as I toured this province and met with the various agencies that there would be no child in need who would do without, and I meant what I said.

Mr. Cassidy: But you won't do anything about it as you promised.

Mr. Lewis: That's nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're very sensitive to the needs of children and I intend to ensure that that is carried out in terms of dealing with all of the Children's Aid Societies and it is not a question of bargaining or negotiations.

Mr. Lewis: Just on a point of privilege, my supplementary question was based on the evidence from the Children's Aid Society of both staff layoffs of up to 30 people and removal of 45 kids from institutional placement and those are facts, sir. They are not allegations.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Lewis: Now, I want to put a question to the Minister of Natural Resources if I may. Has any further testing been done at the United Asbestos plant in Matachewan since the original test by the occupational health branch in late September or early October, 1975?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of tests in that particular mine site and if the House will permit me I would just like to outline to the members of the Legislature that this particular plant, this new asbestos mine, came into production about last September. It's operating at about 40 to 50 per cent capacity. About June or July this year we hope to have it—at least the company hopes to have it—in full operating condition. There are a number of start-up problems of course, as we all realize, with a new plant.

In direct answer to your question there have been a number of tests. In fact, my inspectors have been there as late as March 2. Health tests have been done or are in the process of being done and reported at this particular time.

I would add further, Mr. Speaker, that my staff have met with the union employees of that particular company, with the safety committee, and you will be interested to know at no time was the dust conditions in the mine raised as a matter of concern to that particular—

Mr. Lewis: Oh come on, come on. We know the conversations.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And the member can check the record, sir. He is free to do so. I just want to make the record clear that maybe some of the facts that the Leader of the Opposition is using are not totally correct.

Mr. Lewis: Just by way of a quick supplementary, I don't quite understand this number of tests. Is the minister saying that the occupational health branch is in the process of retesting the workplace for the workers now or retested it recently after the weekend shutdown? There have been no concrete occupational health tests that we yet know the results of since late September or early October, I take it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I just informed the member that there were tests recently taken.

Mr. Lewis: When?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Within the last week.

Mr. Lewis: Within the last week?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, we are waiting for the results of those tests.

Mr. Martel: Was that after you had it closed for the weekend?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Hamilton West has the floor. Thank you.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN FACILITIES

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities: Has the minister finally persuaded his cabinet colleagues not to waste \$750,000 by establishing a course for preventive dental technicians in Sudbury when, as he well knows, there is an already adequate programme in North Bay?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: There is a very long answer to that and I'm prepared to give it.

Some hon. members: Go ahead!

Mr. Yakabuski: Good, you'll get more TV time.

Mr. Bullbrook: Good, that's the kind of spunk we like to see.
[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Parrott: First of all, we've decided that there will be level 2 hygiene courses in both North Bay and in Sudbury. We think there is great value in those courses being established not only so that the people of the north will have perhaps more educational facilities than the people of the south. There is a far larger area to serve and we think that's valuable.

We think it's important that you look at some of the ramifications of what that programme might do for the profession at large. It's very necessary to have facilities scattered as best we are able so that the profession, as well as the auxiliaries, will have facilities at their disposal to update their own education. Given those leads, I think there's every justification for having facilities in three locations in the north. There will be 11 locations in all.

We have reduced from \$750,000 to \$420,000 the amount of dollars allocated to the dental programme in that particular institution. We think now that we do have a very balanced programme in Ontario for the education of the dental auxiliaries not just as it pertains to one level but, indeed, for the three levels of dental auxiliaries that were previously known as one.

Mr. S. Smith: As a supplementary: In view of the fact that the minister well knows that North Bay has already been well equipped to handle this with the limited number of dentists in the north and the limited number of positions for these technicians, and in view of the fact that the minister himself expressed to officials of Canadore College in North Bay that the Sudbury programme is unwarranted, and in view of the fact that the minister—

Mr. Renwick: Question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think it has been established that the member should ask a question.

Mr. S. Smith: I am getting there.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member ask the question?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I thought the member didn't like the north.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One question at a time.

Mr. Sweeney: What's the matter? Is the government worried about the answer?

Mr. Speaker: We're not supposed to be presenting a lot of information during question period.

Mr. S. Smith: In view of the fact that \$750,000 in capital expenses will be required to put these dental chairs into Sudbury and in view of the fact that the minister has asked the North Bay people to cut back on the number of people taught there—

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question now, please?

Mr. Renwick: Question?

Mr. S. Smith: —will he reconsider his decision to duplicate unnecessarily a facility which will produce more technicians than can possibly be absorbed in the north of this province?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm afraid that the leader of the Liberal Party either didn't hear all of the first answer or didn't comprehend it.

Mr. Shore: He didn't accept it.

Mr. Good: Or doesn't believe it.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm not too sure which, but let me go over the facts once more.

Mr. Martel: He doesn't like the Soo either.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That's right. He doesn't. Or Sudbury or North Bay.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You're wasting the time of the question period.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I never said, nor would I infer that a level 3 programme was ever desired in all locations in Ontario. The member is talking about a level 3 programme which I said was not necessary. Never did I say that about the level 2 programme.

Mr. R. S. Smith: He is talking about level 2.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm afraid the member is totally mistaken in the observation he just made.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: A supplementary again?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I hope we can have assurance from the Minister of Colleges and Universities that he will not play the game that the new Liberal leader has, of

trying to cut back facilities in other communities.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Martel: I'm just looking for assurance, Mr. Speaker, that we won't have this happen to us in the Sudbury basin.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am more than pleased to tell the member that we are more than servicing—and with a very equitable distribution of those services—the north and the south. I believe we have done that in a very logical and sensible fashion. Three of the locations are in the north; that's as it should be. We will have an excellent programme in all phases of hygiene.

Mr. S. Smith: That's not what you said in North Bay.

Mr. R. S. Smith: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is it not a fact that the minister made a statement at a bear-pit session he held at the college in North Bay that the decision to go into Sudbury was made before he was minister and was irreversible because it was made before he was made a minister?

Secondly, would he not agree that within a period of two years we are going to have an overflowing of the market for level 2 dental assistants? Would he tell us where those people are going to go for employment, other than the fact that we are going to have the drain of our young people from the north to the south perhaps, and that is apparently the policy which he is following?

Mr. Yakabuski: Denticare programme coming.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Richard, you are being silly.

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am not at all convinced that we will have an overflowing, but if we do I think we've answered an immediate need for the profession to have an adequate supply of level 2 dental auxiliaries, and that is most important for the dental health of this province. It is the one way that we can adequately prevent dental disease. It is not by graduating more dentists; it is by having an adequate number of preventive dental assistants.

That programme will come to fruition in about another year. Given a good result of that programme—and I believe in it implicitly—we will then see far less need for

dental services. I would be more apt to think we might be able to cut back on the number of dental graduates rather than the number of preventive dental graduates, because the future of dentistry rests in preventive dentistry, not in corrective dentistry, which is part of the problem.

Mr. Speaker: Did the member for Nipissing have a further supplementary?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes. My further supplementary is this: Could I ask the minister to answer my first question?

Mr. Speaker: We have spent quite a bit of time on this, and I think we should have a new question from the member for Hamilton West.

QUEENSWAY-CARLETON HOSPITAL

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Could he explain to the House why his ministry has found it necessary to inform the director in charge of the newly built and long-awaited Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa—which by his own ministry's admission has a shortage of beds—that the hospital must not open before receiving specific further instruction from the ministry? This is a great worry to the people of that area and I would like to hear his explanation.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Queensway-Carleton Hospital has been co-operating with us through the district health council in Ottawa to assist us in relieving some of the problems in Ottawa. They have volunteered to give up their obstetrics section and I understand it is opening—if it hasn't already opened—as quickly as those facilities are open, as a chronic ward. They just don't need obstetrics anymore. That was a local decision made by local people. They have also volunteered, I understand, to give us another 43 of their beds for chronic purposes as quickly as they are ready for use. That may be a month or two yet.

It's pretty normal for us to gauge the opening of a hospital in a given area to match up with the dollars available for it. I think this is the only caution we put, "Please do not start facilities until we have ensured you the money to operate during the balance of the year." When they have told us they are ready, we will be able to match our dollars to their budget.

PROPOSED RECREATION COMPLEX IN VAUGHAN

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Treasurer. With reference to the proposed "midway" complex on 320 acres of agricultural land in part of the town of Vaughan, could the Treasurer explain to us why he and members of his government have not made it very clear that there is simply no way that particular complex will be tolerated by this provincial government?

Mr. Lewis: He has made it clear.

Mr. S. Smith: No, he hasn't. Read the letter.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, basically we would not want to take that position until we had heard the position of the local municipality and the region of York.

Mr. S. Smith: Will the minister undertake to report to this House on the volume of garbage that will be generated by this midway proposal, plans for its disposal and, in addition, the amount of energy that it is calculated this particular midway will use?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I will certainly take that under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: How gentle of him. Well, he is but a lamb with all the lights around him. May I ask the minister, am I not right in recollecting that he has written letters about the midway complex indicating his basic displeasure, or his basic hesitation, about the development of a project in that particular area and indicating that he wasn't inclined to approve it? Has he in fact heard further from the municipality?

Mr. Renwick: We could read the frown in his letter.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I have written that sort of a letter but I have not indicated that it is something that I would be approving or disapproving. Essentially it will be a determination of the region, although the promoters have come to us and I believe will meet with us next week. They're meeting with a number of ministries. They have certain environmental studies and we'll be glad to take a look at them all. But, essentially, a determination will be made by the region which, to my knowledge, I don't think we've heard from.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Grossman: A question of the Minister of Health: Has the ministry, in making its calculations of the alleged \$6.5 million saving in closing the Doctors Hospital, taken into account the termination and sick pay which will have to be paid upon the closing, which I'm informed this year will amount to approximately \$1 million?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I dare not make any more comments to voices behind me because I understand the new Leader of the Opposition starts looking at my Freudian problems as a result of that, right?

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Just the leader of the Liberal Party. Don't burden me with that bunch.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's a Freudian slip too.

Mr. Lewis: I see you as a Marxist not a Freudian.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is that the answer to the question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: And I want you to know we shall overcome.

Mr. Nixon: How is the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick doing? Is that satisfactory?

Mr. Speaker: Is there a further answer to the hon. member's question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think, Mr. Speaker, while I recognize the hon. member has legal training, that in the House he doesn't need to use the word "alleged." Those savings are definite.

Mr. Grossman: Oh yes I do; so far I do.

Mr. MacDonald: An engineer's retort.

Mr. Nixon: How would the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick like to be Minister of Health?

Mr. Grossman: If I thought it was soon I might consider it.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the savings we showed are annualized operating savings based upon those which will be made once the hospital closes and we have allowed for the cost of transfer of patients and other costs associated with the closure. They would go on from the date of, let's say, winding up of

assets or of obligations to employees. Of course, in the first year the costs associated with the closure will minimize total savings.

Mr. Grossman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is it then the case that when all the calculations are completed, including the addition of the \$1 million involved here, that with relocation and other unusual costs this year there may not be any savings whatsoever in the closing in the 1976 fiscal year?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Not at all, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I could have argued that the savings are greater than \$6.5 million, because they are based on 1975-1976 budgets; 1976-1977 budgets would have been inflated by a minimum of 10 per cent, that's \$650,000, and that would come very close to the cost the member just described.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow one supplementary on this; the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Could the minister give us the specific figure for the number of dollars that he alleges will be saved in this coming fiscal year through the closing of the Doctors Hospital? He is not giving a clear answer now at all.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have found a great deal of difficulty in four years in ever making the member think I had a clear answer on anything.

Mr. Lewis: That's quite true.

An hon. member: That's your problem, not ours.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. minister have an answer?

Mr. Singer: That's one of the minister's problems.

Mr. S. Smith: You need psycho-annualysis.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The savings in this year obviously cannot be determined until the date of the closure is finalized. The date of the closure will not be finalized until in fact the appeals have been heard and we have been able to set a date by which the hospital should be closed.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, if any part of my remarks should be misconstrued as a ministerial statement I hope you will extend the question period.

Mr. Speaker: Ask the question.

Mr. Lewis: You might say we are enjoying things.

[2:45]

Mr. Renwick: There are so many questions to ask of all the ministers that I have decided today to direct my remarks for this month to the Attorney General of Ontario—and I want to ask him a two-part question.

Mr. Lewis: That's Bill McMurtry's brother over there.

Mr. Renwick: It may be difficult for the Attorney General to understand the connection between the two parts; I had some difficulty myself.

The first part of the question is: In the reference which his distinguished friend is going to make to the Supreme Court of Canada, without the benefit of the Chief Justice of Ontario and his colleagues' views about the constitutional impropriety of what he is doing, is specifically the question of the constitutional validity of the agreement between the government of Canada and the government of Ontario going to be before the Supreme Court of Canada?

My second question is—and I am sure that the Attorney General will understand the relationship: Will the Attorney General table in this Legislature, dedicated as he is to the public administration of justice, a copy of every memorandum, directive or instruction which he has given to the assistant Crown attorneys or to the Crown attorneys throughout the Province of Ontario with respect to plea bargaining and other matters before the provincial courts' jurisdiction, so that we will have the benefit as a member of the public, of the specific views of the Attorney General on those questions?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Attorney General could answer one of those questions. Even I see no relation between the two.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on!

Mr. Renwick: You are not a lawyer.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am quite prepared to answer both questions. The second question I might answer first. I will certainly table any relative memorandums that have been distributed to the Crown attorneys about the province of which I am aware—and I believe that I am, in fact, aware of those that are in existence. But I obviously can't guarantee

that about memorandums of which I do not know.

Mr. Singer: You might ask someone.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: With respect to the constitutional reference, I have requested, on behalf of the government, that a specific question be directed to the Supreme Court of Canada in relation to the validity of the agreement entered into by this government and the government of Canada. I believe that was the member's first question.

I am very concerned about my hon. friend's statement that I was in some way interfering with the judicial process in this province in directing this reference to the Supreme Court of Canada. He spoke of certain lawsuits that had been commenced in the Province of Ontario. I think one which he probably was referring to, undoubtedly, was the action commenced by the Renfrew teachers.

I think in fairness, Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the opportunity to quote briefly from a letter directed to the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) from the Ontario Teachers' Federation, of which the Renfrew teachers are represented through the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. This letter is dated March 6, 1976, Mr. Speaker. It states as follows:

It is the federation's understanding that, while the resolution of this question could be left to judicial review, a more appropriate course of action would be a reference to the Court of Appeal of Ontario or the Supreme Court of Canada. Leaving the question to judicial review raises the likelihood of a multiplicity of proceedings as well as a lengthy delay in reaching a final decision as the matter is taken through the appellate court.

A reference to the Court of Appeal of Ontario, while satisfactory in many ways, is subject to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, and this too would cause delay. I think you will agree that, if the agreement were found to be ineffective after a period of one year or more, a large number of otherwise avoidable problems would arise.

It is the federation's opinion that in the circumstances, a reference directly to the Supreme Court of Canada would be most beneficial.

It is the federation's understanding that the Attorney General for Ontario publicly announced that he was considering asking the federal Minister of Justice for

Canada to make such a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Would you be good enough to give consideration to requesting the Attorney General to proceed with this at his earliest convenience so that the intent of the federal-provincial agreement might be implemented with a view to preventing a number of problems which are going to arise, given the legal opinion the federation has.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully request that the hon. member for Riverdale perhaps consult with the solicitors for the Ontario Teachers' Federation, who have strongly endorsed the course that this government has taken.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, by way of supplementary, his attitude for the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, even at this late date, is most commendable. I hope the Attorney General will convey that view to the minister sitting on his right.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a supplementary question?

Mr. Singer: No, it is just time for a statement.

Mr. Renwick: My question to the Attorney General is a very simple one—

An hon. member: It sounds like it.

Mr. Renwick: —and I won't withdraw it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: A dangerous word.

Mr. Renwick: My question to the Attorney General is a simple question. On constitutional matters of immense importance, does it not appear to the Attorney General that the concern about the constitution of the country requires the Court of Appeal of Ontario, under the Chief Justice of Ontario, Mr. Gale—a full court—to have the opportunity to express its views with respect to a matter related to the relationship between the government of Ontario and the government of Canada—

Mr. Ruston: Order.

Mr. Renwick: —rather than to require this matter to be dealt with directly by the Supreme Court of Canada?

Mr. Bullbrook: Come on, Mr. Speaker. Come on!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Well, my friends, the living-room Liberals, pursue it the wrong way every time.

Mr. Ruston: They've turned the cameras off.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What is a living-room Liberal?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the question has been asked.

Mr. Renwick: Does he not consider that in the tradition of Sir Oliver Mowat and in the tradition of the Hon. George Ferguson—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: —this question should be dealt with initially—

An hon. member: Sit down!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Renwick: —by the Court of Appeal of the Province of Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question like that at this time of the day takes up far too much time. Not being a lawyer—

Mr. Ruston: They've shut the cameras off.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Not being a lawyer, I am not sure whether it is the same question over again or not.

An hon. member: He is not sure either.

Mr. Reid: Being a lawyer, he's not sure either.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Attorney General have a brief answer or was that the same question?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have a brief answer. The answer is no.

Mr. Speaker: Right. The next question; the member for London Centre.

RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this question involves more than one ministry, I would like to direct it to the Premier.

In view of the serious conflicts of expert opinion with respect to the Port Hope situation, is the Premier now prepared to consider a full, open and public inquiry of that situation so that the good people of Port Hope can have some honest, objective information

about what transpired there and what the government is going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I recognize there is more than one ministry involved in this matter but, in that the Minister of Health has been very closely related to this and has been giving it a great deal of guidance and direction, I would suggest that that question properly should be directed to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Reid: He is going to close down the town.

Mr. Peterson: May I redirect that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The hon. member will have to repeat it to me.

Mr. Peterson: The question is, what steps is the minister taking to ensure that there is an open, objective and honest inquiry of all the facts of the Port Hope situation? As well, I would like to hear what the minister is doing to clean up that situation.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it has been acknowledged, even by the federal government of late, that the real responsibility for Port Hope was theirs. I think that fact needs to be realized. The Ministry of Health stepped in because there was a hazard to the people in the town, and not because we created it. The control of the disposal of those goods was entirely the federal government's and up to this point in time has been acknowledged as such because they have been paying for the costs involved in any of the work done. The federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has made this statement publicly. He has said there will be an inquiry. I think the hon. member should call him.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a supplementary. The member for London Centre first.

Mr. Peterson: With respect, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: If it's very short.

Mr. Peterson: —I am not saying this in a partisan way but I believe it's a very serious situation that has very bad implications for the good people of Port Hope—

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Peterson: My question is: What guarantees is the minister going to give those people, being responsible for the health of those people, that they have that full inquiry, that they know the facts, that they can make

decisions with respect to their own community?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am encouraging and will co-operate with the federal government to do just that. But please don't ask me to set up an inquiry into an area where the jurisdiction is not mine. One of the things I pointed out in this whole deal was that, in fact, we needed clarification of the relative borderlines of authority in this kind of area.

I think we acted commendably down in Port Hope. I think the fact that in the papers today, or yesterday, you'll find very encouraging news about the final testing of one family down there who have lived in the home with the greatest known radiation hazard for over 20 years; the best tests available to medical people today showed them to be clear. I hope this has alleviated the fear that quite properly was generated in the minds of many people. We are working with the federal government to try and find out where the other potential sites were. Mr. Gillespie recently told us where he believed them to be, and I can assure the members we'll be looking at some of these sites more intensively in an attempt to prevent any other hidden risk.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No. Order, please. The time has now expired and very few people have had a chance to ask their questions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The order has been felt on many sides and in many quarters, so we're not going to place any blame. The question period has expired.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, if I may.

Mr. Speaker: Point of privilege.

Mr. Cunningham: I'd like, through you, Mr. Speaker, to possibly get an explanation from the Minister of Correctional Services and the member for "Sanity Island," the justification—

Hon. J. R. Smith: What do you call your riding?

Mr. Cunningham: —for something that I read in what would appear to be a government-sponsored newsletter; and I quote:

Temporarily, I am the only Conservative member from the Hamilton area, so my constituency workload is substantial. With your help now this situation will see a

dramatic change as the next election brings victory to my fellow Conservatives in adjacent ridings.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, if I may: "Please call 385-9661 to volunteer." Is it my understanding that that is the minister's constituency office funded by public money?

An hon. member: Answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member take his seat?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Your light just went out.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: All over the world.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.

Presenting reports.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Villeneuve (Stormont-Dundas-Glenarry) from the select committee appointed to prepare the lists of members to compose the standing committees of the House, presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee recommends that the lists of standing committees ordered by the House be composed of the following members:

1. **PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS:** Davidson (Cambridge), Givens, Henderson, Johnston (St. Catharines), Lupusella, McCague, McEwen, Newman (Windsor-Walkerville), Nixon, Philip, Rollins, Smith (Simcoe East), Wildman—13.

2. **ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:** Breaugh, Drea, Gregory, Kennedy, Lawlor, Leluk, Mofatt, Norton, Renwick, Roy, Sandeman, Singer, Stong—13.

3. **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** Belanger, Dukszta, Eaton, Ferris, Foulds, Grossman, Jones, Kertio, Maeck, McClellan, Sweeney, Villeneuve, Warner—13.

4. **RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:** Bain, Bullbrook, Cunningham, Evans, Gigantes, Johnston (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), Lane, Laughren, McNeil, Riddell, Samis, Williams, Yaka-buski—13.

5. **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:** Angus, Ferrier, Germa, Grossman, Hall, Hodgson, MacKenzie, McNeil, Peterson, Sargent, Williams, Wiseman, Ziemba—13.

6. **REGULATIONS:** Belanger, Bounsall, Conway, Davison (Hamilton Centre), di Santo, Johnson (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), Johnston

(St. Catharines), Maeck, Miller (Haldimand-Norfolk), Morrow, O'Neil, Ruston, Young—13.

7. MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES: Bryden, Cassidy, Drea, Edighoffer, Evans, Grande, Gregory, Lane, Mancini, McCague, McKessock, Shore, Swart—13.

The quorum of the private bills committee will be 13; the quorum of all other committees will be 7.

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the following supplementary estimates be referred to the miscellaneous estimates committee: Ministries of Housing, Government Services, Revenue, Agriculture and Food, Environment, Transportation and Communications, Office of the Assembly; also that standing committees have authority to sit concurrently with the House while considering estimates.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the select committee on Hydro rates be authorized to extend its deliberations until May 1, 1976.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, could I have a brief word on that?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I think so. I carried it through very quickly.

Mr. MacDonald: The hon. members of the House might be interested in a word of explanation. In the original terms of reference of this committee, we were to examine the proposed rate for 1976. An interim report presented before Christmas did that, but pointed out that the main determinant was the expansion programme of Hydro in the years beyond, and requested permission to continue that study to get a clearer picture of what is the impact of that expansion programme. As members might well judge, the problem of investigating Hydro in the kind of detail that is required for that purpose has proven to be a somewhat longer one than we had originally anticipated, and therefore it will require hearings on into April—we are trying to curtail them—and a careful consideration of the report. It is our hope in the light of this motion that we will have a report before the end of May.

It does raise another matter that I know the Minister of Energy is very cognizant of, that is, that there are statutory requirements

imposed upon Hydro for initiating the process for consideration of its rate for 1977, and there will have to be amendments to the Act to facilitate that this year. I will leave any comments that the minister would like to make in that connection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Responding, first of all, to the latter comments of the hon. member for York South, I would say that the ministry has prepared an appropriate amendment to Section 37(a) of the Act and will be proposing it to cabinet in the next few days and hopefully introducing it to the House in the next couple of weeks.

I am interested and intrigued by his comments about the difficulty, if I can call it that, when one starts to investigate Ontario Hydro. If one looks back at Hansard in November, 1975 and looks at some of the comments of the members of the third party and the debate that occurred in this House in December, one would have got the clear impression that Hydro is a piece of cake, that it is a very simple thing, that you look at a profit and loss sheet and take it from there.

I am pleased to hear the hon. member acknowledge, as I am sure all reasonable members of his committee would acknowledge, that in fact it is a very complicated question and one which I know they are taking very seriously and which of course my ministry and the entire government take very seriously.

We will look forward with anticipation to the comments of the select committee. As I have indicated to the select committee on one or two occasions, am particularly interested in knowing what they are going to recommend on the question of conservation. If there is any one area which is of prime importance to society in general and Ontario specifically, it is the question of conservation, how we can better use our resources to extend their lifetime and to do everything possible to maintain the standard of living and the kind of society that we have in the province at this point.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the motion was agreed to.

Introduction of bills.

[Interruption.]

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills. The hon. minister.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Personal Property Security Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I know this is a great anti-climax but this very important bill eliminates the 30-day period which is now required for a secured party to register a financing statement. The remainder of the amendments are purely housekeeping.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, consideration of the Speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry.

Mr. Villeneuve: Thank you.

Mr. Cassidy: Your maiden speech.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Sit down.

Mr. Villeneuve moved, seconded by Mr. Grossman, that a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, QC, BA, LL.D., D.U. (Ottawa), BAA (Theatre), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to move adoption of the second Speech from the Throne of this 30th Parliament and of the government chosen by the people of Ontario on Sept. 18 last.

While this honour is often reserved for a new member of this Legislature I am pleased to speak, in moving this address, on behalf of the members of my party and as a member who has served in the Legislature for some time.

Those of us on all sides of the House who have served in this assembly have, I think, a

particular reason to support the approach to the priorities of our province set out in the government's programme as contained in Her Excellency's address. The decline of the power of sterling in recent days is evidence of a world economy that is in trouble.

In my constituency, people are quite concerned and anxious about the economic circumstances that they and their children can expect in the months and years ahead. I suspect, if we each think about it for a moment, there is little of more importance in the realm of our duties here in the Legislature than that of providing my constituents and the constituents of all members of this assembly with an economic future which they can count and depend on to maintain a standard of living that gives an equal opportunity to all who apply themselves.

Mr. Samis: Say that in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Villeneuve: The people of my riding want to know that their jobs are safe; that their farms yield continued good incomes; that their businesses can make a fair profit in the future and that the life to which they have become accustomed in Ontario—good roads, good schools in English and French—

Mr. Riddell: And hospitals.

Mr. Villeneuve: —good hospitals—

Mr. Cassidy: You don't know what's happening with your government.

Mr. Villeneuve: —that these things on which they depend are safe and well managed.

En ce qui concerne mes électeurs canadiens-français, ils ont le droit d'être assurés que la qualité de la vie franco-ontarienne supporté par des programmes de gouvernement ontarien, sera protégée par un gouvernement efficace, moderne et sensibilisé au fait français à l'Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Villeneuve: These concerns, these desires are perhaps no different from concerns expressed years ago by other Canadians at other times in their own province's history.

Mr. Cassidy: Comment Windsor et Essex?

Mr. Villeneuve: When I first came to the Legislature in 1948-1949, Ontario had a total budget of less than \$258 million. Health costs amounted to less than \$22 million in total for the province in that fiscal year.

Mr. Good: That would just about do the Premier's office now.

Mr. Villeneuve: The largest expenditure was education with a little over \$44,221 million.

Mr. Foulds: Thousand.

Mr. Villeneuve: Thousand, pardon me. Although this province has seen continual prosperity and growth, absorbing almost 50 per cent of the total number of immigrants—

Mr. Laughren: Not in the east.

Mr. Villeneuve: —who have come to Canada in the last 30 years today in 1975-1976, the total budget is over \$12 billion.

Mr. Nixon: Why are we so hard up then?

Mr. Villeneuve: I sense that we are, in fact, at a very crucial crossroads in the history of our country and in the history of our province. It is a time for sitting back for a moment and looking carefully at the options before Ontario—the options our province has to choose from.

For example, I guess it is fair to say that there is an option that comes forward from the federal government's approach—regulate everything; control as much as you can; make government bigger; keep government spending high while no one else can afford to expand their own spending because of general economic problems.

Mr. Nixon: Still you say it is not enough.

Mr. Cassidy: You are opposing the anti-inflation programme, is that it?

Mr. Villeneuve: I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues in this House that the people of my riding won't accept that option.

Mr. Good: Against the AIB?

Mr. Villeneuve: They won't accept it because they believe that larger government means more bureaucracy, more impersonal dealings with people—

Mr. Nixon: Your people know all about that.

Mr. Villeneuve: —more insensitivity to the real local and regional problems that people have.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Villeneuve: My people also pay high taxes on their earnings which is why they reject more government spending; more civil servants; more expensive control programmes.

Mr. Nixon: They have to pay Judy LaMarsh.

Mr. Samis: Why did they vote Liberal in your riding, federally?

[3:15]

Mr. Villeneuve: Which is why the Dave Barrett option for Canada is also not accepted by the people of my riding. They reject that option, because they sense—

Interjection.

Mr. Yakabuski: Smarten up.

Mr. Villeneuve: —when the air is taken out of the private enterprise system, when government determines by itself and without advice or consultation the direction of a society, then government has too much power and the individual citizen has too little.

I am also certain that they have no interest in the third option, which a young student in my riding wrote me and described as the hard-hat gloom-and-doom option. These are the people who want you to close hospitals when you are opening them, and open hospitals when you are closing them. These are the people who want to cut back education costs but expect more money for the local school board.

Mr. Yakabuski: Right on.

Mr. Villeneuve: The people who want to save farmland but don't want government to have authority at the regional or provincial level to do anything about it.

Mr. Nixon: Which one are you, Osie?

Mr. Villeneuve: It's the backwards-forwards approach that my friends in the third party might have some awareness of, and which they will hopefully try to do something about, because it hurts Ontario as much as it hurts them. It's an option that the people of my constituency want nothing to do with. This is why I am honoured, as someone who has served in this Legislature for a while, to speak in support of the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Nixon: They finally asked you to do something.

Mr. Villeneuve: C'est un discours qui démontre un programme pragmatique et

efficace qui va répondre aux besoins actuels de la province, et non aux besoins créés par des fonctionnaires qui sont absolument capables de créer des programmes seulement pour assurer leurs propres emplois. C'est un programme qui ne coûtera pas de nouveaux impôts aux payeurs de taxes.

Mr. Nixon: Spoken like a man who speaks French intelligently.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is a programme which is committed to creating new opportunities for income security for the Ontario farmer, a security which is vital to the style of life those of us in eastern Ontario have come to enjoy.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Villeneuve: Representing a rural riding, I will have more to say on agriculture in general on some other occasion. It is a programme which clearly understands the importance to Ontario of our system of justice, and indicates a sensitivity to initiatives with regard to its administration that are crucially important for all of us.

The commitment to the best health care system in the world is a commitment upon which I would like to reflect for a moment.

Mr. Foulds: Are you talking about Sweden now?

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, it is not an easy task for a Minister of Health to personally go into an area of the province to close a hospital.

Mr. Sweeney: It's not necessary either.

Mr. Nixon: Not unless his predecessor opened them.

Mr. Villeneuve: I can sympathize with any community and its people when a decision is made to close a hospital, and in particular in a rural area where there are already limited opportunities to offset the attraction of large urban centres that offer better chances for employment.

After a careful study by officials of his ministry to make sure that no area of this province would be without needed hospital care, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) accepted this responsibility.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That is where you are going wrong.

Mr. Villeneuve: Those areas directly affected find it very hard to accept, and this

is understandable. But when you are faced with spiralling costs beyond our capacity to pay, a responsible minister must make decisions and sound government administration is necessary.

The opposition is raising from day to day as many personal, bad news stories as their researchers can find. I don't quarrel with their right to do that, although it would not be the way I would choose to seek improvement in systems or programmes which warranted improvement.

I was recently hospitalized for a period of time. While in the hospital I received great care from a very competent, highly trained medical staff. Modern medical equipment had an important role in assisting with my recuperation. Intensive medical care of this type is very expensive. I was fortunate that this province not only provided the tremendous medical facilities but that it also paid for a very substantial portion of the cost of my hospitalization.

Mr. Riddell: You were fortunate that your hospital was there.

Mr. Villeneuve: I know of hundreds of other cases where lives have been saved, where premature babies have been given a real chance at life and where old people have been nursed back to health and always they have done so without risk of personal financial debt or setback.

We all know that it isn't that way across the border, in the richest nation in the world. We all know that there was a time when it wasn't that way even here in Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: It is a federal programme; it always has been. Paul Martin started it and Mike Pearson finished it.

Mr. Villeneuve: So when I see my Minister of Health making cuts—painful and difficult cuts—

Mr. Foulds: Incisions, you might say.

Mr. Villeneuve: —to keep the system affordable and the standards high, I say to you that I understand what he is doing, and so do the people of my riding. They know what he is fighting for and why.

Mr. Nixon: Because it didn't happen to them.

Mr. Villeneuve: Anyone who has ever had a sick relative, a personal ailment or a hospital stay knows precisely who he is fighting for—the good people of this great province.

Mr. Samis: Are you going to show the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) the text?

Mr. Villeneuve: This is the fundamental challenge that we face in Ontario today: The capacity to order priorities to avoid redundancies and cut back duplication. It takes courage, stamina and leadership, and this government has it.

I urge my colleagues opposite to claim no monopoly on concern about these cutbacks. But if they choose to remove themselves from understanding the larger issues, the greater needs that a responsible government must move to protect, then I regret that they choose not to see or understand.

Ontario is filled with hardworking people who have themselves had to cut back on luxuries and plans because of the overall fight on inflation and who expect their government to have the courage to do the same. It is an Ontario that is prepared to pay tax dollars to help those who are truly in need. I've nothing but admiration for my colleague, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) when he states that we must put an end to helping those who simply choose, with no handicap or reason, not to help themselves.

Mr. Nixon: You have gone too far.

Mr. Warner: You are not serious. You can't be.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is an Ontario that deserves and requires stable, responsible government that can look ahead beyond today's headlines to tomorrow's needs and problems and respond with commitment and leadership.

Mes amis, M. l'Orateur, c'est toujours mon privilège de servir un comté fier de son histoire, confiant de son futur et fort commis à l'avenir de l'Ontario.

As a member of the Progressive Conservative Party and of this government, it is more of a privilege than ever to serve at a time of such importance in Ontario. A time when so many of the courageous and important choices for this province's future are being made by my colleagues in caucus and the cabinet of this government.

As is the case with seatbelts, I do not pretend that all decisions are accepted without debate or disagreement. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) that design improvements in seatbelts be encouraged to make them easier to get in and out of.

Mr. Kerrio: Put Johnston on the committee.

Mr. Villeneuve: Recent amendments to seat-belt legislation have been favourably received.

In summation, I plead with the hon. Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson), and all clergymen of every faith in my area to join with me on humanitarian grounds and ask her to intercede through her good offices with capable, experienced negotiators to get Domtar paper management, along with labour representatives, back to the bargaining table.

Mr. Samis: They did not ask her. They didn't single her out.

Mr. Villeneuve: This long strike of 1,200 workers is having a very adverse effect, not only on the city of Cornwall—

Mr. Samis: She has tried to do something about it.

Mr. Villeneuve: —but the three united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengary.

Mr. Samis: They broke off negotiations.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is these very decisions which mark the courage and vitality of the government within which I am pleased to serve and whose Throne Speech I am so pleased to move.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity and, indeed, the honour to rise to second the motion of the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry.

I think it was 15 or 16 years ago that the man who is now the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) had the honour of moving the address, and my predecessor had the honour of seconding that address. I don't know if the mover today perhaps aspires after the then mover's job, but there are plenty of days when I aspire after the present job of the then seconder.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You will have to decide to run again.

Mr. Grossman: I would hope that all members of this House would join me in thanking Her Honour for her address, which laid down a solid foundation and base for our deliberations and actions over the ensuing months. These months will require the type of hard work, careful deliberation and responsibility which Her Honour has referred to on many occasions. I am sure the members on all sides of the House will join me in assuring her of

a very high degree of concentration, responsibility and thought in dealing with the very difficult matters which will be coming before us in this session.

It is by now repetitious and redundant to say that the times demand this level of behaviour and this responsibility, but it nonetheless is a fact. While some would be foolishly enough to say we are in a state of dire emergency, nonetheless it would be equally foolish to suggest that the past does not slope towards that state unless a combined effort is made, each being guided according to his or her own conscience to legislate and deliberate fairly, judiciously and properly—hopefully after the cameras are gone—without partisan considerations; notwithstanding the ever-present spectre of an early election.

[3:30]

The tendency to legislate in order to get re-elected—or, in the case of this Legislature, elected—is a tendency which has never been one fraught with dignity, honour or even a shred of respectability. At this point in time, efforts along that vein would be treasonous and a total abrogation in all respects of the mandate with which we have been sent to this minority parliament. I hope that we will succeed in jointly mounting the necessary battle over the ensuing months regardless of the decisions which result in order that our responsibilities be met.

It is trite but also equally true to say that the time call for restraint. Anyone who has sat in this assembly, either on the floor or in the galleries, cannot be unaware of the seriousness of this statement. Anyone who has glanced at the front pages of our newspapers or caught the slightest portion of the smallest newscast cannot help but be aware of the seriousness of the problem. Certainly, anyone who has spent even a few minutes watching the deliberations of our select committee studying Hydro's rates for 1976, cannot help but have a deep appreciation of the enormity of our task.

At that committee, we have seen the basic assumptions upon which our world-leading hydro-electric system has been based come under severe scrutiny and review. At the beginning, we acted with an eye on the economic factors and the enormous costs of hydro-electric power. As time went on and the pressure of events changed, it became very clear over the short ensuing months thereafter that rather than just keeping an eye on our economic situation, we, like other bodies of this Legislature and this government, were going to have to be governed and controlled by the economic facts of life. On-

tario Hydro itself is now reassessing its entire concept of simply meeting demand by providing power and doing so at cost. It is no longer a simple assessment of the demand of the public of Ontario for power and a simple determination of how we will meet that demand. The starting point, it appears, will now be the availability of money, our access to capital markets, our ability to borrow, our ability to support that borrowing and the ability of the public to bear the rate. The bottom line of that equation is the amount of money that Hydro will have available to it to provide power, and from that point we will obviously be moving to determine how much power we can provide for that amount of money, and then assess what we must do about adjusting demand to meet that supply of power rather than adjusting, as we historically have, our financial and other resources simply to meet demand.

Demand for electrical power will have to be like the demand for every service, and that is, it will have to meet the supply we can afford to produce. Anyone who has sat and listened to our committee must have been speechless to hear us discuss, just this past week, the possibilities of brownouts and blackouts as possible alternatives as soon as 1981 or 1982.

Mr. Ruston. Closing plants.

Mr. Grossman: We are convinced that there are ways to avoid that, but let's consider the reality of even approaching those two alternatives as, in fact, alternatives. For the first time, we are assessing those as alternatives and it's shocking and frightful to have to do that. It is an eye-opener even to veterans of parliamentary dollars to begin to deal with the direction issued to Ontario Hydro to strip \$500 million from its borrowings in each of the next three years; \$500 million. Those dollars are large dollars even here, even to those persons who are daily in the business of dealing with global dollars and global terms, and so the question that this assembly must face is surely one of sorting out priorities and choices. We are going to do what I suppose we should have begun to do some time ago and that is more carefully rank our needs and demands, having determined that we can no longer simply be slaves to our demands, our feelings and our wants.

Our emphasis will now shift from providing what is demanded and what we would just like to allow as legislators and good governors—shift to an emphasis of meeting immediate needs and only where and if those needs are established, and for those who are in need only. Our responsibility is not just

economic but also sound financial management. And sound financial management requires a careful reassessment of our priorities. Not only do we and should we demand it in this Legislature but our poor taxpayers, the ones who are paying the dollars, which is sometimes forgotten across the floor, demand it.

It seems to me that there is finally some appreciation, not only in this House but in all Houses in all provinces and in all Parliaments, that the days of wine and roses are over for the time being. There is finally some appreciation that someone pays for medical services, that someone pays to build the luxurious institutions and that someone pays the salaries that it takes to support government. It's even a fact that someone pays for the social and human services that so many people, quite rightly, have come to rely upon.

Mr. Ferrier: What about the taxes on the corporate sector?

Mr. Grossman: It's not just enough to say: "Well, that's okay, go tax the big corporations." When you start to tax those big corporations and then the corporations face some difficulties and lay some people off, who is the first to scream? The package of programmes set out by the Lieutenant Governor indicates a mixture of those concerns.

Mr. Warner: They pay less income tax than we do.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: The package indicates a careful awareness of those areas—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick has the floor. Would you give him courtesy?

Mr. Makarchuk: The poor banks are really starving this year, aren't they? They are going broke.

Mr. Grossman: It is funny what happens when you just mention the NDP bogey about tax the big corporations.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: Suddenly a very quiet Legislature gets angry.

Mr. Makarchuk: How are the banks doing this year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: The package indicates a careful awareness of those areas in which an increase of dollars can assist those who from time to time may be defenceless against the onslaught of inflation or recession or both. We have a package which can ensure that human, social and public services, while stripped to the bone, are not in jeopardy.

This province has been able to create an extremely high level of social, human and public services, one that stands the test of any administration of any party of any jurisdiction in North America. These high standards have created reliances and dependability which are otherwise sometimes not so desirable.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the asbestos workers.

Mr. Grossman: But this is one of the difficulties one faces when one tries to do everything one wants to, wishes to and likes to do. It's a difficult trick to readjust this but one which this government is responsible enough to try to accomplish, that is, to maintain the same level of human and public service by seeing that fat is stripped and where abuses exist they're caught and eliminated.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: All the painting that the opposition will seek to do of this administration as being right wing or redneck won't work.

Mr. Makarchuk: You're taking it out on the children; that's what you're doing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the Children's Aid Societies, go ahead.

Mr. Makarchuk: You're taking it out on the kids.

Mr. Grossman: Over there you can't tell the difference between redneckism and responsibility. A careful assessment of our choices and priorities—

Mr. Warner: Who has been running the province for 30 years?

Mr. Grossman: —listen to that one—a careful assessment of our choices and priorities—do you know what that means?—a re-evaluation of the programme bit by bit, beneficiary by beneficiary—

Mr. Good: That means your dad bungled it when he was here.

Mr. Grossman: None of this touches any of his old ministries—ministry by ministry, municipality by municipality, will be required, in order to strip the system down to where it's providing and maintaining that necessary, but only necessary, amount of social and public service. This is something that Her Majesty's loyal opposition find difficult to understand.

Mr. Warner: Difficult to accept.

Mr. Grossman: More efficient dollars don't mean less human or effective dollars.

Mr. Makarchuk: Tell that to the Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the Children's Aid too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: A three per cent increase.

Mr. Grossman: So the question is this, is it possible to accomplish the restraint without one iota of loss in necessary social services, in necessary, needed human services?

Mr. Wildman: Municipalities are dependent on the property tax.

Mr. Grossman: No riding will be a better judge of that than St. Andrew-St. Patrick. No one, I might add, can better attest to the fact that the programme is being implemented without the slightest nod to partisan considerations or politics than I can.

I might say that when I called the minister, as I did when I found out about the closing in my riding—

Mr. Ferrier: The minister knows you are in his party.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: —I didn't mention for a moment the fact that we were in the same party, the fact that I hold my seat by 440 votes.

Mr. Foulds: Perhaps you should have.

Mr. Grossman: What I did was I discussed the facts; I reviewed the figures. I attempted to show him that his ministry's calculations were wrong, and I attempted to convince him.

Mr. Wildman: He doesn't listen to facts and figures.

Mr. Grossman: —that the social and human cost was so great that the hospital ought not be closed.

Mr. Ferrier: Are you saying the minister's computer is wrong?

Mr. Warner: You support his closing?

Mr. Grossman: But not for a moment did I suggest that the fact we are in the same party should have any bearing whatsoever on his decision.

Mr. Warner: You support the closing then?

Mr. Grossman: So I can attest and he will attest at first hand not only to the impartiality of the restraint programmes—

Mr. Ferrier: It's more important for some than it is for others.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would you extend courtesy to the speaker? The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, please.

Mr. Nixon: He is making out very well.

Mr. Grossman: They will, so long as I don't hurt them over there.

Mr. Warner: Do you support the closing of Doctors Hospital?

Mr. Grossman: We will get to it and we will talk about how your party supports the closing, if you will just sit tight. We will get to it and it will be worth waiting for.

Mr. Warner: I hope so.

Mr. Nixon: That'll be quite a story.

Mr. Grossman: My riding maintains a vast number of those types of social service outlets which have grown up over the last 10 or 15 years—under Progressive Conservative administration I might add—which social agencies have become in some cases the very core and root of their communities.

To mention a few: St. Christopher's House; University Settlement; St. Stephen's; St. Alban's Boys' Club; the Chinese Dramatic Society; COSTI; the Learning Resources Centre; and so on. All of these and many more have become so significant in their own work that they have become, in some cases, an integral part of the everyday life and well-being of many of our residents.

Many of these residents, in spite of the fact that they live in downtown Toronto, in spite of the fact that they belong to unions, in spite of the fact that they belong to that group of people who our government is, from

time to time, alleged to have no concern for, continue to vote Progressive Conservative.

Mr. Foulds: As of last Sept. 18.

Mr. Grossman: In case my friends over there are rubbing their hands in glee, let me tell them that whether I choose to stand or not they will continue to vote Progressive Conservative in St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. Warner: Do you want to bet?

Mr. Foulds: Why don't you?

Mr. Shore: Is this your resignation speech?

Mr. Grossman: I look at my own responsibility, as the representative of persons using those social agencies, to see that there is not one iota of loss in any of these necessary services. Surely this is the responsibility and task of all members, from all constituencies? That is to scrutinize, examine, dissect and analyse the restraint programme as it applies riding by riding across the board to see that inequities are avoided and to see that avoidable harm is avoided.

The types of facilities I have referred to provide a wide range of community service. I would like to deal specifically with some of them since those institutions which serve the public in downtown Toronto have come to form such an important part in the day-to-day life of the various neighbourhoods.

There is extensive community development work wherein residents and citizens are made aware of such things as existing housing standards, their rights and abilities to improve their neighbourhoods—I might add with extensive provincial funding—and the availability of services to the neighbourhood and individual citizens. The whole question of delivery of services to the community is one which is fraught with problems and red tape, and the availability of those services does not mean that those who most need those services know how to exercise their right to ask for and receive that assistance.

[3:45]

Secondly, in the general area of social services, these centres assist and encourage personal, family and individual responsibility for meeting their own needs. I can't continue to refer to some of these institutions with their extensive social contribution without noting the fact that not only do these institutions receive a large amount of aid from the provincial government and the federal government and the United Way, but they also get a great deal of support—large support—from the big corporations.

In many instances, particularly during this period of restraint, the big corporations are the ones that will help keep some of these institutions going. These are not institutions which ought to or should create reliance upon themselves per se, but which should encourage the individual to be aware and use the existing facilities, so that those who cannot acquire them on their own, with their own dollars, will motivate themselves to use the facilities which this government and other governments have made available to them.

There are, of course, extensive daycare centres, more properly referred to, I would think, as child development centres in many cases. That proper designation speaks for itself with regard to their importance in the communities. They're not luxuries, they're not baby-sitting services, they're not drop-off centres. They are child development centres.

There are less important services than the daycare centres, but to some that are effected by these programmes they are integral. There are music schools, for example, running out of places like the University Settlement House, which in some cases not only make instruments available on loan to those who can't afford to buy or rent instruments, but in many cases they also provide practice facilities, for example use of a piano. Even more important, some of these institutions specialize in giving music lessons to those with behavioural or emotional problems.

Fifth, there is the whole area of recreational fulfillment of leisure time. This includes arts and crafts, gymnasium equipment availability and the provision of pools and hockey rinks and so on. The fulfilment of leisure time is certainly not a frill and can't be treated as such. Of course, there are the extensive interpreting services which are available throughout downtown Toronto to various of the institutions; these form a self-descriptive, important facility in filling a need.

This describes some of the package covering what can be done with selective money. The value and importance of these programmes are hard to estimate. After all, we can measure our dollar savings simply; it is a matter of how many dollars have we saved? But we can't measure the value of human services and the importance of those facilities in the same way. They are measureless. If we are to err in implementing restraints, we should certainly err on the human side, not on the financial side.

Some of the criteria we must surely assess are: Is it developing mature adults with

socially acceptable goals and desires? Is it redirecting someone who may otherwise become misdirected? Is it filling time—leisure time—that might otherwise have been filled carelessly? Is it fulfilling emotional needs not met in the family unit? Is it teaching about life by thought and example rather than by mistake? Is it assisting a family to develop itself in a healthy way? Is it assisting an individual to be an individual? All these criteria cannot be assessed in dollar terms, but only in human terms, and must be weighed carefully against our restraint programme as it is implemented.

Downtown Toronto is in many ways midtown Canada and so the test of our programmes, quite properly, falls upon my riding and my neighbours to the east and west. The values I've talked about are not replaceable or purchasable at other places. They are not commodities that we can buy next year rather than this year. A lapse, a delay, a vacuum or a vacancy sometimes creates an abyss out of which some may well never emerge. So, carefully must we watch and scrutinize; to liberate, challenge, anticipate and criticize, in order to make sure that the programmes are implemented without any social or human cost. The parameters are set; they're proper and applaudable, but the implementation must be scrutinized and alterable.

In the same vein, we must not play down or write off the problems of municipalities. Their problems are great. It's only fair however, to point out that they do have some ability to attack, in accordance with the level of services demanded by their own ratepayers and taxpayers. If the ratepayers and taxpayers in an individual municipality demand a certain level of service, they'll have to be taxed for it. That's the very basis of local government.

Mr. Wildman: Property tax.

Mr. Grossman: After all, that's the same criterion that has been placed upon our ministries at Queen's Park. I might add there was some internal assessment. It wasn't 10 per cent across the board. It was done carefully; by an analysis, ministry by ministry, of which one could and should bear the load in the next year. So it's quite fair to say to the municipalities: "Sure, we have created reliances. Sure, we gave you money in years past. But you did live high and well and not very frugally off our largess in years past." It's fair and equitable. It's

funny, now that the initial flack is gone and the road show having been closed—

Mr. Foulds: It is not funny at all. It is tragic.

Mr. Grossman: —how some municipalities have got down to business—and are now admitting that they're going to make do with the lower rate of increase in the mill rate that they went crying about.

Mr. Warner: You haven't seen the tax bill. Wait until you see the tax bill.

Mr. Grossman: They did it.

Mr. Bullbrook: Are you referring to Darcy as the "road show"?

Mr. Grossman: The municipalities do themselves no credit by simply whimpering and crying at the announcement of a reduction in the increase of transfer payments. First let them put their houses in order and conduct the same type of critically intensive, inward analysis that the provincial ministries have done before they announce they can't live with the guidelines.

Mr. Shore: Larry, who wrote your speech?

Mr. Grossman: I wrote my own speech.

It's their duty, it's their obligation, their responsibility to first exercise every conceivable effort to live within those guidelines. It's election year for them just as it might be for us, but we bit the bullet here at Queen's Park; the municipalities don't like it too much.

Mr. Wildman: Did you bite the bullet?

Mr. Grossman: By crying wolf, the municipalities lend no credibility to the national anti-inflation effort. And if governments don't lead the way, then how can we expect the taxpayers to follow? This government has led the way; and having led the way, this province can quite properly look to its municipalities to do their share. In turn, the province is setting a scenario within which all Canadians can participate individually in a programme of restraint and the national anti-inflation effort.

Mr. Bullbrook: Has the House bit the bullet with Wintario?

Mr. Grossman: It is with this in mind the Ontario government has opted into the federal anti-inflation programme, notwithstanding opposition bleating. It is precisely that participation which will permit Ontario's residents to participate in the programme

without undue prejudice to their own marketing, wage-earning and competitive positions vis-à-vis the other provinces, and indeed the entire United States; albeit with some prejudice perhaps to the oppositions hopes of getting elected.

In an effort to make the national programme work, and in an effort to show up what I believe to be a somewhat incomplete federal programme, it is essential that the largest and key economic province in this country join the programme. There's no marching to the band and beating your own drum, for if we are out of step with the rest of the country and that programme, we in this province have the singular power to destroy that programme. So, as in so many other instances and situations, this province will lead the way and come through this crisis, having convinced the taxpayers of this province that our interests have been and will continue to be protected, by doing what we can to bring staggering inflation and recession under control over the next year and a half.

Fortunately, the economy is here to do it. We have created a healthy enough climate, not at all by accident, to support us through this period of time. Fortunately our employment picture, while unsatisfactory, is better than can be expected; and fortunately, we still maintain the necessary support programmes to help persons through that period of unemployment, at least in a financial way.

Mr. Wildman: Unemployment insurance is federal, not provincial.

Mr. Grossman: Contrary to the picture that the opposition wishes to paint, this is not to say that any amount of unemployment is acceptable or approvable. I reject those arguments that deal with unemployment in terms of numbers and those politicians who may simply qualify their statements about unemployment by saying, "While I don't mean to be harsh," and then go on to talk about how much unemployment we will have to live with.

That's abhorrent. It's harsh to the person who loses his job and is laid off. All the welfare cheques are not going to give that person the self-respect and support and personal integrity that he needs to raise his family and get himself up in the morning.

Mr. Wildman: Right; he needs a job.

Mr. Grossman: Searching for a job is not finding a job. Maintaining one's income doesn't mean one is earning one's income. Being assured that one's unemployment is all in the name of the national endeavour is no solace

at all. I detest and abhor those who take an attitude that some have to suffer for the sake of many.

While the restraint programme is appropriate and necessary, its application must be so careful, so shrewd, so delicate and so humane that there is not even a minimal effect on those who cannot get through a period of unemployment. That's our test.

Mr. Grande: That's rough justice.

Mr. Moffatt: Which is why you want the federal Liberals to do it.

Mr. Grossman: We must not let restraint harm the economy and business and cause layoffs without any thought to re-employment or more efficient employment.

Mr. Wildman: There aren't any jobs for nurses in the province.

Mr. Grossman: We are getting to your part.

When people are laid off, as surely they will be under the hospital restraint programme, let some real efforts be undertaken to be sure that employment will be picked up by either other levels of government, other ministries or private industry. Let us make sure that the lead time given is appropriate. Let us make sure they are not thrown out in to the cold as statistics in the inflation game, but are adjusted, relocated and otherwise looked after.

I can't complete my remarks without referring to the singular instance in which I find I must express rather strong disagreement with one particular decision made by the government in the name of restraint, although that decision is still not final.

Mr. Nixon: That's the one on the not-final list.

Mr. Grossman: That decision, of course, is the recently taken decision to close Doctors Hospital, which is located in my riding.

Mr. Ferrier: It may yet be mandatory. The minister did not pay any attention to our arguments for Northwestern.

Mr. Grossman: The forcefulness of my disagreement with the government is certainly no secret. It is based on two facts, both arising out of my intimate knowledge of the riding as its member and the hospital as its former vice-chairman.

Firstly, it is my firm belief, after many weeks of careful analysis, that although the hospital was being closed in the name of restraint, it is, in fact, a closing which will

result in more governmental expenditure, not less.

Interjection.

Mr. Moffatt: Same all over.

Mr. Grossman: I am convinced that the patients formerly treated at Doctors Hospital can't be picked up by the other hospitals; or that those who can, simply cannot be treated as efficiently or as inexpensively as they are being treated at the Doctors Hospital.

Secondly, I oppose the closure on the basis that the special nature of that hospital makes it so key, so important, to that particular community that its closure, even if it were an inefficient hospital, which it is not, could not be supported. The peculiar nature of the hospital, its staff, its location and its history, is such that it has developed as a very special community which can't be replaced, either in whole or in part, by parcelling it out to two or three other large teaching institutions. The social cost of the closing, the human cost, is so great, so inhumane, that I would be obliged to oppose the closing even if it did save some money.

I might say that I would oppose that closure even if it were in another riding, if I were as familiar with the statistics as I happen to be in this particular case.

[4:00]

Mr. Reid: Do you want to hear about Clinton and Durham hospitals?

Mr. Grossman: I'm not an expert on the Durham hospital.

Mr. Moffatt: You just need a wealth of statistics.

Mr. Grossman: That might be the case. But as I said earlier, the challenge is thrown out to all members of this assembly to scrutinize the programme and to let the ministry know where the social costs and human costs are great, or where their facts and figures just don't work. I'll have plenty more to say during the estimates of the Ministry of Health with regard to that closure.

Ms. Gigantes: That is what we have been doing.

Mr. Foulds: I am glad that you are making this speech before the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) makes his apology.

Mr. Grossman: That is great stuff. The NDP was a great support to the Doctors Hospital—not at all! Their contribution to the fight on the Doctors Hospital has been pre-

dictable and disappointing; but let me tell you what happened. Immediately upon the announcement, in trooped the members for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) with their Doctors Hospital badges on their lapels. They marched in. The troops came in; all the NDP troops. All their members from downtown Toronto and all their friends on Toronto city council. They suddenly were terribly interested in a hospital that many of them have been fighting with for years and years. Suddenly they were—

Mr. Foulds: Which will now be closed.

Mr. Grossman: I'll tell you what I'm talking about. The NDP alderman for the area, while I was vice-chairman of the hospital, and while the hospital was trying to acquire land for expansion which would have permitted an earlier construction of a new facility, were fighting the expansion, were fighting the acquisition of land on the basis—are you ready—that it would have been an intrusion on College St.

Mr. McClellan: Point of privilege.

Mr. Grossman: There they were—

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the hon. member for Bellwoods has a point of privilege. Would you state it please?

Mr. McClelland: If I understand the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick to say that the member for Bellwoods was involved in attempts to curb the expansion of Doctors Hospital, then that is simply not true. I may have misunderstood the member, but I'd like a clarification.

Hon. Mr. Welch: He didn't say that.

Mr. Grossman: I know the member is excited. I said his friends on Toronto city council did that; and they don't deny it because they can't. I didn't say the member was involved. In fact, he was never seen or heard of at Doctors Hospital until a couple of months ago when he was elected. So I certainly couldn't accuse him of that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Foulds: As a matter of fact, nobody has seen or heard of you.

Mr. Grossman: Instead of rolling their troops in to help a threatened group defend itself and prove what I feel to be a very provable case against the closure of the Doctors Hospital, they rolled in instead to collect some support for the NDP. There they were

at the meetings organized in downtown Toronto by their NDP friends in the communities. They were saying: "Listen fellows, I know you're threatened, but what you've got to do is join the Clinton hospital and Durham hospital and the Bobcaygeon hospital and fight the entire programme."

Now, those of us in downtown Toronto, we're not experts on the Durham hospital. The other hospitals have very adequate representation and their members will speak for them. They'll be looked after. We are looking after the Doctors Hospital. We are not looking after the Progressive Conservative Party; that's obvious. But no, what kind of support did we get! Boy, it really hurts, doesn't it!

Mr. Foulds: Watch what you are doing with that finger.

Mr. Davidson: Just your own riding.

Mr. Grossman: That's okay.

Interjections by hon. members.

Mr. Grossman: What kind of support did we get from the party of the people? The party that is the only one, it says, that is supposed to care about people. They rolled in and they had so much support for those people that they started to hand out "Coalition Against Cutback" buttons, and say: "Come on, we'll march on Queen's Park to support Clinton and Durham and Bobcaygeon. Take your very good Doctors Hospital argument and help us fight the government on the whole programme."

Mr. Davidson: We will be there.

Mr. Grossman: We don't need that kind of support in downtown Toronto. We need people who will come in and help us analyse the facts and figures, who will help us prove the argument—

Mr. Ferrier: You present your case over tea and crumpets.

Mr. Grossman: —in downtown Toronto about the importance of that hospital; we don't need the NDP rolling in to try and scoop up votes with a group of threatened people.

Mr. Moffatt: You certainly don't.

Mr. Grossman: It's the old group. Not only do they roll in and say, "Only the NDP will help you."

Mr. Laughren: Another paranoid Grossman.

Mr. Grossman: Instead of hanging around looking at figures, helping us sign petitions,

what did they do? They ran to Queen's Park—

Mr. Warner: You lack all logic.

Mr. Grossman: —and they printed up a delightful little press release talking about Frank Miller spreading death throughout downtown Toronto. That's what they said in their press release.

Mr. Laughren: Do you see faces in the crowd too?

Mr. Grossman: That's great stuff. That's certainly going to help keep the hospital open since it wasn't a press release issued by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), I wonder if he really thinks so little of the minister that he would accuse him of spreading death throughout downtown Toronto? Or were you fellows just playing politics? Can we write it off to that? I suppose we can.

Mr. Laughren: Never.

Mr. Foulds: What is your accusation?

Mr. Grossman: We look on it a little more seriously. I took my argument up with facts and figures and will continue to take it up with facts and figures.

Mr. Warner: Are you going to save it?

Mr. Grossman: To compound the felony, they can't just say, "We disagree with the government's decision on the Doctors Hospital." No, no; that is never enough for the socialists in downtown Toronto. They have to go one step further. They have to go in and tell everyone that the decision was not made in spite of the fact that there is an immigrant population but because of the fact there is an immigrant population. Well, that's right! Do you think it is true? Stand up and say it. Stand up and be counted. Who said it's true?

Ms. Gigantes: Who said it?

Mr. McClellan: I don't deny saying that at all.

Mr. Grossman: He said it is true.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. There are far too many interjections; and will the member on his feet direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Makarchuk: I think this is rather provocative.

Mr. Grossman: Her Majesty's loyal opposition, as they are so proud to call themselves, tramped around downtown Toronto looking to assemble votes for themselves. I want to tell

you, at every meeting that we have been at in the community in downtown Toronto I, the staff of the hospital, the doctors—

Mr. McClellan: Are you closing Doctors Hospital? You are closing Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Grossman: —and the nurses have been talking about the tactics we will use in proving the ministry's decision to be wrong. We know we can do it with facts and figures.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you do it with your own minister who is closing Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Grossman: Save your heckling for the meetings downtown; it goes over well there.

Mr. Deans: You are missing a great chance to present your facts and figures to the minister.

Mr. Grossman: We do it with facts and figures. At all those meetings, while some of us were on the podium explaining how we were going to make the presentation and seeking for some assistance in making the presentation to the ministry, our friends in the back were handing out leaflets; running through the back sowing the seeds of prejudice and hatred throughout the back. "They did it," they say, "because you are immigrants."

Mr. Laughren: Subversion you mean?

Mr. Warner: You will be disappointed with the by-election.

Mr. Grossman: When their turn to speak came up, when the member for Parkdale took the microphone—he was parachuted in to try and help collect votes in St. Andrew-St. Patrick—there he was saying: "This is why we have to bring them down. The restraint programme across the board has to be thrown out. Come on and help us defeat the government." I was saying: "Come on and help us reopen the hospital." And to their everlasting credit the public meetings even the one started, run and controlled by their NDP friends throughout downtown Toronto, rejected the pleas of the NDP.

Mr. Laughren: The paranoids are chasing you, Larry.

Mr. Grossman: That's the way you help the Doctors Hospital? You don't help them. Her Majesty's loyal opposition says to the threatened minority: "Come on and help us defeat the government. We are not so sure we are going to come down and help you reopen

the hospitals. We want your help up here at Queen's Park."

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: That's nonsense.

Mr. Grossman: They rejected it and quite properly.

Ms. Gigantes: What do you know about it?

Mr. Grossman: That's the way it is. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to tell you what I know about it. I have lived through a lot of elections in downtown Toronto. I know their tactics.

Mr. Foulds: Did you find this speech in the wastepaper basket of the Minister of Correctional Services?

Mr. Grossman: One of the reform aldermen, who has been fighting the expansion of the hospitals and now wears a "Support Doctors Hospital" badge, was the NDP candidate, the Waffle candidate, in 1971 in St. Andrew-St. Patrick. So we have lived with that type of NDP tactic. In that election, I think the allegation was that the Tories had so many canvassers because they were all on government payrolls. I mean how else could we get all those canvassers? Only the NDP has canvassers. Only the NDP knocks on doors three and four times. They can't understand it.

Mr. Warner: Is this a confession?

Mr. Grossman: We are used to it. That's how I know what happens in downtown Toronto.

Mr. Deans: I wouldn't worry about getting into it.

Mr. Grossman: So there you go. That's how we get the trade union vote in downtown Toronto. The sort of irresponsibility that they have been festering in the heart of this city among threatened people is political garbage.

Mr. Laughren: Use the word subversion. Did the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) write this speech for him?

Mr. Grossman: Some of your supporters consistently fought that hospital. I am convinced, and I hope, that the NDP's tawdry performance in this tragic episode—

Mr. Makarchuk: The only riding of sanity in downtown Toronto.

Mr. Foulds: Do you feel that you are unsanitary?

Mr. Reid: Did the Minister of Correctional Services have the first choice of which speech to give?

Mr. Grossman: Yes, but he gave it outside the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: It is the usual stuff, Mr. Speaker. Her Majesty's loyal opposition sees these people as votes and defines a means of manipulating them to achieve power in Ontario rather than to reopen their hospital; but we will carry on the fight for the Doctors Hospital anyway.

Mr. Deans: That is nonsense. Even you don't believe that. I don't know how you can say that.

Mr. Grossman: There is no better witness than I and I certainly believe it. I might add that all those who were at some of the public meetings organized by all the NDP friends down there not only believe it but rejected it. They had their opportunity. I must tell you, at one of the meetings there was handed out—

Mr. Kerrio: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

Mr. Kerrio: I am wondering if the member is certain of his direction when he suggests that—

Mr. Kennedy: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Kerrio: Just a moment, just hear this. I wonder, when he refers to the NDP, if he shouldn't, in fact, be referring to it more specifically. If he is directing those remarks to the NDP, they are the official opposition; we are all members of Her Majesty's loyal opposition on this side.

Mr. Grossman: Well, I can understand the member's desire not to be associated with Her Majesty's loyal opposition, but I would have been happier had Her Majesty's second opposition supported the Doctors Hospital rather than having its leader say: "I think there is a supportable case for closing the Doctors Hospital."

Mr. Angus: If they had supported it, you would have accused them of going after votes.

Mr. Grossman: I would give you a little more attention, but I can always spot my enemies very clearly. It is the fellows in the NDP who suddenly want to be my friends that I can't hack. I can't take that.

Mr. Deans: Don't you dare accuse us of that.

Mr. Grossman: I could find a hell of a lot better—a heck of a lot better—bedfellows. Even my friend the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) I would rather have as a bedfellow.

Mr. Foulds: I'd get up on that on a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Grossman: Not as much as I would like to have his predecessor; but certainly under no circumstances the NDP. You can relax now, boys.

Simply put, the restraint programme is proper and appropriate. When I oppose it as strongly as I do in one, and only one, of its specifics, I am not just saying: "Do it; but do it to someone else, not me."

[4:15]

Mr. McClellan: That's exactly what you said.

Ms. Gigantes: That's exactly what you said, do it to Durham.

Mr. Wildman: Why are you seconding this government's Throne Speech?

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, that's precisely what I did not say. I said specifically—

Mr. Makarchuk: He is provocative, Mr. Speaker.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Tell us which ones should be closed. Give us your list.

Mr. Grossman: You can go back to your offices, the cameras are off; just relax. If you'll relax I'll go on to the rest of my speech and leave you alone.

Mr. Ruston: We thought you were finished.

Mr. Laughren: Which ones would you close?

Mr. Grossman: What I'm saying is do it where it actually saves money.

Mr. Warner: Where?

Mr. Grossman: Do it where there is no enormous counter-weighting social cost.

Mr. Warner: Name one.

Mr. Grossman: Your constituency office is a waste of money. I want to assure the members of this assembly that my objection to

one specific is not political posturing done for the sake of my constituents.

Mr. Shore: Is that why you're resigning?

Mr. Grossman: Sure I'm aware of the situation because it's in my riding; but I am, as I have stated, equally aware of the situation because I formerly served on the board of that very fine hospital.

Mr. Warner: Try visiting the others.

Mr. Grossman: I can—well they've got members and I hope they're as effective as I am.

Mr. Bain: I hope not!

Mr. Grossman: I know you do. I can say, without bowing to anyone, that it is certainly a time which tests the mettle and responsibility of all members of this Legislature.

Mr. Deans: Officially.

Mr. Grossman: It is a time that tests the opposition—Her Majesty's loyal opposition—as much as it tests the government. It tests their seriousness, if any; it tests their ability to sacrifice their own desires to seize the reins of office and pits those desires against their responsibilities as members of this assembly and as representatives of the taxpayers of this province.

Mr. Deans: You are the only person I've ever heard who had support offered to him and who rejected it.

Mr. Grossman: You should have stopped there; I'm the only person you've ever listened to.

Mr. Foulds: Don't flatter yourself.

Mr. Deans: I doubt that.

Mr. Grossman: I doubt it, too; frankly, I doubt it. I might add, in closing, that my riding will surely bear its share of being asked to tighten the belt on many programmes and projects.

Mr. Foulds: And bite the bullet.

Mr. Grossman: My riding, I hope, will agree to do as all taxpayers will be asked to do, in one form or another, over the next period of time.

As the government undertakes a reassessment of its priorities it does so with quality of government, not quantity, as its model—certainly not one of the NDP models—and with job security, employment stability, economic stability and the maintenance of our

high level of human and social services as chief among its goals.

The economic goals are subject to assessment, review and measurement; the social goals are harder. Purchased with raw dollars they are implemented and tested only through understanding, devotion of purpose, commitment, spirit and a belief in the equity and equality of the system.

Daycare centres are not like highways. Children's aid societies are not hobbies for the rich.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the Treasurer.

Mr. Grossman: Medical treatment facilities are not placebos. Community centres are not just gymnasia; and multicultural programmes are not token bows to immigrants. The whole package—all of these social, really human goals—is more than just a goal. They are needs; they are essential. They are the source of our strength today and the kernel of our prosperity tomorrow.

Mr. Laughren: Now for the bad news.

Mr. Grossman: If we apply ourselves to the provision of those items—quality not quantity—and at the same time keep the economy one in which price, wage, jobs and employment security and stability are the cornerstones, then our province can be the healthy province it is today; healthy both in financial terms and, equally important, social terms.

We, on this side of the House, won't permit Her Majesty's loyal opposition or any opposition to paint this government as one which is trying to do anything but find more efficient dollars and spend them more efficiently. We will continue to see that they're spent as extraordinarily humanely and with as much social benefit as has been the case in the past.

Mr. Laughren: What's your view on the Ontario Economic Council?

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Speech from the Throne, I invite and expect my colleagues in the assembly to join me in scrutinizing the restraint programme, so that we can accomplish the double goal of restraint and progress without social or financial cost.

Mr. McClellan: Like your double talk.

Mr. Deans moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

KIRKLAND LAKE BOARD OF
EDUCATION AND TEACHERS'
DISPUTE ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 2, An Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker, provided that my hon. colleague, the member for Sarnia, doesn't object to my making an opening statement and then perhaps having a few words of rebuttal to close the debate.

Mr. Bullbrook: Not at all, not at all.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Thank you. I like to get his assurance ahead of time.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 2 is an Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education in the dispute between it and its secondary school teachers concerning the renewal of their contract which expired on Aug. 31, 1975. The purpose of the bill is to bring an end to this dispute which has been going on; and the part of the dispute that this bill brings to an end is the strike which has been in effect for 44 days, as of today.

I would like to review very briefly for the House some of the events that led up to the action that we are taking today. Negotiations started on April 9, 1975—about 11 months ago, and five months before the contract of the secondary school teachers employed by the Kirkland Lake board expired in August. Meetings were held, and as far as I can ascertain, and I certainly have no reason to believe to the contrary, negotiations continued in good faith.

Of course, as with other disputes, in the interval Bill 100 was passed by this House and became law and became operative in this province. As a result of that and since no contract was in effect on Aug. 31—or in effect Sept. 1, 1975, in fact—the provisions of Bill 100 that provided for the appointment of a fact-finder took effect. On Sept. 11 a fact-finder, Mr. Grant Gillespie, was appointed to study, listen to comments about and make a report concerning that dispute. This report was presented and it was made public on Oct. 30.

Subsequent to the report being made public, and no negotiated settlement of the dispute being arrived at, the Education Relations Commission appointed Mr. Vic Pathe as a mediator, and he met with the parties on numerous occasions between Nov. 24 and Jan. 7, 1976, in an attempt to assist

them to bring about a negotiated settlement.

However, no settlement was arrived at and on Jan. 12, 1976, after a vote, again under the ground rules provided for by Bill 100, a strike began of the secondary school teachers against the Kirkland Lake Board of Education. While that strike has been in effect, Mr. Pathe has continued to be available for mediation; and has indeed been meeting with the parties on certain occasions during the course of the strike, this at the direction of the Ontario Education Relations Commission.

That then brings up down to March; and as we moved into the month of March it began to appear that we had here an insoluble situation. On March 1, I received a letter from the director of education of the Kirkland Lake board, indicating that he and the board were very concerned for the programmes of the students under their jurisdiction. On March 3, I asked the Education Relations Commission, through a letter, to assess whether the students' programmes in this jurisdiction were now in jeopardy.

As a result of that letter and the deliberations of the Education Relations Commission, it was decided to hold a public hearing in Kirkland Lake on March 6, last Saturday. At that time, the chairman of the commission, Mr. Owen Shime, held a hearing and listened to the parties concerned and to arguments concerning the pupils' programmes and whether they were in jeopardy and indeed the whole matter of whether this dispute could be settled or was likely to be settled in the very near future through negotiations. In other words, could a mediated settlement be arrived at in a reasonably short length of time?

I think it is fair to say that the Education Relations Commission, as they reported to me, believed that there was not too much difference between the parties and that perhaps, with a little encouragement, the parties might arrive at a negotiated settlement. As I've said many times in this House, and I will say it again, the preferable way to have these disputes settled, for all concerned, is through a negotiated settlement—a settlement that is agreeable to both parties, that allows a spirit or atmosphere of the highest accord to be brought back to the schools where there have been certain feelings built up because of a strike and because of contract negotiations. So certainly a negotiated settlement is the preferable way to have a dispute such as this, and indeed all disputes, settled.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would permit a question so we can understand the chronology here. The minister mentioned that the ERC still felt a negotiated settlement could take place. At what time was that? Could he give us the latest date?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, after the hearing on Saturday, they still believed that because there didn't seem to be that much difference between the parties, it might be possible to arrive at a negotiated settlement. Therefore, on Monday the commission in Toronto asked both the parties, the teachers and the board, if they would come to Toronto to meet with the commission on Tuesday of this week. The parties agreed and they met with the commission in the afternoon of Tuesday of this week. The commission then talked to the parties about the dispute and pursued with them different ways of perhaps bringing the dispute to some kind of a negotiated conclusion.

As a result of those discussion, they again asked Mr. Pathe, the mediator, assisted at this time by Mr. Douglas Lawless, the chief executive officer of the Education Relations Commission, to meet here in Toronto to see if they couldn't arrive at some conclusion to their differences and arrive at a settlement to their contract. The parties met through Tuesday evening until about 4 o'clock Wednesday morning. However, I'm told that at that point in time there appeared to be no way that the parties could arrive at a negotiated settlement. They were in fact at an impasse.

The commission at that time, reviewing the events, wrote to the cabinet and indicated in a report, a portion of which I read yesterday, that they felt the continuation of this dispute in Kirkland Lake could jeopardize the programmes of the students. I'll just quote two sentences from the report, which I will be happy to give to my friend if he wishes to see it or to any of the education critics for the two opposition parties. But the two operative sentences in the report, I think, are these—and I'm quoting from the report:

We believe that the time at which the students will have been placed in jeopardy will almost certainly have arrived before a negotiated settlement is concluded.

[Further, they said] It is our opinion that the continuance of the strike in this dispute will place in jeopardy the successful completion of courses of study by the students affected.

[4:30]

Now, as members will recall, when we were here in January and discussed the bill concerning the Metropolitan Toronto dispute, I quoted from a statement that I made to the Legislature last spring when we introduced Bill 100. That statement was this:

This government has no intention of allowing this legislation, that is, Bill 100, to be used to cause a major disruption in the education of pupils, and it's our public responsibility to retain the right to take specific action, including legislative action, if necessary, should serious disruptions of educational services occur. We have that responsibility and we will not shirk it.

That's what we said when we introduced Bill 100, which we think and which we know provided a much more logical and ordered process for the settling of contract disputes between teachers and school boards in this province.

Therefore, the government having received the report yesterday from the Education Relations Commission, felt that we must act and that we must act quickly in this dispute and that we had only one course of action, given the fact that the dispute has gone on for 44 days, that the Education Relations Commission had reported to us that the pupils' programmes were in jeopardy and that there appeared to be no way that a negotiated settlement could be arrived at in a very short length of time. Therefore yesterday we indicated our intention and tabled Bill 2 which brings a legislated settlement to this dispute.

The question which logically arises, and I'm sure will arise during this debate, is, when do we exercise this responsibility that we, as a government, indicated that we have and which we cannot shirk and which we will not shirk—that is, the responsibility of when should we legislate a settlement in a dispute such as this?

Mr. Reid: You didn't wait that long in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We're not very far off. I would like to stress that we have to consider each dispute as an individual situation. Each particular situation has to be looked at in the context of what is happening there and not as part of a general precedent set by other disputes. We have to find out whether certain things have occurred. I think I indicated what those things are: whether there is no chance of a negotiated settlement being arrived at; whether there is an impasse; what does the commission say about the programmes of the students and the effects that the disturbance is having on those programmes.

Therefore, certainly as far as I'm concerned and this government is concerned, we will look at every dispute as a particular individual situation, not using any particular ground rules. I must say to my friend from Rainy River who interjected that the Toronto dispute didn't last quite that long, that the thing that bothers me most is that some people say we were more concerned about the Toronto dispute than we were about the dispute in northern Ontario. Nothing could be further from the truth. Anybody who would think such is completely wrong because every dispute in this province, be it in northern Ontario, eastern Ontario, southwestern Ontario or Metro Toronto, gets the same attention by the Education Relations Commission and the same attention by this government.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, but not by the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wells: By the minister and the ministry. It gets the same attention by everyone.

Mr. Foulds: Not in this case.

Mr. Martel: You were not directly involved.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I was very aware of what was happening at all times in this particular dispute.

Mr. Martel: You're not directly involved.

Hon. Mr. Wells: In this particular dispute or any of these disputes.

Mr. Martel: How many times were you directly involved in this one as opposed to the Toronto one?

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend, of course, misses the whole point of Bill 100.

Mr. Martel: I am not missing the whole point.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The point is that I am not supposed to be directly involved in disputes in this province. You may say, "Why were you directly involved in the Metropolitan disputes?" I was wearing two hats in that dispute.

Mr. Martel: Why?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I was also a local member in one of the areas that was affected—

Mr. Reid: That is pretty weak.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —to the same extent that the member from that area was involved in the dispute in that particular area. How

many times did he come and see me and talk to me about it? Perhaps he'd like to indicate that to you.

Mr. Foulds: He will.

Mr. Bain: He won't have to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I just have to tell the members, though, that if they think that we consider these matters, because they happen to occur in other areas of the province, with any less seriousness or in any less serious way than we would consider a dispute in Toronto, they are wrong.

Mr. Foulds: Where are your members?

Hon. Mr. Wells: They are wrong.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I want to stress again that we do not, we will not and we have not set any rule that, after a certain length of time, any dispute must be legislated, because to do so would completely abrogate some of the principles of Bill 100.

Mr. Foulds: Quit stealing my stuff.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, you are stealing my stuff.

Mr. Foulds: No way.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Each dispute must be looked at in its own particular context as a unique matter and that is the way we do it.

Taking everything into consideration, Mr. Speaker, we have concluded that the Kirkland Lake schools must reopen and the teachers return to school this Monday which we believe will and can happen with the concurrence of this House. We think that failure to proceed with this legislation now might place the students in that jurisdiction in an irreparable position as far as their future education and career plans are concerned.

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, might I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Speaker: If he will permit it.

Mr. Spence: When the teachers of secondary schools work to rule for 93 days, when do you take action after 93 days and the teachers go out on strike and they have a school lockout?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I really don't think that that particular question is relevant to this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker: It is not relevant to this piece of legislation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would not want to be a party to abusing the rules of this House.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Perhaps the hon. member could direct that question to me during the question period.

Mr. Lawlor: Which school did you go to to learn all the right answers?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have been listening to you.

Mr. Martel: He's been taking lessons from the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith).

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the bill that we have introduced today follows, in identical pattern, the bill that was introduced in January to bring to an end the Metro dispute. It requires that the teachers return to school on Monday so that full programmes for the students will be restored immediately.

All matters that remain in dispute will be referred to an arbitrator for a decision. The decision will be given by the arbitrator within 30 days and will be binding upon both parties. Professional activity days will be cancelled for the balance of the school year so that every available day can be used to help students make up the time lost during the strike.

The bill also defines strike as it is defined in Bill 100. The penalty provisions are the same as those which apply in Bill 100.

I think I should say in this debate that we are not enthusiastic about bringing in legislation like this, particularly twice in, I guess, two months' time. I believed when we brought Bill 100 in that we wouldn't have to bring in this kind of legislation but, likewise, I have to say that we cannot shirk our responsibility if there is solid evidence that students are being harmed or being detrimentally affected by a dispute.

Therefore, we feel that we really do not have any other alternative but to arrive at the decision we have arrived at. That it, to introduce this bill at this time for this dispute. I hope it will be passed very speedily by this House.

Mr. Bain: This afternoon I would like to introduce a reasoned amendment to the bill that has been brought in by the minister. Briefly, before I deal with some of the important aspects of this dispute, I would request the indulgence of the House. As I'm sure the minister appreciates, yesterday the time frame

did not allow us much time to submit a reasoned amendment. If the reasoned amendment is passed, I assume that the minister and the government would allow for a deletion of subsections 4, 5 and 6 in section 3, when we move into committee.

The situation that exists in Kirkland Lake, where the students at Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational Institute have been without their classes since Jan. 12, is indeed a serious one. As the member for the riding I would like to make the members of the House aware of some of the background that has led to this dispute.

Not only is the dispute important for the people of Timiskaming, it is also important for the government—because the introduction of Bill 2 is beginning to set a precedent. It is also important because of the AIB and its interference in the negotiating process.

Finally, this bill is important because it was wide-reaching implications for the whole collective bargaining process in this province.

As was mentioned, I will officially move the reasoned amendment when I have completed the rationale for its discussion. The introduction of this reasoned amendment by myself and seconded by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), the education critic for our party, is an attempt to alleviate what is a very difficult situation. It is an attempt to provide the proper atmosphere in the school once it is reopened. I will deal later with a clause-by-clause presentation of the reasoned amendment.

If you look at Bill 2, which the minister has just presented, or dealt with officially—he presented it yesterday—you will find it is a straight piece of back-to-work legislation and arbitration. Unfortunately, it is nothing very creative. As the minister admits, there is nothing that separates this bill from the bill that he introduced to put the Metro teachers back to work.

When the bill was introduced dealing with the dispute in Metro Toronto, my party attempted to add a new element to try to resolve these disputes that result in a strike. We feel that this is an innovative introduction and that it would be very useful in preserving the validity of Bill 100.

Negotiations between the high school teachers and the Kirkland Lake Board of Education began in April, 1975, for the 1975-1976 contract. Prior to the strike vote being given to the board as an official notification, the last negotiations occurred between the board and the teachers on Oct. 22, and the last mediation session occurred on Dec. 4, 1975.

It was not until the notice that strike action would commence on Jan. 12—that this notice was given on Jan. 6—that a flurry of mediation sessions occurred that day, Jan. 6, and on the following day. Despite this last-minute attempt, the board's offer remained unacceptable to the teachers. On Jan. 2, the teachers of Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational Institute went out on strike. The strike lasts to this day, today being the 44th day of the strike. There are over 1,600 students affected by this strike.

[4:45]

This is some of the short-term background to the present situation in Kirkland Lake. The long-term background, I feel, will help the House to understand the reason for the supposed impasse between the board and the high school teachers.

Before the reorganization of Ontario school districts into regional school boards there was good rapport between the board and the teachers. Indeed, the board paid the high school teachers \$400 to \$500 on the average above a comparable salary in Toronto. The rationale for this, as presented by the board, was that it was more difficult to attract and keep qualified teachers in the north than it was in southern Ontario, especially in the large urban areas, where there were more amenities and where teachers had easy access to university facilities to upgrade their education.

The secondary school board, it is interesting to note, had the entire administrative staff in a small office in the secondary school. The administrative staff consisted of two people, and at that time the enrolment in the high school was basically the same as it is today. With the advent of regional school boards across the province a massive bureaucracy grew up, and this was also true in the case of Kirkland Lake.

Although there was still only the single high school, there had to be a new regional school board office, there had to be a director of education and the innumerable superintendents all earning large salaries. This meant an additional burden to the taxpayers.

For the teachers, something much more important happened in this transition. The relationship that existed between them and their trustees was eroded and finally obliterated. It was no longer possible for an individual teacher to discuss a problem with an individual board member. That problem had to go through the formal channels and eventually it may or may not get to the board, at the director's discretion.

I am sure that this is true of most areas in this province. Prior to the regional school board, all the school board members knew the parents and knew the teachers. The board members got together with parents and teachers on a regular basis; everybody knew and respected each other's opinion and everybody worked together to improve the quality of education.

I recently had an example mentioned to me by a lady in Toronto that brought home this whole problem of regional school boards to me. When she moved to the city she started to teach for the separate school board in Toronto. The first day that she was sick she duly phoned up the number that her principal had given her to report her illness if she should ever have to miss school because of illness. She had automatically assumed this was a number in her own school. It turned out to be a number at the school board that was answered by an answering service. The voice came on and told her that they were grateful for her phoning, could she please leave her name, her address and the school that she teaches in, and the subject she teaches.

Needless to say, she didn't recover in time to put the message on the tape the first time and she had to phone back. This is the ultimate in impersonality that has been inflicted on the board and the teachers because of regional school boards.

Teachers also feel that the standards in education have fallen, that discipline is eroding, and they look to the minister for leadership. Unfortunately, the Minister of Education—and I don't personally fault the minister—has been willing to take up every "progressive" innovation, and again I think that's an improper word, that has failed in the United States.

Mr. Martel: He is talking about you, Tom.

Mr. Bain: By the time these innovations were proved to be ineffectual in the United States, they were in full force in Ontario and now we are stuck with many of them, and fortunately I assume the minister will re-evaluate some of these and put education back on a very simple person-to-person basis.

The most important thing in education is the relationship between the student and the teacher and the problems that have arisen because of declining standards, declining leadership, declining discipline, have eroded this relationship. Teachers feel that they are holding up the whole system by themselves.

They need a classroom size that allows them to be able to relate to their students on

an individual basis. They also feel it is legitimate to maintain their purchasing power and increase their own salaries. Unfortunately budgetary restraints imposed by the Minister of Education over the last number of years have made it more and more difficult for the teachers to keep pace with inflation. All these problems that are evidenced all across the province have been crystallized in Kirkland Lake.

To cap the whole evolution of the impersonal relationship that has arisen, the final crunch came in 1974-1975 when the board hired a professional negotiator from Toronto. Now the board would no longer negotiate directly with its own teachers but would use a professional to do its job.

Specifically, the salaries of the teachers under the jurisdiction of the board continued to fall at the high school level. In 1974-1975, the average salary for a high school teacher at KLCCVI was \$13,913. The provincial average was \$15,231.

As the teachers looked around at the contracts that were awarded by boards in other parts of northeastern Ontario, they found that in 1974-1975 their contract was the lowest. Nipissing, Timiskaming, Timmins, Kapuskasing all had better contracts. For the teachers at KLCVI, this was their catch-up year. If they didn't get an increase now, with the maturation of the AIB they never would get it in the foreseeable future.

At best, the board's attitude at times was rigid, if not truculent. I appreciate the board's position as the provincial government continues to increase grants. Recently I attended a board meeting in Kirkland Lake and the board did not yet know what their exact grant would be and they were extremely worried about the reduction in grants.

On Jan. 23 of this year, Mr. Fred Nuttall, the chairman of the Leeds and Grenville Board of Education, stated that because of the reduction in ministry grants his board faced a 25 per cent increase in the mill rate, simply because of the reduction in grants, not because of any increased costs. The increased costs obviously would increase this mill rate even more.

On Tuesday of this week the minister mentioned in his introductory remarks that the ERC met with the board representatives and the teacher negotiating team in an attempt to bring about a negotiated settlement. It is true that the Education Relations Commission summoned the teachers' negotiating team and board representatives to Toronto to defend their position that the students' education was in jeopardy, but according to the chairman of

the board, the board at no time was informed that they would be expected to undertake negotiations while in Toronto—at no time. Indeed, before the board representatives came to Toronto, a meeting of the board on Monday evening instructed those representatives to offer no more money to negotiate, nothing that would mean an additional payment by the board. Now that is not my idea of constructive negotiation.

We now turn to the problem that my party faces and that I personally face in dealing with any back-to-work legislation. The thought of back-to-work legislation for any group of working people in this province is repugnant to me as it is to the rest of the members in my party. It is with great difficulty that we support the principle that the school must be re-opened, despite the fact that this entails that the teachers will be legislated back.

I believe that with the reasoned amendment we have introduced we have been able to accomplish the necessity of re-opening a school while—and this is most important—contributing to the development of an atmosphere that will be conducive to learning once the school is re-opened. Forcing the teachers back to work without salvaging anything from the board-teacher negotiations will jeopardize the return to a normal school environment.

It is very important now more than ever that the students and the teachers be happy and be ready to get down to work. This cannot be accomplished if the teachers feel they have not benefitted in any way from negotiations and that they are merely being forced back to work now to be hit over the head by the arbitrator later. Decisions by arbitrators are notorious for taking from working people what has been gained by collective bargaining.

Keeping in mind that arbitration is just another way of stepping on working people and hoping to establish a good atmosphere in the school from the first day it re-opens, I am introducing this amendment which basically says that the progress that was made in the last round of negotiations between the teachers and the board is important and that it must be salvaged. The board and the teachers should resume negotiations. The interim settlement in the first year of the contract would be the board's last non-prejudiced or non-tabled offer, which was presented on Feb. 27. At that time, both the teachers and the board presented non-prejudiced offers and the offers were only \$12,000 apart in the first year.

I believe that this is remarkable progress that the two parties could come this close. I think it says a great deal for the community that this round of negotiations only took place after there was a public board meeting on Feb. 23 and the public would not tolerate the board's unwillingness to negotiate.

Before I get into the clause-by-clause development of the reasoned amendment, I would simply like to say that the same solution that the government felt was a solution has had serious repercussions in Toronto. You talk to students who are now back to school and they will tell you that things are just not the same. The teachers are not happy, the students are not happy, there's a tremendous feeling of frustration. I believe it's important to re-open the school, but it is even more important to re-open the school with a good atmosphere in the school.

[5:00]

This kind of legislation which the government has introduced in Bill 1—back to work and arbitration—has a wider implication for this province. How long will it be before this legislation is introduced again for the teachers in Central Algoma who are also presently out on strike? How long before it will be introduced for the teachers in Sault Ste. Marie who may depart from rotating strikes and embark upon a full-fledged strike? How long will it be before too many Bill 2s have been introduced and Bill 100 has had the last nail driven into its coffin? How long?

Mr. Ferrier: It's getting easier all the time for them over there.

Mr. Bain: How long will it be before the government uses this bill as a model for the civil servants, for the nurses and for the whole spectrum of the public service that have, believe it or not, used the right they were given—a right I am sure the government thought they would never use or, at least, hoped they would never use? The right to strike, when all is said and done, is the only right working people have. If we take that away, we are taking away the only thing that makes collective bargaining work in this province. Although it works by a very halting, faltering method—the government has ensured that—strike action is the only safeguard that working people have when they undertake collective bargaining.

How long will it be before that right is removed by this government?

Mr. Bain moved that Bill 2 be not now read a second time but be read a second time one hour hence and that it now be re-

ferred back to have incorporated therein the following amendment:

Section 1: Delete subsection (a) and re-letter the remaining subsections.

Section 2: Subsections 1 and 2 to be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

During the period from and including the first Monday after this Act comes into force, until an agreement as defined under the School Board and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, comes into effect, no teacher shall take part in a strike against the board of education, and the board of education shall not lock out a teacher.

Subsections 3 and 4 to be renumbered 2 and 3.

Section 3: Subsection 1 to be deleted and the following substituted:

The terms and conditions offered by the board to the teachers in a document entitled "Non-prejudiced Offer" dated Feb. 27, 1976, shall be implemented on an interim basis.

Subsection 2 to be deleted and the following substituted:

The parties involved are instructed to resume forthwith negotiations in good faith in order to resolve all matters remaining in dispute.

Subsection 3 to be deleted and the following substituted:

(The parties shall each give written notice to the Minister of Education within seven days after the day this Act comes into force setting out all the matters the parties have agreed upon for inclusion in an agreement and the matters remaining in dispute between the parties, and the notice shall be deemed to be a notice to the commission and thereafter, except as provided by section 57 of the School Board and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, a party shall not withdraw from the negotiation hereinafter provided for.

Section 4 to be deleted in its entirety.

Mr. Bain: It is essential that the school be reopened in Kirkland Lake but it is also essential that a good atmosphere be established in the school. The amendment that I have just moved, and Mr. Foulds has seconded, will accomplish both goals: The school will be reopened; the students and the teachers will resume their studies. The board's non-prejudiced offer will be the interim settlement of the monetary items in the first year of the contract, and the board and the teachers will be instructed to resume negotiations in good faith in order to resolve all matters remaining in dispute.

This means that the minister must take a more active role than he has in the dispute between the high school teachers and the Kirkland Lake Board of Education. To resolve the problems through negotiations, it will be essential that the minister lend his good offices to that effort.

This amendment is not the easy way out but, as both the parties involved—both the teachers and the board—have said a negotiated settlement would be the best kind of settlement, this amendment would reopen the school, take the pressure off both the board and the teachers and allow them to resolve their outstanding differences. This course of action will be the best for the community, for the parents, for the teachers, especially for the students and for the collective bargaining rights of working people all across this province.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House today on this matter. As a party, we will support the legislation and, as was true in January, we will not agree with the reasoned amendment as put forward.

Mr. Foulds: Not surprised.

Mr. Warner: I'm not surprised.

Mr. Ferris: The reasons for going to legislation of this type are no different than they were in January; in fact, it is almost like we never left the subject. It's only three legislative days ago, I believe, that we were doing the same thing. And we said that we would be here; we knew these people were on strike and we expected it.

But let's not forget that we also are the people who were involved on the educational boards of the province; we knew last June, when this bill was passed, that the minister would be doing this at some time or other. So it certainly can't come as a total surprise.

Of course, the reason we are here is the 1,500 students who are involved in the Kirkland Lake High School dispute. Already, we are told, approximately 130 have opted to go to other jurisdictions to get their education. It's not possible for all of them to do that. We are also told that some of them have terminated their school programme and have started working. The question is, will these people ever come back? So we must first of all think about what is happening to the students.

We have gone through, as the minister has said, 11 months of negotiations since it began. No school, in effect, has been taught for 44 days, which is longer than the Metro strike and perhaps raises the question in my mind,

who is ever going to decide what the magic number is? I totally agree with the minister when he says this is not a judgement that can be made on a number of days. Each one has to be treated, as he states, exactly as a unique situation.

But it bothers me a little bit that in this small community, where there would probably be much fewer facilities of a community nature—libraries, resource centres or even people who are qualified to help students because of their background, perhaps at university—there is obviously much less of that type of input available to help these students than there is in the Metro area, yet here we don't even go and get into it until it's a longer strike than the Metro situation. That upsets me rather strongly that we are not asking a quicker or more positive look in getting involved in the smaller areas.

The area for which I find the greatest criticism is in the workings of the ERC. They should be a very independent body. We have been told they are. The minister uses them once in a while in a fairly good stick-handling method to protect himself. I believe their role is to begin very early in the process to get involved, to really analyse the local situation much more publicly than they are doing at this time. I think they have this responsibility to do it. I don't think that they should be waiting for a call from the Minister of Education to say: "Tell me, are they really jeopardizing the programmes?" I think that is their responsibility to begin with. I don't think they have to wait for the minister.

We come down to the real question of how we would make the ERC more effective. That is surely what must be addressed in the near future.

I would also concur with the member of the NDP who thinks there could be some positive effects by the minister's office, or even the Premier's office, getting involved in the actual bargaining process—even if it is bringing them together in the minister's office, or any place else that they would be willing to meet, and sitting down and trying to work out some positive settlement before the prolonged period goes on.

Of course, the end result is that we're here for one purpose. We listened to all of the arguments that were made through the two days we spent in January. I believe that we should move reasonably quickly. We have learned nothing—although we probably should have—from the debate and the settlement in Toronto. It would appear that the ERC has not learned to move more quickly. And so,

we will support the legislation to restore the programmes for these students—which, in my judgement, I believe were irreparably damaged a long time ago. We would not support the reasoned amendment for the same reasons we gave before. All it would do would be to set an interval salary and negotiations would have no meaningful reason to ever come to any culmination. It would simply drag it on, on and on. I don't think that that would, in fact, create any better spirit within the school.

Mr. Bain: It wouldn't if the minister got involved.

Mr. Ferris: The minister has a firm position. He doesn't want to become involved.

Mr. Warner: It is his problem.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I've been involved in so many.

Mr. Ferris: The problems that are brought to the minister from the people of the north seem to be valid. Many times there seems to be a direct relationship about the acuteness of a problem depending on how close you are to the city of Toronto. I think there may be a great deal of truth in that. I think that we should proceed at this point with this legislation and help these children to get back to the school—reopen it.

We recognize that there are problems between the teachers and the students in relationship to the Toronto situation. Hopefully, this will not continue. It certainly demands on the part of all the people involved in it, a great deal of effort to restore a positive atmosphere after such a prolonged period. We would certainly hope that if this is carried out it could possibly restore the excellent system that exists, or had existed in the Kirkland Lake area.

[5:15]

Mr. Foulds: I rise with a tremendous sense of frustration, with a tremendous sense of déjà vu and with a tremendous sense of anger.

Mr. Shore: What does that mean?

Mr. Foulds: I rise with a tremendous sense of anger, because as I look around me I see that this Legislature, this government, the teachers' federations, the trustees' associations do not take a dispute in northern Ontario nearly as seriously as they do one in Metropolitan Toronto. That, being at the centre of the media, has a tremendous influence on the way government and legislators and agencies of government respond to a crucial problem.

Whatever side of the question you happen to be on, there can be no doubt, as you view the emptiness of the benches in the House, the emptiness of the galleries, that somehow in Ontario a small northern board and the education of those children and the concerns of that board and those teachers are not elevated to the prime level that the Metro Toronto dispute was. Once again, it seems that the judgement is made on the basis of numbers, not on the issue involved. The legislation that we have before us is an exact parallel, with one or two minor differences in wording, to the legislation that we had before us on Jan. 15 and our response, I suppose, was predictable. Our response is a parallel response.

Our response, I want to explain, tries to separate the two principles that are incorporated in the bill. Like any responsible political party, we feel, with the minister, that the time has arrived for the re-opening of the schools, but we do not feel that compulsory arbitration is the answer. We feel that that is almost a knee-jerk response on the part of the government and the Liberals and that it takes away a very hard won right. I want, if I may, to develop a little excursus—and I wish the current and temporary leader of the Liberal Party were here. On Feb. 28 in the *Globe and Mail*, if the *Globe and Mail* reported Mr. Stuart Smith's speech accurately, he accused this party, Her Majesty's loyal and official opposition, of irresponsibility. I want to quote from the report. He was talking about the hospital cuts, in fact, but he said—

Mr. Sweeney: Deal with the issues, Jim.

Mr. Foulds: I am getting into the issues. He said:

The NDP is forced to take such a position because of its ties to big unions. That is why the party had to argue for seven hours before they came out with what eventually was a ridiculous amendment to the teachers back-to-work legislation. The amendment talked about the need for negotiation and the need for a ceiling, but the plain fact was that they voted against the legislation and don't forget to tell people that when you are going door-to-door in the next election, especially at houses where there are children. It was the NDP who refused to vote the teachers back to work to get the kids taught.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that is complete irresponsibility. It is crass political talk because—

Mr. Sweeney: How did you vote, Jim?

Mr. Foulds: —they did so badly in Metropolitan Toronto—

Mr. Good: But it is true, nevertheless; it is true.

Mr. Foulds: —and it misrepresents our position, because our position was to reopen the schools then, as it is now.

Mr. Sweeney: How did you vote, Jim?

Mr. Good: Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to point out, in speaking to this bill as in speaking to that bill, the present and temporary leader of the Liberal Party wasn't in the House very much during that debate because he was too busy out hustling votes for the leadership. Considering the narrowness of his margin, I can understand why.

Mr. Sweeney: You seem unusually concerned about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Will the hon. member return to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd be delighted to return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Sweeney: Put your actions where your mouth is.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order.

Mr. Martel: It's not him; control those jackals.

Mr. Speaker: Would you give the courtesy to the hon. member so that he might continue?

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the previous speaker in the debate, the lead-off speaker for the Liberal Party indicated that the principle in this bill is the same as the one that we were debating in January, I thought it might be appropriate to cite some parallel situations: The absence of the Liberal leader in the House today during this important debate in terms of the north, the absence during that debate in January and his subsequent erroneous comments.

Mr. Sweeney: Here's your speech, Jim, do you want to read it again? Do you want to read it again, the same speech?

Mr. Shore: Where's your leader, Mr. Foulds?

Mr. Sweeney: Where is he? The Toronto gallery isn't here to play to.

Mr. Foulds: He'll be in, he'll be in.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order.

An hon. member: Mr. Speaker, control the third party.

Mr. Martel: It's those jackals down there.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, I certainly will; you better believe it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martel: Grossman is interjecting on behalf of the Liberals because he might jump over there. He's going to play it safe.

Mr. Foulds: There are substantial differences both in the circumstances and the elements of the dispute. In January, the minister led off on the debate, on Jan. 15, saying this: "Over the past year, every possible avenue has been explored in an attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement." He did not say that in leading off today.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh yes, I'll say it for you now.

Mr. Martel: You are accommodating.

Mr. Foulds: And the reason he did not say that is that it has not happened.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh yes it has.

Mr. Foulds: Because in this particular dispute the minister has not become personally involved, as he felt compelled to do by the pressure of his own caucus and the media in the Metro Toronto dispute.

Mr. Martel: He's right.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I even left it to the member for the area. He tried to settle it and he couldn't arrive at a settlement.

Mr. Martel: Did you give him the authority?

Mr. Foulds: Did you give him the ministerial authority to do so?

Hon. Mr. Wells: He's got the authority as a member of the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Foulds: I'm saying, and I'm saying with some seriousness, that this dispute has dragged on longer because the ministry and the government could conveniently let it drag on longer, so that it could become the longest dispute in teacher-board negotiations in Ontario. There was no special session of the House called for the northern Ontario dispute. There were no ministerial interventions called

for the northern Ontario dispute. Even the little addition, the clarification in the language of the bill, which clearly points out that the cost of the arbitration for each side will be picked up by the parties, didn't happen in the Metro dispute.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh, yes it did.

Mr. Foulds: What happened? Did you get stuck with the bill or do you just have to sort that out?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We made them pay.

Mr. Foulds: Those kinds of discriminatory things happen and speak volumes about the attitude towards the dispute and its importance in the picture of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, in Metropolitan Toronto the parties did pay but it was pointed out to us that it was rather ambiguous in the bill. That means that the parties paid for their own lawyers and the legal time and so forth to prepare their case.

Mr. Foulds: They had a little trouble with that so they thought they would clinch it up this time. But I don't object to the addition in principle. I wished you had had it in the last one.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, no, it's the lawyers.

Mr. Foulds: It's the lawyers' fault is it? The principle in our reasoned amendment is twofold. One of them is to get the schools open and the second one is that compulsory negotiations take place. Those seem to me to be two quite reasonable principles that an imaginative government would try to embody in legislation.

I suppose the members of my party feel as we sometimes did in the 1971-75 session, a little beleaguered; we have a little feeling of "Why do we fight this battle?" because we know the Liberals aren't going to support it. We knew that from our experiences in January.

Mr. Sweeney: That's why you introduced the amendment.

Mr. Foulds: If it's a labour dispute, the Liberals won't support it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, would the hon. member address the Chair rather than the third party?

Mr. Foulds: As a matter of fact, before I was distracted, Mr. Speaker, I was speaking directly to you.

An hon. member: He was even pointed at you.

Mr. Sweeney: Provocative!

Mr. Foulds: And this brouhaha to my left made me glance in this direction briefly.

Mr. Warner: The anti-labour Liberal.

Mr. Foulds: As I said, we know that this ragtag and bobtail group over here will not support us. We know that we are going against the government legislation; we know that we are going to go down to legislative defeat on this particular reasoned amendment. It is still important to us because the rights of working men and women are important to us and to this party.

Mr. Warner: And not to the government.

Mr. Laughren: And not to the Liberals.

Mr. Foulds: The authoritarian nature of compulsory arbitration is not an acceptable principle to this party.

Mr. Warner: It is repugnant.

Mr. Foulds: Every single time that the government withdraws that right, every single time that it does, it compromises the collective bargaining process and the hard-fought rights of working men and women, whether it is with teachers or elevator workers or railway workers or transit workers.

Mr. Martel: In fact, the liberals have never supported labour. They have always voted for compulsory arbitration.

[5:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: The Liberal-Labour Party supports us.

Mr. Foulds: I would like, if I might, to explore for a few moments the crisis in education that this particular bill points up, because there is, there must be, something profoundly wrong with an educational system in which the workload and the frustrations are so great on the part of teachers, on the part of administrators and on the part of trustees, all of whom I believe to be reasonable people, when a breakdown such as this one has occurred when they were apparently so close.

There is something profoundly wrong, and it seems to me that we should as legislators examine that question very closely. I think that the solution may not be the obvious one

of some reworking of what we refer to as Bill 100. I want to refer to one of the things that disturbed me when I and my colleague from Timiskaming met with some of the representatives of the board yesterday, late morning or noon—

Mr. Hall: He is here now.

Mr. Foulds: Terrific, I am glad to see him here. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome the pink panther or toothless tiger, the leader of the Liberal Party, to the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member return to the principle of the bill, please.

Mr. Martel: This is the old leader. The new leader was trying to steal the mace today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: If I can get back to the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, to one of the things that disturbed me. I thought the meeting was a very good one and I felt that the representatives were fairly reasonable and objective people and they were trying to present as objectively as they could their position to us. One of the things that disturbed me is that they felt—at least they indicated to us—that it was already too late in some instances, that the dispute had gone on too long, that the courses would not be completed. If that is so, then the fact that this piece of legislation will simply reopen the schools emphasizes the fact that it will simply be an opening of the schools rather than a reopening of the educational system that will fundamentally assist the young men and women in it.

During the debate in January I think I put a fairly spirited defence of the Education Relations Commission and certainly of the bill, the general legislation. I must confess that at the present time I have some doubts about the effectiveness of the ERC either in the beginning stages of negotiation or in those final stages before the breakdown comes. I think that it very seriously needs to pay attention to upgrade the kind of personnel that it puts into those situations so that an effective mediation fact-finding can take place.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Are you suggesting that the mediator wasn't of the calibre that should have been there?

Mr. Foulds: What I am suggesting is that in educational disputes there is some addi-

tional expertise that needs to be gained by the commission and the people working in it, even by the mediators that have very good and traditional labour mediation backgrounds. I think that some of the traditional tactics, if I may say so, that have been associated with so respected a figure as Mr. Dickie may not apply particularly well in the teacher-board negotiations procedures; there needs to be adaptation of some of those tactics. That's what I am saying.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Pathe is very highly qualified.

Mr. Foulds: I know Mr. Pathe and I know of his work and it's very good but he still was unsuccessful. I know you win some and you lose some, but I think that one of the primary jobs of the Education Relations Commission over the next few months, as we examine these disputes that have occurred—and it could very easily be done in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour—is to look at this whole question of public sector disputes and some of the particular items, which may not be monetary, that seem to cause the greatest friction and how these could be solved relatively early in negotiations.

I don't have any magic solution. My party, believe it or not, doesn't pretend to have any magic solution in this area. But I think it's an area that we have found has not worked as effectively as we would have hoped when we originally passed the bill.

I want to deal very briefly with my remaining 16 points—

Mr. Grossman: Sixteen?

Mr. Deans: He read those same 16 points in caucus this morning.

Mr. Grossman: It could be 60; let's not complain.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, the same 16 I read to the caucus this morning.

Mr. Martel: It took three hours and there were no interjections. Can you imagine?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I can't imagine you not making an interjection.

Mr. Martel: I sat quietly through it all.

Mr. Deans: He wasn't there.

Mr. Foulds: I suppose the major question is, what is the government up to and what are the results of this kind of legislation? I think that the government, on Jan. 15 set us, as a Legislature, on a course that is slowly

becoming irreversible; and I think it is a dangerous course that the government has set out for us. What are we going to do?

Are we going to set aside every second Thursday for single-bill emergency legislation dealing with unsettled teachers' disputes? Can we expect a bill entitled, An Act respecting the Kent County Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute, two weeks from today? Can we expect a bill four weeks from today entitled, An Act respecting the Central Algoma Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute? Can we expect a bill six weeks from today entitled, An Act respecting the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute? And can we expect, maybe eight weeks today, a bill entitled, An Act respecting the Provincial Schools Authority and Teachers' Dispute? There's a road that we're on that I really don't like.

If I may take a little excursus to talk about the Provincial Schools Authority, I think that the ministry has a lot to answer for there, because the principle is the same. The Provincial Schools Authority, far more than boards of education across the province, are almost provoking those teachers to a strike vote. When that particular group volunteered to submit all outstanding items to arbitration, one of the negotiators for the provincial schools authority—I'm not sure who—answered them and this ties into the principle of this bill: "Do you want to give up your right to strike? We'll take it out of the legislation right now if that's what you want." That seems to me to be sabre rattling. And the government itself—

Hon. Mr. Wells: No.

Mr. Foulds: I'll swear to it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh, I can imagine—

Mr. Foulds: The government itself has set a damnable example and those particular teachers have not received an offer since the fall. Now, if we're preaching to the boards of education and to the teachers' federations across the province to bargain in good faith, I think that the government should set an example.

Mr. Martel: They're setting an example—a bad one.

Mr. Foulds: But they're setting a confrontation example, which is what worries me. And, for example, by the Provincial Schools Authority refusing to bargain working conditions, they are encouraging boards to not bargain working conditions. In this respect, I must say that the boards to a large

extent have been far more progressive than the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Can I just correct my friend, if he will let me, Mr. Speaker? Certainly we are not refusing to bargain on working conditions; that's in the legislation. If our negotiators are not working in the spirit of the legislation and bargaining on working conditions, they are not adhering to the spirit of that legislation. They are certainly doing so without our authority.

Mr. Foulds: I am saying to you very seriously, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the minister, that the negotiators are not observing the spirit of that legislation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Of course, there is a fine line between not bargaining and sort of saying "Look, that's what it will be."

Mr. Foulds: No. They are saying that's not even going to be in the contract.

Mr. Shore: This is not a debate.

Mr. Foulds: If we can expect a bill a week or every two weeks, when can we expect the final bill? The final bill imposing compulsory arbitration on all teacher-board disputes?

Mr. Laughren: That's a good question.

Mr. Foulds: That is the question that I think every member of this Legislature has to examine today. Are we going to say this is the last bill?

Mr. Laughren: The Liberals would.

Mr. Foulds: Or are we going to say there are going to be six more?

An hon. member: Do away with Bill 100.

Mr. Foulds: I really am very disturbed about this question, I think it's a fundamental one that faces us.

Mr. Shore: How you are going to vote?

Mr. Foulds: How are we going to vote? We are going to vote for our reasoned amendment and against the legislation.

Mr. Nixon: I just want that clear. You are voting against opening the schools?

Mr. Foulds: No. That's what the member for Hamilton West tried to say.

Mr. Bain: We are in favour of reopening the school, we are not in favour of sacrificing the whole collective bargaining process in this province.

Mr. Laughren: That's just your smoke-screen.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Now, Bob.

Mr. Foulds: I am glad to see that the elder statesman of the Liberal Party has joined the debate and will be making a contribution to the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member please go back to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Sweeney: Straight talk, no beating around the bush.

Mr. Nixon: You are going to vote the same way you did on the Toronto bill? Fine, go ahead. You are making the same speech and it's almost as good as it was last time.

An hon. member: After a remark like that, he won't be the elder statesman.

Mr. Foulds: I hope that his contribution will be more than the extended interjections he has made so far.

Interjection.

Mr. Foulds: Coming from you that's high praise indeed. I appreciate it.

Mr. Cunningham: Put your jacket on.

Mr. Martel: It was cold in those days.

Mr. Foulds: If I can get to a few specifics—we opposed the bill on Jan. 15, 1976, because of the principle I have just enunciated. The erosion starts—

Mr. Nixon: Your leader made it quite clear he didn't oppose the bill. He was supporting the amendment when he voted against it.

Mr. Martel: Where is your leader?

Mr. Breaugh: Where is that other Liberal leader? He does much better than you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everybody will have an opportunity to enter the debate.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Holton ran out with the mace.

Mr. Foulds: Will the real Liberal leader please stand up?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member continue with the principle of the bill, please.

Mr. Wildman: The leadership of the Liberal Party is illegal, remember.

Mr. Foulds: I am just consulting my floor-plan to see—

Mr. Martel: He can't find Holton's seat.

Mr. Foulds: —who those cheap jibes are coming from.

We opposed the individual piece of legislation on Jan. 15 because it eroded a basic hard-won right for full and free collective bargaining. We are opposing this piece of legislation for the very same reason.

Mr. S. Smith: The member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis) said it was because there was no floor. That's all he said.

Mr. Foulds: Are you going to enter the debate?

Mr. Nixon: We are trying to improve your speech.

Mr. Foulds: Terrific; which one?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please ignore the interjections and proceed with the presentation?

Mr. Martel: Is the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) getting in on this debate later on?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, where is he? Is he coming in on this debate?

Mr. Martel: If he gets in he can tell us about the working slobs. I will wear my button and send him one.

Mr. Shore: Can you read it?

Mr. Martel: Get him in here.

Mr. Foulds: In the minister's statement yesterday, the minister said that the commission held a hearing in Kirkland Lake last Saturday, "And a further hearing with the board and the teachers here in Toronto yesterday. The parties negotiated from yesterday afternoon until 4 o'clock this morning. However, they came to an impasse."

I would have to say that negotiations in this particular dispute appear to be at an impasse. Nothing further seems to be taking place, nor does it seem possible that anything further will take place.

[5:45]

I think the Education Relations Commission made a very serious error if what the board reported to us is accurate. Because when they were told after the commission hearings on Saturday, to come to Toronto, they had no idea that it was for further negotiation and they were not informed, to the

best of my knowledge, according to the information that they gave us yesterday, that they would be expected to negotiate. The team that came down in this last-minute attempt from the board did not have a mandate from the board for further negotiation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Why did they negotiate, then?

Mr. Bain: They were told they had better; so they sat down and listened, but you weren't going to do anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member continue with his remarks?

Mr. Foulds: In fact, the minister's interjection is a germane one. Ultimately the result was that they didn't negotiate because they did not move from their position. The exercise, although dramatic and apparently real, was a fraudulent one and doomed to failure. I think that that is something we should clearly understand and that both parties in the commission should get on the same wave-length about, that when they're calling people together they clearly outline to them that they're calling them together to talk turkey, to talk negotiation. If they don't have the mandate to do that, let's not fool around with the grandstand gesture of the last moment.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Did they think they were coming down here for a tea party?

Mr. Martel: I wouldn't be surprised. It wouldn't be the first one you guys threw.

Mr. Foulds: They probably thought that the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) was going to award the great seal of Ontario to someone.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: I just want, very briefly, to sum up, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martel: That's only point 12.

Mr. Foulds: According to the material that I have in front of me, according to the board, there are only five or six outstanding items. The parties are extremely close on the first year. The teachers seem to be willing to submit the second year to voluntary but binding arbitration. The board seems, as I understand it, willing to submit only three of the outstanding items in the second year of binding arbitration but they don't seem that far apart.

What we have here is a genuine tragedy, a breakdown in collective bargaining. We have a tragedy in view of the intervention by the Legislature to erode once again the collective bargaining process. I am disturbed that the Education Relations Commission did not see fit in the judgement that the minister was good enough to pass on to me to include in its decision the reasons for its conclusion that a negotiated settlement was not possible.

I have a very uneasy feeling that they were instructed to rush to judgement by the minister and that the commission is not as independent an authority as he would like to make it out and behind which he sometimes hides when he says it is not his job to intervene directly in these disputes.

My colleague from Timiskaming has outlined the reasons for our reasoned amendment. We have outlined those reasons and some of my other colleagues will be elaborating on those points. It seems to me that our proposed legislation accomplishes a couple of things that the minister's legislation does not. It goes further in that it provides for a floor agreement. It is the model by which both sides can get out from under the impasse that they are presently at and it does not impose the very repugnant and repulsive erosion of collective bargaining. For all these reasons it was my honour to second the reasoned amendment and to oppose the bill as it is presently drafted.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, members of both opposition parties, both now and back on Jan. 15, have given many of the arguments. I don't intend to repeat them. However, there are a couple of points I would like to exchange with the minister at this time because I think they are fundamental. They have been touched on but perhaps I can put them in a slightly different context.

The first one is: How many times do we have to go through it and when are we going to learn? If I may repeat something that was said on Jan. 15:

We are studying a precedent at this point in time knowing full well that very shortly, in other places in this province, we may have to deal with similar situations. We know right now, for example, that in Kirkland Lake a strike vote has already been taken and, further, a lot of damage has already been done but, surely, the time has come to put an end to it.

Mr. Bain: They've been out on strike since January.

Mr. Sweeney: To continue:

It is going to take a long time to retrieve that damage but we cannot let it go on any longer and we must do whatever possible to retrieve it.

Finally, the longer we let this drag out the deeper and more intransigent it is going to become. The sooner we can retrieve it, the sooner it can be resolved, the sooner we can return to some kind of normalcy.

Mr. Laughren: Who said that?

Mr. Lewis: Who said that?

Mr. Bain: Who said it?

Mr. Sweeney: I would also like to remind the minister that on Jan. 15 he, in his remarks, made this observation towards the end: "This strike has emphasized, if it needed emphasizing, that there are seldom winners in a dispute of this kind."

Mr. Lewis: Who is he quoting from? Himself? He quoted himself in the Legislature. Come on!

Mr. Mancini: To make sure it is on the record.

Mr. S. Smith: He is entitled to quote from a previous address.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the point that I would try to make is that we cannot afford to go on doing this time after time. It was understandable that in the first strike perhaps there was some justification for going on for 38 days. We were all in a learning process at that time: The board, the teachers, the Education Relations Commission and this Legislature. Surely, we must have learned something from that?

As a matter of fact, this particular strike that we are now dealing with began three days before we brought in the former legislation. Why was it necessary to let this one drag out for 44 days?

The minister pointed out that each case is different; each case must be judged on its own merits. Surely, in this particular case, we could appreciate the fact that a smaller northern community did not have the local environmental resources to support a strike even as long as the Toronto one. It did not have the alternative educational opportunities for the students. It didn't have the alternative work opportunities for the students. If anything, surely, this one needed to be ended sooner. Surely, we didn't have to go through the same old ground over and over again?

How, I ask, are the members of this Legislature supposed to explain to the parents

and the students of this province that we can justify a group of students taking out in excess of 40 school days—40 instruction days; the equivalent of two months of the school year—and that it is not going to hurt their programme? It has to go on that long before we say that their programme is in jeopardy.

Surely, there has to be something drastically wrong with the programming of the secondary schools in this province if we can take 20 per cent of it out before we say it has any impact on those students. How long do we have to go on? How many times do we have to repeat the process by which we allow the morale of teachers to degenerate and degenerate? Are we going to allow the same thing to happen in Kirkland Lake as happened in Toronto? We see the continuation of that depression, that bitterness, that lowness of morale still in the schools of this city. Are we going to let it happen again in Kent and Sault Ste. Marie and the other places? Mr. Speaker, I say, surely if we are responsible legislators, we must learn something from what is happening in this province. Let me speak very briefly of the Education Relations Commission. We really have to ask ourselves if it is working effectively. According to Bill 100, it says that "the powers of the commission shall be exercised by resolution and the commission may pass resolutions," etc. In other words, the commission itself is supposed to decide what it is to do. And further on it says: "To advise the Lieutenant Governor in Council when, in the opinion of the commission . . ."

Why is it that that commission is not acting sooner? Why is it not using the powers that it has? Why does it appear it has to wait for a statement or a request from the minister of this government to say, "I think you should go in now and check up on it"? Why does it have to wait for 38, 39, 40 days before that kind of direction is given to it? And even when it is given, when the commission is supposed to go up to Kirkland Lake and meet with the people, why is it that only one member of the commission, in fact, does go? Surely that commission is not doing its job.

Let me make one other observation. In Bill 100 a strike is defined as including any action "that is designed to curtail, restrict, limit or interfere with the operation of the school programme, including work to rule. My colleague earlier this afternoon mentioned that in his jurisdiction a school board has had a work to rule in effect for 93 days—and the Education Relations Commission has not even looked into it. That school board is now locked out, as far as we know.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That is not correct.

Mr. Sweeney: I stand corrected, Mr. Minister, if you have different information.

Mr. Nixon: They have looked into it and done nothing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, I just have to tell my friend, Mr. Speaker, that in the context of what they looked for—that is, the pupils' programme being in jeopardy and the context being the academic programmes—they are not and have not been in jeopardy in that particular case.

Mr. Sweeney: We have had phone calls from the parents of these children who say that, in their opinion, the programme is in jeopardy. Should that not be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. Wells: In the Kent county situation, I would be happy for you to send those over to me. But I am talking about the academic programmes, the gaining of credits; if those programmes are in jeopardy because of the situation—

Mr. Shore: How do you know?

Mr. Sweeney: It is the opinion of the parents that those programmes are in jeopardy.

The only point I am trying to make is that in our opinion in that case, and in these two particular cases where we have a strike, where we have had to introduce a bill, it would not appear as if the commission is doing the task assigned to it by Bill 100. We don't seem to be learning from the experience.

Mr. Speaker, the critical point right now is to examine once again how many times are we going to allow this to go on. How many days does it take? How often do we have to be faced with this before we move in quickly and accurately without abrogating the jurisdiction of the boards or the teachers in this matter? We cannot repeat it.

Mr. Laughren: Good question.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps before the next speaker gets started, I might recognize the clock.

Mr. Lewis: The member from Nickel Belt has the floor?

Mr. Laughren: I was about to move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, March 11, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

The House resumed at 8 o'clock p.m.

KIRKLAND LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS' DISPUTE ACT

(continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose at 6 o'clock the member for Nickel Belt was about to make his contribution.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with considerable interest to the previous speakers, both from this party and from the Liberal Party, because I was interested in knowing what they would say that would differ from what they had said in January when the Metropolitan Toronto teachers were legislated back to work.

I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I certainly have a sense of déjà vu standing here tonight; and I'm wondering—

Hon. Mr. Wells: That was used an hour ago.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, well I have it too.

Mr. Foulds: Even more true now.

Mr. Laughren: Even more true now.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister has thought about what it means when you allow one group of one school system to be shut down for—what was it? 38 days in Toronto—and you now have gone slightly over 40 days at Kirkland Lake. What that means is that it is setting a kind of benchmark for other disputes in Ontario if they result in a strike. It seems to me that the minister and his government are painting themselves into a corner; because how do you then say to any school board, or any group of teachers any place in Ontario, that we are not going to let your strike go on as long and we are going to let this strike continue beyond those number of days? I don't know how you are going to do that. Once you have served notice that there are so many days' limit to each strike, then surely there goes the whole spirit of Bill 100 and the right of teachers to bargain collectively and to go on strike if they feel they must.

So, here we are again, despite the assurances of the minister that compulsory arbitration does not encourage strikes and does not predetermine the length of those strikes. I really wonder if the minister is prepared to deal with the fact that there must be, or there is a better way to resolve these disputes than legislating teachers back to work.

I think it should not be overlooked that teachers are professionals; they are well educated. They are traditionally moderate, both socially and politically. What is it that has forced these people or made this group of people in our society move from this traditionally small "c" conservative behaviour to shutting down our school system?

I wonder if the minister has really thought that through. Because if we look back over the last 20 or 30 years, surely we can see that teachers 20 or 30 years ago, even relatively speaking, did not have as good wages as they do now; did not have the same fringe benefits; did not have the same working conditions. And yet it is today that the school systems are being shut down. So if working conditions—and I am including fringe benefits and salaries—are better today, then I think it is time we took a good long look at the educational system. I would suggest that any examination of our educational system should examine the attitudes of students in it.

I am particularly concerned about the whole attitude of students in our secondary school system. My own suspicion is that an alienation has developed within the school system and that our traditional educational techniques and programmes are not able to deal with it and that is one of the reasons for that alienation. If I am right, and this alienation is developing, then it makes the job of teaching a very difficult one indeed. Not just difficult, but increasingly difficult; and that bothers me a great deal.

I feel that we, as a Legislature, and in particular the minister and the Ministry of Education, are going to continue to pour water on these little fires all across Ontario rather than attempting to prevent the fire in the first place.

I know the minister could say that what I am saying is fine in theory but that it is a

very complex problem; and I agree with him that it is a very complex problem. But I really feel that we have an educational system that is devoid of any philosophical commitment, which is the strongest condemnation I have of this minister and the ministry. There really is no philosophical commitment.

That means we have an educational system that really exists as an institution, rather than as an agent in a society to improve people's lot in life; to give them more of an incentive as they head out into the world; to make their role in life more meaningful and more productive. I would say to the minister that as an institution our educational system has no equal and that it really is a tribute to the wisdom of Ivan Illich. I know that the minister, or I think he is aware of Ivan Illich's contribution to educational philosophy, and that's what bothers me about the educational system in Ontario.

When we legislate teachers back to work, we are not dealing with the underlying problems. We are like a helicopter hovering over the North Atlantic, blasting off the tops of icebergs in order to make shipping more safe. That's not getting at the problems in our educational system.

I am sure there are at least three dimensions to the problem: One is educational, one is financial and the other is the whole process of collective bargaining. I suspect that the minister is only looking at one dimension, namely collective bargaining and how to get the teachers back into the classroom, how to get the schools open and to get the students through their academic year. It's not that simple.

We have a situation whereby teachers are in the public sector, and at the same time they are making these increased demands we have a fiscal crisis in the public sector. Everyone acknowledges that; and certainly this government with the whole constraint package, has made it very clear that it understands that. What do we do?

The minister, I would suggest, is not dealing with the underlying problem. I am not suggesting that the Minister of Education can take a look at our society and say that he, as Minister of Education, can solve this problem. But I wonder if he is talking to his cabinet colleagues and saying to them that there has got to be a better way. He's reeling from one confrontation to another, and in the long run that's not going to solve the problem; it will just extend those confrontations indefinitely into the future. I don't think that's what he wants.

If we are going to have a well-paid, highly educated, satisfied public sector, we have to be prepared to pay them well. And we have to be prepared to make sure that they feel that they are making a useful contribution, that they are not sacrificing a standard of living because they are in the public sector.

If we listened to those groups that we pay to warn us of impending dangers, we wouldn't be so badly off. If we listened to the Economic Council of Canada, we would have known—well, some of us did know—that there was going to be a crisis in the public sector long before it came upon us. But this government just doesn't listen to them.

I know that this minister doesn't feel that he can do very much to create the kind of wealth in our society that would allow us to support a thriving public sector by industrializing the economy. That has nothing to do with this bill, but I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that in the long run that really must be the long-run solution. We are just not going to solve it by treating our educational system as a series of collective bargaining conflicts, and that's how the minister seems to be regarding it.

I would like to speak very briefly about the whole collective bargaining process in our educational system.

I feel that compulsory arbitration never has been and never will be the solution to conflicts, and I think that events are proving this to be correct. We know that the community, the students, the teachers, the school boards, the minister, the legislators—all are concerned about students jeopardizing their academic careers. It really bothers me that a student can spend 12 or 13 years in this educational system in Ontario and have it all jeopardized by a two-month conflict, by being out of school for two months. There is something wrong with that kind of educational system.

As for students who are not graduating, I don't understand why two academic years couldn't be regarded as one time frame for purposes of learning a set body of knowledge—

Mr. Nixon: Why not 13?

Mr. Laughren: Pardon?

Mr. Nixon: Why not 13 academic years at a time?

Mr. Laughren: Well exactly. So why is two months such a critical period of time for students who are not graduating?

Now for students who are graduating, I think it says something about the system that the students have spent that length of time in the educational system and now it all hinges on two months. There is something wrong with that kind of educational system. I see no reason why students at lower grade levels couldn't be regarded as having this year and next year to complete a certain amount of work, and that all would be required to be completed by June 30 of this year. Because of a highly quantified educational system, we are required to undermine the collective bargaining process in Ontario. And that's surely not the purpose of the Minister of Education or of this Legislature.

Finally, as long as this Legislature continues to resolve these disputes, such as we are doing now with Kirkland Lake, we will be called upon to do so at an ever increasing rate. That bothers me a great deal.

I deplore the legislation but even more than that I deplore the educational and the fiscal conditions which have brought us to this last resort.

[8:15]

Mr. Nixon: I wanted to respond to one or two of the comments made, particularly by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), who I think gave as usual a very reasonable address. The idea that by the passage of this bill, thus assuring that the schools reopen this coming Monday, we are setting some sort of a benchmark in time which would mean that negotiations in the future, and actually those that are still going on, would be in some way hindered, I feel doesn't make much sense when the amendment which he and his party want to support admittedly will open the schools on Monday and remove from the teachers the real weapon which they have been using, and which is recognized in negotiations in this jurisdiction, in a strike. I can't see the strength and value of the amendment which his party is putting forward as retaining that value. For that and many more reasons, we will be constrained not to support it in the consistent approach to this matter that our party is well known for.

It seems to me his idea was that despite the fact that the kids in the school have missed 40 days, or whatever it happens to be—too many days—if we look at a two-year range that's not very much. My interjection that if you look at 13 years it is even less, I hope should not be construed as my support for that concept. As a parent and a teacher, a taxpayer and as a member of this Legislature, I feel that if we members of this House accept

the responsibility given to us under the constitution to see that we have a school system in this province that is going to achieve the goals we set for it—and I hope that we realize it is our responsibility and no one else's—to leave the kids out on the street or wherever they are for 40 instructional days has got to be a severe impediment to their continuing education. I can't agree with the minister who even feels that 40 days is not a serious impediment, nor can I agree with the member for Nickel Belt who feels that it could go on for much longer.

It's true, however, that this bill and the one we were called into session to deal with in January may have to be repeated, and this would be regrettable indeed. I'm not sure who has to learn a lesson, whether it's the members of this House, the members of the teaching profession, the members of boards or the taxpayers in general. Maybe it's all of us. Surely the concepts in Bill 100 are that we, all of us in this House, unanimously support the concept of free and open negotiations. But also all of us must accept the responsibility that finally, in our own judgement—and it has to be subjective—the power of this Legislature has to be brought to bear to end any strike which is deadlocked and which does not show any indication or signs of a solution.

It may very well be that the teachers in Kirkland and the board in Kirkland have looked at the example set by the previous bill that was before us in January and said: "Well, we might as well stay out on strike until the Legislature takes whatever steps it sees fit." In my opinion, that is probably what happened. I believe that the strike in Toronto that was culminated by the action of the Legislature would have gone on almost indefinitely with the sure and certain knowledge that eventually this House would have acted to end it in the interests of the students, the teachers and the community in general.

The fact is that this may have to be repeated. It's now being repeated once and we may have to do it two or three more times. It's extremely regrettable, but I believe each and every case has to be judged subjectively. We, as members, have to make a personal assessment as to whether we, in our opinion, feel that the strike has to be brought to an end; that is that further negotiations would appear to be fruitless and that it is our responsibility to see that the greater good is served.

One of the concerns I have continues to be with the commission, the Education Relations Commission. I was somewhat critical of it in the January circumstances because I sensed

that its members were unwilling to take any particularly strong actions until the minister telegraphed to them that he felt it was time such actions were taken. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), who is just now assuming his seat, made it clear at that time that he personally had a great deal of confidence in the commission; and the minister did as well, since they are personally familiar with the background and the abilities of the commissioners.

I don't want, in any way to question those abilities but it seems to me that the information available to us on the action of the commissioners must make us question their understanding of the situation. The strike in Kirkland Lake has gone on for a longer period of time than the one here in Metro and it wasn't until the minister inquired of them what they thought about it that they said "My God, there is a strike up there. We had better go and see what is going on."

I understand the commission didn't go up in total. The chairman went up and convened some sort of a meeting and found out what the teachers and the board thought. Unlike the situation in Toronto the teachers did not believe that the programme of the students was endangered, but even then the chairman of the commission summoned them to Toronto for a further meeting. Perhaps it is to his credit—I am not at all sure that it is—that he used the occasion of that meeting to attempt one last settlement. I am not sure whether that was his responsibility or not. I somehow doubt that it was, under those circumstances.

My strong feeling, Mr. Speaker, and I know the minister is listening to my strong feeling in this regard, is that once again, for a person who looks at this maybe subjectively and without too much expertise and without a personal knowledge of the chairman or any member of that commission, it appears that they swing into action only when the minister telegraphs to them that somehow they had better do something.

In the case of the Toronto strike, the chairman was here listening to the discussion—perhaps he is now; I don't know the gentleman—but there is a certain carelessness about this. It may be that the chairman and the members of that commission do not consider their responsibilities as important as we see them. I said at that time and others said the same, and I feel it very strongly now, that it is up to the minister to convey the concern expressed in this House. That commission has to upgrade its concerns. Maybe the commissioners are going to have to have much

more active participation in these negotiations and not sit back until there is some sort of public pressure or ministerial pressure—maybe even personal pressure, who knows, because the Leader of the Opposition always likes to take a leading role in these matters. Maybe it's a personal communication that activates, that triggers the action of this commission.

Under the statute the commissioners are self-activating and, in my view, so far that self-activating mechanism has been inadequate. I put that forward as my opinion. I don't know what anybody else thinks but I would suggest to the minister that that's one area in which he had better concern himself because I have the suspicion that this commission was designed in Bill 100 as sort of a safety valve for the minister. He never himself had to say, "I think it's time to end the strike." There was always somebody at a distance—not elected; somebody respected in the community certainly—who would say, "Yes, we now think the government should act"; and, by God, the government then acts.

That's not good enough. I don't believe it's responsible and I want to convey my concern on that matter to the minister, hoping that by legislation or by regulation or even by mutual understanding the situation can be improved.

The negotiations and the lockout intent have already been discussed in this House. The subject was raised by my hon. colleague, the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence), because, of course, in that area it's a matter of major concern.

One can search even the erudite columns of the Toronto Sun and not see any indication of it at all. One would almost think that the Toronto dailies are the ones in which the decision is made on whether a strike should end or not. Certainly the Toronto Sun would be having banner headlines and having its foremost columnists on the scene writing the sort of material that would tend to activate the commission or the minister. But they never heard of Kent, for God's sake, because their circulation doesn't extend there. I don't blame them; they're in business. But the minister isn't, because his responsibility extends over the whole province and he knows that; he knows that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) keeps me informed about that—daily.

Mr. Nixon: Okay. But our position is unchanged from what it was in January. We believe as a party that a time comes when the individual members of this Legislature must

rise and vote to end a strike when it is clear that further negotiations will be fruitless and that people affected by the strike have rights that must then become paramount. So we do not hesitate in supporting the legislation, and I would suggest to the NDP that it is of great concern to many people in this House and in the province that once again they cast their vote in a manner such as would not in fact serve the system in a strong and effective way.

Mr. Burr: That's what we are going to do.

Mr. Laughren: Changed your position.

Mr. Nixon: All right. The hon. member for Windsor-Riverdale says that's just what they're going to do.

Mr. Burr: Riverside.

Mr. Nixon: Riverside; well, whatever.

Mr. Bullbrook: We all have Riverdale on our minds today.

Mr. Nixon: Anyway, I believe that this is a mistaken policy of the NDP. They're proud that they have never voted—perhaps on one occasion they did vote—to end a strike; one, yes, I have certainly heard the leader say on many occasions that he feels those people whose usefulness in the community is essential, whose activities in the community are essential for its health and welfare, should not have the right to strike. But it seems to me—

Mr. Lewis: Firemen and police, I said.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, health and safety.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I haven't got to hospital workers, as you have.

Mr. Nixon: Anyway, it surely is our responsibility to end a strike, as this bill will end a strike when it is passed into law, when it is our information and valued judgement that further negotiations and delay would not be of value. So we believe the bill should be passed without delay. We hope that the teachers will resume their responsibilities on Monday and that an arbitrator will be able to arrive at a disposition of this situation without as much delay as was the case in the Toronto strike.

Mr. Bullbrook: Then you can send it down to Ottawa to see what Jean-Luc Pepin says about it.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, it is with a rather sad sense of déjà vu that I rise to speak in this debate.

Mr. Bullbrook: This is truly a bilingual evening.

Mr. Wildman: We seem to have gone through all of this once before and we probably unfortunately are going to go through it again. In January, the government introduced back-to-work legislation with compulsory arbitration; and now again in March we're doing it again. After 37 days, the Toronto teachers right to free collective bargaining was abrogated; and now after 44 days Kirkland Lake teachers face the same abrogation of their rights—the rights that were established by this Legislature not a year ago.

The government maintained that in the previous situation the legislation did not set a precedent; and now the minister I believe maintains the same opinion that this legislation does not set a precedent. What I'm concerned about is that we're going to face a long series of so-called non-precedents—that is, how long will it be before the government orders compulsory arbitration in other teacher disputes which are now in process across the province?

In my particular area there are two disputes which are of long standing and it appears that there may be the same situation there as we have now facing us in the Kirkland Lake dispute. In central Algoma the teachers are on strike and that strike now goes into a fourth week. In Kirkland Lake, the teachers have been on strike for something like eight weeks. The ERC has decided that the Kirkland Lake situation is serious enough that it has recommended to the ministry that the teachers there be ordered back to work.

[8:30]

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, if I may digress for a moment, it is interesting that in the central Algoma situation, although they have only been out four weeks it is probably very similar to the length of time that the Kirkland Lake teachers have been out since they are under a semester system and every day under a semester system is worth two days under the full year system of education. I wonder how long it is going to be before we face this same legislation in the central Algoma dispute.

But the minister maintains that this is not a precedent. In the dispute in central Algoma the ERC is carrying out a mediation effort and we sincerely hope it will be successful, but if it isn't does the minister anticipate introduction of this type of legislation in that dispute? If he does—

Mr. Speaker: I'd like to remind the hon. member that this bill deals specifically with the Kirkland Lake dispute.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, certainly, Mr. Speaker. My concern is does this set a precedent for these other disputes? The minister says "no."

Mr. Ferrier: He has already set a precedent.

Mr. Wildman: There are many other situations like this. It's a very serious situation. In Sault Ste. Marie, the teachers have been working to rule and have rotating strikes and the schools may be closed down there completely in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a part of this bill, I'd like to remind the hon. member.

Mr. Wildman: Again, does this Kirkland Lake situation affect it? I think it does.

Can the minister maintain to this House that this bill regarding the Kirkland Lake dispute and the previous one regarding the Metro dispute, which imposed compulsory arbitration, does not affect other education disputes or other disputes in the public service? I think they are indeed precedents and I think they are related.

Boards and teachers are being shown by this type of legislation that there's no reason to bargain to gain settlements. They can remain adamant because they know that eventually the ERC will come along and say, "This situation is very serious" and recommend to the ministry that arbitration be imposed.

This has very serious effects on the whole collective bargaining process and it's certainly not what was intended by Bill 100. For that reason, I am very concerned about the future of the whole education system in this province and what effect this legislation has on it.

I would hope that the members opposite would see the error of their ways in opposing this kind of legislation but not voting against it, and would support the reasoned amendment introduced by this caucus and the opposition members here on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate in this debate? The hon. member for Sudbury.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting here for quite a few hours this afternoon listening to this debate. If one were to doze off and forget where he is one could almost think he was watching an old rerun

movie at 1 o'clock in the morning on television. We have the same actors in place. We have the same minister introducing the same kind of legislation. We have the same group on our left in support of the minister; some of them with unreserved glee supporting this strike-breaking legislation which we have before us here this evening.

Mr. Norton: And the other side saying the same thing.

Mr. Wildman: Déjà vu.

Mr. Germa: There is no doubt in my mind that this government, through its past practices and the ease with which it has got away with these acts of violence toward working class people in the past, has been motivated, at the slightest provocation to continue to introduce the strike-breaking legislation. It is legislation which makes it compulsory for people to go to work or go to jail, or to go to work at a wage rate which they themselves have rejected. I would suggest that if the minister's wages were subjected to that sort of procedure, he himself would not want to go back to work at the wages that the public would see fit to pay him. And yet he sees fit to impose his will upon the group of people who do not want to work at the wage rate under the conditions that they have presently before them.

I charge it up to the inexperience of this minister. I am sure he doesn't even understand how a person gets on a picket line. I am sure he doesn't understand; I am sure he has never been through the procedure.

I can speak with considerable experience as far as getting on picket lines is concerned, because I have been on picket lines against major adversaries at least six times in my working career. And the only time I ever went on a picket line was when I myself had voted to put myself on the picket line.

This is exactly how the school teachers in Kirkland Lake got on the picket line. They were not manipulated by some mysterious force of union goons or whatever you might think they are. They voted in a democratic process to reject the wage offer and working conditions and they voted to put themselves outside of the workplace on the picket line. By that same method, Mr. Speaker, those workers can vote to put themselves back at their place of work.

This is the simple fact of life as it relates to people being on strike. They do not need the minister's wisdom. They do not need him to tell them when to go back to work. In fact, I consider it to be an infringement on

their liberty as a right to participate in the workplace or not.

I am surprised at the Liberal Party, despite the statement from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) that on each individual case—I think it's six cases now since I have been in this House that this government has forced people back to work—he tries to tell us that on six individual cases he considered all the facts before him and in each case he saw fit to vote for compulsory back-to-work strike-breaking legislation. It seems to me that he hasn't given these different bills proper consideration because in no circumstances could he have come to the conclusion that the elevator construction workers were going to ruin the economy of the country, were going to ruin the health of the Province of Ontario or were going to hurt anybody except the people who were on the picket line. And yet they chose to support that kind of legislation.

It's within their bones. They are part of the establishment system that this government is representing here tonight. The longer we stand here the more we find out about people's attitudes and I would like to quote, Mr. Speaker, from page 100 of Hansard of Jan. 15, 1976, the evening edition, wherein the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) was speaking: "It indicated to me that they were ill-informed and that they behaved like boors and like working slobs and they wanted to be just like any other group."

That was the attitude of the member for Armourdale and that is the attitude that prevails in that caucus to my left. These people are anti-labour, as is the government. They have no compassion whatsoever for people who have to work for a wage because they have never had to themselves.

It is true that this strike has continued for 44 days. So what? Have we not had strikes longer than that in various other sectors of the economy? I have seen strikes go on for five and 10 years and yet the world still goes around. It is also evident to me that Bill 100, which the minister brought in kicking and screaming less than one year ago has not been functioning on at least these two occasions. I would suggest that he had better take a closer look at what is contained in Bill 100 and try to understand that these people who are on strike are on strike voluntarily and they had a perfect right to go there.

The legislation granting them this right is not a gift from this government. We know that it was forced upon them because of the discontent in the teaching profession. They just couldn't put up with the situation any

longer and they had to organize themselves into a group because individual workers in this society just do not have the power to correct some of the evils which exist.

The system used to work for the establishment, of course; when workers of all sorts tried to negotiate on an individual basis they had no power, and the system used to work then. But since that day the people learned that by organizing together, they could therefore exert the multiplied power of the association.

I will admit that there has been torment in society. It is a restructuring of society that we're facing; it's more than just a simple strike in Kirkland Lake we are talking about. We are talking about people who work for wages demanding their fair share out of the economy.

This government, of course, subscribes to the status quo; it wants no one to make any forward progress in society except itself, and it is going to legislate people back into their places whenever it is necessary. I don't know why they haven't learned a lesson. The election of last September should have taught them they were alienating people almost every six months by doing this kind of legislation; and yet here they are, continuing to alienate one group after the other. You cannot with impunity continue to alienate people and still maintain power. Of course, it might eventually lead to the betterment of Ontario when this government has finally alienated enough people and they are no longer sitting on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker: There are too many conversations going on in the chamber. Will you keep it down, please?

Mr. Germa: There is nothing in this bill that I could commend. I'm opposed to compulsory back-to-work legislation—

Mr. Nixon: Are you going to vote for the amendment? Your amendment puts them back to work.

Mr. Germa: Even despite what my leader might have said, that on a certain occasion he might support back-to-work legislation for police and fire services, I myself have not come to that conclusion.

Mr. Nixon: Your amendment puts them back to work on Monday. How can you have it both ways?

Mr. Germa: I've been around this world probably longer than the minister, and I have yet to witness a situation whereby I would

vote for back-to-work legislation. I have yet to see that kind of an emergency.

Mr. Nixon: Your amendment is a back-to-work law.

Mr. Norton: You are so beautifully and consistently inconsistent that it's unbelievable.

Mr. Germa: This socialist party has not been in power yet in Ontario; we cannot be answerable for the sins of some other socialist party in some other mysterious place in the world.

Mr. Norton: What about the difference between you and Alberta on the oil prices? Don't you agree with Alberta on the oil prices?

Mr. Makarchuk: If you want to compare, try yourself with something in Chile.

Mr. Norton: We don't have to compare. We have our own reputation to stand on.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I must say it didn't do Dave Barrett much good.

Mr. Germa: I'm not here to answer for the government of British Columbia.

Mr. Makarchuk: How would you like to compare with Chile?

Mr. Foulds: Tell us about Chile.

Mr. Norton: I'd like to hear what you have to say about the students. Let's forget about the picket lines for a moment and talk about the students.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I am also incensed about compulsory arbitration because unless everybody in society is subjected to compulsion of wages then no one should be. We have many groups, such as the group sitting right in this chamber tonight, whose wages are not subject to public arbitration and public scrutiny.

Mr. Foulds: It's the arbitrary decision of the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Hon. Mr. Wells: They are also frozen.

Mr. Germa: They are frozen at a very high level, you will admit.

Mr. Ferrier: They are cut back, though.

Mr. Bullbrook: Are you getting something we don't know about?

Mr. Ferrier: He was the one who didn't want that five per cent cutback, remember?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Germa: There is another thing I am concerned about, Mr. Speaker. I consider the government's attitude, as enunciated in Bill 2. Then I look at the Speech from the Throne on page 5, wherein it says:

The Ministry of Labour will intensify its examination of the collective bargaining process with the aim of recommending substantive changes to reduce the incidence of industrial conflict.

[8:45]

That puts a quiver up my spine when I see this government with this attitude putting a vague statement like that in the Speech from the Throne. I just wonder what this Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) has in mind to reduce industrial conflict in the private sector? Is she thinking also along the lines of the Minister of Education to bring in more compulsion in the industrial sector?

We have to consider and watch very closely what this government has up its sleeve. I have no option except to vote against this legislation.

Mr. Ferrier: I want to engage in this debate for a few moments. I have been watching the goings-on in Kirkland Lake with some real interest and have been following it through the TV media in my own area.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It could defeat you; be very careful.

Mr. Ferrier: I noticed that on the first days the teachers were walking the picket line it was very many degrees below zero Fahrenheit, in the 30s and 40s, I believe. Yet these teachers were out there because they believed in what they were doing and they felt very deeply aggrieved, and I think they had some real justification for it.

I noticed that when the government decided they were going to intervene in the Toronto situation the situation went about 39 days. It has now gone 44 in the north and will be 45. Despite what the minister says, we know the government cares less about us in northern Ontario and pays less attention to our whole area of concern up there. We see it every day; we live with it. No matter how government members stand up in this House and talk to the contrary, they are hollow words as far as we are concerned.

I think that when students are out of school this length of time there is reason for concern. Reluctantly, I suppose we have to see

legislation that perhaps legislates them back, although I find that this compulsory arbitration is a very unpalatable solution to strikes in any kind of sector. We saw the Minister of Labour, Fern Guindon, when he occupied that chair, say it was one of the hardest things he ever had to do to order the elevator workers back to work and he hoped it would not happen again. Then we saw the York teachers ordered back and the TTC here in Toronto ordered back. It has become easier and easier and easier for this government to step in and force people back with compulsory arbitration as the solution to the walk-outs.

As to talk about precedents being set, they are set all the time and we will see this more and more often. Where it was hard for the then Minister of Labour, Fern Guindon, back around 1972 or 1971, it is very easy now and it is almost a matter of course with the government across the way.

I read an article in the *Globe and Mail* this morning and I note this one paragraph attributed to the chairman of the Kirkland Lake board: "Mr. Archer said trustees have been willing to submit the dispute to binding arbitration since last September." So they have been waiting for the government to bail them out and to make their decision for them.

I get increasingly annoyed at politicians in northern Ontario or wherever it might be who get elected to public office, accept certain responsibilities, agree to carry them out and then come out with a statement like that, that they want somebody else to make the decisions for them. What's local autonomy all about if it isn't that we can develop leadership in our own communities and develop a group of intelligent, responsible people who are prepared to make tough decisions, perhaps unpopular decisions at times, but at least are prepared to make those decisions and go to the electorate with them in two years' time to justify their actions and to let the electorate decide on them? But here we have here a board which opted out of its responsibilities, I suggest, away back in September, knowing pretty well that grand-daddy down here at Queen's Park was going to bail it out and I think that's deplorable.

I really find that repugnant and I think that sometimes our politicians in northern Ontario sell us out when they are not prepared to make the decisions back home where they should be made and to stand by those decisions. They make it a lot easier for the government to wield the big axe and to play the "Big Brother" role down here in Queen's Park when they act like that. We have seen it in health care, where the decisions have

been made here without consultation at home, and we see it in planning decisions, where they say, "Well, we won't make the decision. Pass it to the OMB and let them make it for us."

I think this kind of legislation makes it far too easy for those kinds of politicians to act in that way and abdicate the responsibility that is given to them under the Acts of this Legislature to fulfil their responsibilities as committed to them by the electorate when they run for office. I notice, too, that these people in Kirkland Lake, according to what my colleague here, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain), has said, have hired a professional negotiator to carry out the negotiations, again trying to act like pros, I suppose, and lay a heavy hand. Perhaps they are so insecure in their position that they can't argue it out and come to an agreement like other boards do.

I believe that given the right frame of mind and the willingness to negotiate we could have had this situation settled a long time ago. I don't blame the teachers in Kirkland Lake. The teachers in Timmins, Kapuskasing, Nipissing, and probably the Cochrane-Iroquois Falls board, are all away up. Kirkland Lake wants to catch up and that's legitimate.

But one of the things that has sort of crossed the trail and to a significant degree has destroyed collective bargaining, whether it is for teachers or paperworkers or any kind of workers, is this Anti-Inflation Board legislation brought in by the Liberals in Ottawa. It is a dimension that has been injected into labour relations that has fouled up and has prolonged a good many labour disputes and has brought a lot of bitterness in its trail. No doubt this is another reason why this strike has gone on.

I believe that collective bargaining can and should resolve this kind of a dispute, and that's why I strongly support the amendment as put forward by my colleague from Timiskaming. By going to compulsory arbitration, we are putting the responsibility on somebody to decide for the two parties what it should be and I don't think we should be making it that easy. I think they should sit down there and they should work it out themselves and come to an agreement that they both can live with and justify to their own constituencies.

As my colleague said, the educational process must go on on Monday and it should go on in a fairly good educational environment, but I am not so sure that with the action we are taking here today we are making the environment as conducive to learning as one would expect and one should hope for.

I think we're all concerned about the students. It has gone on a long time, and 45 days out of the classroom for some students who will be going on to post-secondary education could put them at a disadvantage, if it went on indefinitely. The students at Kirkland Lake, I suppose, have that right to get back into the classroom, and reluctantly we we can at least agree to the teachers going back, but not imposing compulsory arbitration. The amendment says the two parties have to work it out.

I can't say that this is *déjà vu* for me because I wasn't here when you ordered Toronto teachers and students back, but I have to agree wholeheartedly with the reasoned amendment of my colleague and to say that I hope those teachers in Kirkland Lake at least get parity with what's going on in the other parts of northeastern Ontario.

The education commission there felt on Saturday that it could still knock heads together. I think if there was enough give and take that it still could have been settled that way. With this kind of thing always in the background to rescue a group that is unwilling to make up its own mind and to stand by a decision, it just makes it easier and easier.

The only position that I'm prepared to espouse is that of my colleague, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) who, in my opinion, has played a very creative and constructive role in this whole dispute and deserves to be commended for it.

Mr. Samis: At this stage of the ball game, my colleague from Algoma—

Mr. Lewis: Of the what?

Mr. Samis: Ball game. What would you think I'd say? I thought the heckling came from the other side.

Mr. Lewis: You ain't seen nothing yet. What has a ball game got to do with this?

Mr. Samis: Okay, we won't talk about it. May I suggest that my colleague from Algoma (Mr. Wildman) has talked about *déjà vu*. I would add, coming from eastern Ontario, it's not only *déjà vu*, its *déjà entendu* et *déjà écrit*, de nouveau, de nouveau and *déjà vu* as well.

Let me just make a few brief comments. I think in all reasonableness I can understand the pressures, political and social, being put upon the minister to resolve this dispute. I think those of us in the opposition do appreciate that. I think what we're really disputing is how this executive power is being

used. We're not disputing that something has to be done in some way, shape or form.

The thing I would like the minister to comment upon when he does make his reply is that my colleague from Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) has made a reasoned amendment. It does meet the problem and the pressures upon the minister of getting the kids back in the school—the students, that the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) was referring to, continuing their education. It does satisfy the demands of the parents, it does get the educational system in Kirkland Lake moving again. What my colleague has suggested does satisfy those problems and those pressures.

I would like the minister to comment on why that particular solution that he is proposing, supported by our particular party, is unacceptable to him, why it isn't reasonable, why it doesn't come to terms with the basic problem, even if we leave all the somewhat, sometimes doctrinaire talk about collective bargaining aside. I would like to hear the minister give us some concrete reasons why that particular solution is unacceptable to him, unacceptable to the various parties in Kirkland Lake and why he feels that wouldn't solve the problem. I find the solution the minister is proposing is a very total—I won't say totalitarian, but total—solution to the problem.

[9:00]

If you put that in the context of the anti-inflation guidelines, this is pretty restrictive control over the whole collective bargaining process. We have the federal government virtually emasculating, if not destroying, collective bargaining for the next two to three years; and the paperworkers of this province know that full well. The teachers will have to contend with that regardless of the settlement, as they do here in Toronto. So in effect, by this total solution without a compromise, the minister is imposing a double whammy on the teachers of Kirkland Lake.

My only request, Mr. Speaker, is that in his final remarks I would ask the minister to address himself to the compromise suggested, and not just say we are playing politics or posturing for political gain. I would ask that he address himself to the argument contained in that reasoned amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to get involved in this debate?

Mr. Lewis: Just for a moment.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough West.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I want to follow my colleague from Stormont, whom I think—

Mr. Samis: Cornwall.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry, Cornwall—whom I think made some useful final observations about requiring or asking the minister to respond directly to the reasoned amendment. Mr. Speaker, this bill is in its own way a pretty ominous piece of legislation. It's ominous, I think, on two fronts.

Number one, it is the second piece of legislation of its kind in a very short period of time, and maybe the precursor of yet two or three other similar pieces of legislation. If in fact we are faced in a period of three or four months, as is entirely possible, with four or five pieces of legislation, all of them requiring compulsory arbitration when ordering the teachers back to work, then the many voices now calling for an elimination of the right to strike will rise to a powerful and almost irresistible crescendo. That is the groundwork which the government, consciously or unconsciously, is laying.

If we—well then, it is unconscious, it is not deliberate. But whether the minister realizes it or not, if we have a succession of compulsory arbitration return-to-work situations for the teachers, with Toronto and Kirkland Lake and then Kent, and then God knows what else, one after the other over a few months, we are inviting those people everywhere who would wish to eliminate the right to strike, to express a case that will be difficult for this government in this present atmosphere to resist. And that request will come as readily from members within the Legislature as from people outside; and I don't think, and my colleagues don't think, that that's useful for the collective process.

Mr. Laughren: Subversive.

Mr. Lewis: There is another ominous portent to the bill. That is that if we begin to enshrine, in every piece of legislation we introduce, that same solution—namely that of compulsory arbitration when ordering teachers back to work—we will provide for the teachers a degree of resentment and hostility, cumulative over time, which is counter-productive, which is not good for the learning process, which just sets up an atmosphere of unhappiness and hostility within the school system. In both senses, then, this second bill, standing as an omen of what might occur, should be viewed I think in a way which is rather more reasonable.

My colleague from Timiskaming and my colleague from Port Arthur have put to the minister the realities of the negotiations, and some of their qualms about the Education Relations Commission. I happen to feel a very great personal friendship and regard for the chairman of the ERC, as the minister knows, but I too am beginning to have some qualms about the definition of the Education Relations Commission and the extent to which they are encouraged to get things going or to draw things to a close.

I guess what we are trying to say on this side to the minister—and obviously without any great effect and none of us have any illusion about it—is that there has to be a more creative way to respond to these teachers' strikes or board lockouts than the traditional compulsory arbitration route; and that the succession of compulsory arbitration bills will result in a polarization in Ontario, either outside the school system or inside the school system, which is ultimately destructive. We're not saying, "Don't return the teachers to work." We understand that schools have to be reopened. We're not saying, "Don't accept the advice of the ERC." We understand the advice is offered in good faith.

We're saying: At this moment in time, when everybody in the country is looking at alternative means of settling labour conflicts, when the government itself has a paragraph in the Throne Speech about alternative means of settling labour conflicts, don't tie the government to one route and one route exclusively and don't do it so dogmatically and arbitrarily so early in the game.

There is something, I think, both creative and beneficial in saying, "The schools must open. You must return to work; the kids have to have the education. Now listen, you two—grow up, both sides, and bargain in good faith, having returned to school."

I want to say to the minister, in good faith, that I think the catharsis of that kind of legislation and the invitation to both sides to function rather differently may have a quite remarkable effect. It's certainly worth his doing or trying. He has absolutely nothing to lose. The schools are open; the teachers are back; the kids are learning.

Maybe they would reach a negotiated settlement having established, as has been offered, a floor for payment which doesn't exceed the board's last offer — no taxpayers should be angered or irritated by a floor for payment which keeps the teachers feeling as though they're being treated like civilized human beings. I really think it's worth thinking about.

The crazy relationships in the Legislature—the way this place functions sometimes and the way we're forced to deal with reasoned amendments—means that in order to support our view, we have to oppose the government and I understand the hazards in that. All of us understand the hazards that that is interpreted as voting against the schools being open but let's put that falderal aside for a moment. Those who want to wage that war on the hustings are welcome to it.

What we're putting to the House now as we've put before—and we were excoriated for it in January—we thought it through yet again and I think it continues to be an intelligent and thoughtful way of approaching an alternative solution: Open the schools; give them a basic payment and get them back to the bargaining table.

The minister knows as well as I that in this case the groups were so close together, they were separated by a hair. What was it? Twelve thousand dollars in total in the first year. That was the divide—\$12,000 in total in the first year. I want to say that that kind of minuscule separation in positions merits a more creative solution than compulsory arbitration, the thing we've always fallen back upon. That's what we're putting to the House.

I want the minister to know it is in good faith. He may reject it but my suspicion is that a few months down the road, after we've gone through this exercise another three or four times and everybody is clamouring to remove the right to strike or the teachers are gritting their teeth about the imposition of arbitration, we will regret that we didn't at least try something else that achieves the same end rather more thoughtfully.

Therefore, the reasoned amendment; therefore, the position of the vote. Let me add a footnote to that which I think, Mr. Speaker, underlines the New Democratic case. The need for a different kind of solution is reinforced by the absurdity of the present process.

I don't know how much we paid His Honour Charles Dubin. I have as much respect for him as most but that arbitration process was ludicrous from the outset. One didn't have to be a Solomon to predict that His Honour would effect a settlement somewhere near one or the other of the board offers.

What did we achieve in all those weeks, because the settlement isn't worth the paper it's written on until it goes before the Anti-

Inflation Board anyway? It took time; it raised tempers; it cost public money and to what end? As long as we have to work within the confines of what those of us on this side regard as unfair and unworkable anti-inflation guidelines, then let us at least try to do it in an atmosphere of labour relations which isn't quite so combative, quite so adversary, as compulsory arbitration invariably makes everyone feel, so why not try a different approach? It, too, will have to go to the Anti-Inflation Board, obviously, if there's a settlement; but on the other hand it removes the adversary component. The parties could possibly agree. The minister always retains the right to impose a settlement later if this continued negotiation doesn't work. That's always the ace he has in his hand. Why not give to both parties the kind of catharsis which could lead to a more intelligent use of labour relations, not cost the public any more, not have this endless array of arbitration and, at the same time, achieve the object the minister has in mind? I guess what I'm trying to put to him—in an atmosphere which is much less charged, much less intense and much less sulphuric than the Metro teachers' strike, which involved so many people—what I'm trying to suggest is I really don't think, and my colleagues don't think, that there should be one dogmatic solution. We accept the need for the return to work. We'd like the minister to try, once that has been achieved, for a different approach for teachers and boards throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Rainy River.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a very few remarks on this debate. I had originally intended to say a few words on the Toronto board-teacher dispute, particularly after I had listened to the perambulations of the leader of the New Democratic Party. I must say, for the first time in almost nine years, at that time I really felt sorry for the leader of the NDP for the kind of contortions he had to go through to justify the socialist position.

Mr. Renwick: Don't bother to feel sorry.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, on a point of personal privilege, as I walked by the bench of the member for Rainy River after that debate he turned to me and said, sotto voce: "Now you know what it's like to be a Liberal."

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, previous to the election and to a number of the people who came in, I'm sure that the leader of the

NDP would not have had quite as much of a problem rationalizing the position at that time had as he has tried before.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, I feel comfortable in that position.

Mr. Reid: I join with him, and I'm sure we do on all sides of the House, in believing that there has to be a better way than this kind of strike confrontation situation. I must say probably the essential difference between this party, and even the party across, and the NDP, is that we don't get the great delight out of the kind of confrontation and problems that arise from these things, nor do we try to get the kind of political partisanship out of them.

The leader of the NDP, the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) and the other members can say what they want, the essential point of this debate is whether or not those students are taught in the classroom tomorrow or the next day or whenever this bill goes into effect.

Mr. Bain: On Monday.

Mr. Reid: That's the principle of the bill, that's what we're here to decide. None of the posturing of these friends of mine to my right, the socialist party, can get away from the essential fact that enough is enough, that those children's education is in peril.

Mr. Lewis: The ultimate slur.

Mr. Reid: That's what the situation is.

An hon. member: Crocodile tears. Sanctimonious pap.

Mr. Reid: We can go through reasoned amendments; we can go on all night. We can twist and turn. We can say we uphold the right to strike, which I'm sure we all agree with essentially, but there comes a point when responsible people have to take a responsible position and we have to look at the good of the community and the people most directly involved. That time has come. I'm going to tell you my friends, including those who are barracking behind me, that in the Province of Ontario they will not be the government for the very reason that they cannot get away from the ideological strait-jacket that they find themselves in, where they say: "Freedom, yes; obligation and responsibility, no." They can't do that in this kind of society and the people of Ontario will respond to that.

Mr. Makarchuk: Keep it up. You've got the freaks on your side.

Mr. Warner: Keep it up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[9:15]

Mr. Reid: A funny thing, Mr. Speaker, I never missed the member for Brantford for the four years he wasn't here, and he seems to be trying to talk himself out of the Legislature again.

Mr. Makarchuk: Don't worry about it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member is in trouble.

Mr. Makarchuk: Not as much as he is.

Mr. Foulds: The minister should speak for himself.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I too join with those who are somewhat concerned about the Education Relations Commission and the role they have taken.

I made an interjection earlier today that the minister responded to, in which I think my comment was that he waited longer in northern Ontario, in Kirkland Lake, to come to this decision than he did in Toronto. I know it is only a matter of a few days, and perhaps that's not really the problem we are facing. I think the problem we are facing is that the commission is obviously not doing its job. I, along with many people in this House, at one time in an earlier emanation was a teacher. Perhaps some of us should have stayed there. At the rate things are going we would be much better paid.

Mr. Foulds: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Reid: However, I cannot recall, in my limited experience as a teacher, that the children or the students could afford to miss the kind of teaching days they're missing. I think that one of the things that should happen—and surely from the experience in the last two months—is that the Education Relations Commission should take a much more aggressive stance in these matters.

We are playing with human lives. We are playing with the futures of people. I don't think that we can afford the kind of postures that we see evidenced tonight by the NDP, or even by the kind of postures that the Education Relations Commission has taken in the last few months.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think first I would like to begin by just commenting about the Education Relations Commission. We always seem to get around to this when we have a discussion such as we are having on this bill, and as we had on the bill that we introduced in January. I think it is relevant to this particular debate. As my friend knows, one of the duties of the commission is to advise the government when they think the pupils' programmes are in jeopardy; but the first and foremost duty of the Education Relations Commission is to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this Act and to do those things that are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. And the purpose of this Act is the furtherance of harmonious relations between boards and teachers, and that this be fostered through the making of agreements and renewing of agreements in the collective bargaining sense between the boards and their teachers. Now, that is the purpose of this Act and that is the first responsibility of the Education Relations Commission. My friend who just spoke said they should take a more aggressive stance. The former leader of the official opposition said that he was concerned that they hadn't been doing very much. There seems to be a sense in this House that the Education Relations Commission somehow is doing nothing—

Mr. Reid: They are waiting too long.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and is sitting around not doing their job.

Mr. Shore: Nothing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: As I said, their first and foremost job is to see that the purposes of Bill 100 are carried out. Now is there anyone in this House who knows what the Education Relations Commission has done since they were appointed last September?

Mr. Shore: Nothing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't think there is a person who knows what they have done.

Mr. Nixon: You are supposed to speak for them.

Mr. Reid: We cannot find out what you are doing over there.

Mr. Nixon: Can we have a report from them?

Hon. Mr. Wells: All you have to do is ask the chairman. They will produce a report in this House, but all you've got to do is—

Mr. Nixon: Then you tell us.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All you have to do is pick up the phone and ask the chairman of that commission.

Mr. Shore: Have you picked it up?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Ask him what the Education Relations Commission has done.

Mr. Nixon: Well, we are asking you.

Mr. Reid: You are responsible for him. That is what you are responsible for—to stand in your place and tell us.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right. I am very pleased to tell my friend then, because I did tell him during the debate in January—and obviously he paid no attention to it.

Mr. Nixon: All right, but you are debating this bill. They didn't even go up there to have a hearing until you phoned them up and said, "What about this strike?"

Hon. Mr. Wells: There have been 203 contract negotiations since Bill 100 was passed last summer on July 18.

Mr. Nixon: What has that got to do with this bill?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Education Relations Commission has provided assistance in 105 of those collective bargaining disputes.

Mr. Nixon: Good for them; it is irrelevant to this bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: They've assigned 97 fact-finders, and there have been 24 mediators assigned. Settlements involving fact-finders occurred in 58 cases after the fact-finders were appointed; 13 settlements were arrived at through a combination of fact-finding and mediators. There was a compulsory arbitration settlement in Metropolitan Toronto; three of the settlements occurred because of final-offer selection as laid out in Bill 100.

The total number of settlements achieved with the help of the Education Relations Commission was 80. That's 80 settlements in this province where the Education Relations Commission in some way helped the parties to come to a negotiated settlement as they were required to do under Bill 100. We are talking about five strikes in this province during all that time.

Mr. Reid: When did they get involved in those strikes?

Hon. Mr. Wells: There were five strikes in this province and 80 situations where the Education Relations Commission has helped them.

Mr. Nixon: We are talking about specifics.

Mr. Reid: When did they get involved in this one?

Hon. Mr. Wells: They are involved in everyone of these disputes.

Mr. Reid: When did they get involved in this one? Did you call them or did they call you?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let's not talk about the gloom and doom. Sit down and look and listen to what the Education Relations Commission has done.

Mr. Reid: Do you think 44 days is long enough or too long?

Mr. Nixon: That is a very weak defence.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, if my friend says that's a weak defence—

Mr. Nixon: It's no defence at all.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —he doesn't know what he's talking about. He made a charge that the Education Relations Commission was not effective.

Mr. Nixon: In this strike!

Hon. Mr. Wells: That charge is absolutely not true.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, surely we are talking about Bill 2 or whatever it is?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are talking about Bill 2, but the hon. member is trying to slough over and cast some kind of an aspersion on the education system.

Mr. Nixon: Not at all. I was talking specifically about this particular matter—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: They didn't even go up there until you asked them.

Mr. Makarchuk: Throw him out!

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to continue to debate with the former leader of the official opposition, because I think his position on this shows why he is sitting in the place where he is today.

Mr. Deans: He is not the official opposition.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If there was some realization by the members of this House about what public service bargaining is all about—and I must say I think that of all people the present Leader of the Official Opposition has some understanding of this; and there are one or two other people—

Mr. Nixon: You are so patronizing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are one or two other people in this province—

Mr. Nixon: Why don't you hold hands with them a bit more?

Mr. Lewis: We have before.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are one or two people—

Mr. Nixon: And you are not too sure about them—just yourself.

Mr. Reid: That makes four of you—you, the Leader of the Opposition, and those two other people. There are four people in the whole province who understand.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are one or two other people in this province who, I think, have at least a pretty good appreciation of public service bargaining and negotiation.

Mr. Reid: That's four of you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And one of those people is the chairman of the Education Relations Commission, Mr. Owen Shime. Another is the vice-chairman, Dean Harry Arthurs.

Mr. Nixon: Did Dean Arthurs go up to Kirkland Lake?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, he didn't. Mr. Shime went up.

Mr. Nixon: Ah yes, just one member of the commission.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But I tell you, if the hon. member wants to learn something about public service bargaining, let him go up and spend a little while with the chairman of the Education Relations Commission instead of mouthing off in this Legislature as he does.

Mr. Nixon: This is where I am elected to speak. You are the one who is shirking your responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend is elected to speak in this House and to make a little sense.

Mr. Reid: Are you taking lessons from John Smith or Taylor?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am not taking lessons from anybody, but I tell my hon. friend that I have a real, deep and abiding concern about public service bargaining in this province; and I always get back to the position that the Liberal Party of this province cares nothing about it.

Mr. Shore: What did you do before you read the article in the paper?

Hon. Mr. Wells: In fact, when I listened to the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) I thought he was just about going to come to the position that he thought the right to strike should be taken away from teachers.

Mr. Lewis: He did come to that position; he just didn't say it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right. I think he just missed that; he just didn't say it.

An hon. member: He did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He just about came to it—

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. minister return to the second reading of the bill, please.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a point of personal privilege?

Mr. Sweeney: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: You did come close.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Very close.

Mr. Sweeney: May I refer to a single paragraph addressed to the Ontario secondary school teachers? The Liberal caucus is also fully in support of the basic principles of Bill 100. We do not favour its abolition. We do hope that serious alternatives to strike action will be worked out, but in the meantime we respect Bill 100 as it is written.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Bain: Did that clarify something?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well I must say that is a rather ambivalent statement.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: That from a minister who is planning compulsory arbitration?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You let me know when you have found the alternative methods.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is interesting, Mr. Speaker. I indicated the number of disputes in this province. There are about 20 strikes at present going on in the State of New York where the teachers' right to strike is prohibited. Teachers are being put in jail, the governor of New York is commuting sentences and so forth.

Mr. MacDonald: You persuaded your own backbenchers; that's what you are saying!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we could return to second reading of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that the ERC will eventually go down as one of the innovations in public service bargaining; and indeed will be copied in this province in some form in other areas.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Just so my friends opposite will not be completely neglected, I must say the only thing that offended me most in most of the arguments they made were the comments—and I must say their leader didn't make these comments but some of them made the comments—that they were the only ones for the rights of the working man and for the working class people and so forth. It is my perception that this party I belong to has always been concerned about the rights of the working person, the working man in this province.

Mr. Nixon: He murmured some mild objections to the commission.

Mr. Lewis: Very mild.

Mr. Nixon: Even though he is one of the four people who understand these matters.

Hon. Mr. Wells: How about the human rights code; how about minimum wage legislation; how about hours of work; how about compulsory vacations?

Mr. Deans: How about the nurses and the hospital staffs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we can get back to the principle of this bill and debate that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are a lot of us over here who have worked for a wage, and have worked hard for a wage.

Mr. Nixon: Not so many.

Mr. Ruston: There won't be many next time.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would tell you, that I would gladly change my salary for a proper hourly rate.

Mr. Deans: How about the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Something more like some of the negotiated settlements, something like the plumbers or something like that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we could leave debating the minister's salary and return to second reading of this bill?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I just think it is absolutely offensive to us on this side to hear that you are the only ones who are concerned about the working people of this province.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Rather than prolong this debate, let me end it by just indicating the position of the government in these particular matters.

First of all, we believe that this bill should be passed as is because we believe the schools should be open on Monday because we are concerned about 1,650 students.

Let me deal with the reasoned amendment that has been put forward. I would like to say in very plain and simple terms why we can't accept the amendment. First of all, it proposes that a floor position be put in, based upon an offer which now no longer exists, one which was put in during a negotiating session, which was put in without prejudice and which really no longer exists on the table. I don't know how, in a piece of legislation, you can put in an offer which really would be very hard for someone now to be able to pull out and say this was the offer.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: It's just posturing anyway.

Mr. Renwick: The arbitrator in Toronto didn't have any difficulty in resuscitating an offer.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Dubin found an offer that was no longer on the table.

[9:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, he didn't, with respect. My learned friend, Mr. Justice Dubin, accepted the position put forward, during the arbitration, by the board.

Mr. Nixon: Very minor alterations. Are you going to let him do this arbitration?

Hon. Mr. Wells: It was the offer which was put to the teachers in October, but it wasn't the non-offer or the nebulous offer which you suggested during the debate. In this particular case the offer that was made without prejudice isn't an offer that's anywhere around now. It was put in and rejected.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It was rejected completely and has no force in law. It is just a set of figures which somehow exists somewhere; perhaps you have a copy. It would not—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —be substantiated. In any event—

Mr. Lewis: That's not undesirable.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —I don't believe that in that kind of situation it is possible to put that kind of amendment into this bill. Further, what I think the member is really saying is that there should be compulsory bargaining. What the opposition is doing in its amendment is taking away the right to strike from those people. Until they arrive at a settlement, the opposition is telling them that they have to bargain by law in this bill.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is like passing an Act of this Legislature saying that the leader of the official opposition and I have to talk every day.

Mr. MacDonald: Presumably that's what the law states now.

Mr. Reid: It sounds as though you are now—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everyone has had the opportunity to participate in the—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Everyone has had the opportunity to participate in the debate. Things will go along more smoothly with fewer interjections. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Lewis: We have those early morning chats about the cabinet agenda almost every day.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is like saying that we are saying by force of law they have to bargain. I think it is taking rights away. It is taking more rights away than, for instance, our bill is taking away.

Mr. Lewis: I don't think so.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He is saying somehow they have to bargain; they have to continue bargaining; they won't have the right to strike as guaranteed under Bill 100 in this case.

Mr. Lewis: The Labour Relations Act says that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But we will have no finality to this situation. There is no finality to the situation.

Mr. Makarchuk: How do the teachers feel about it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: How do the teachers feel about it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't know how the teachers feel about it, but I think that—

Mr. Makarchuk: They will probably accept it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the only reasonable way that I can see to bring this particular situation to a conclusion is to adopt the same course as we did in Metropolitan Toronto—to ask that it be put to arbitration in a speedy manner which will assure that there is a decision which is binding on the parties; a decision so that the teachers will know when they receive it exactly what they are going to get; a decision that will indicate to the board what it is going to have to pay; and a decision arrived upon in a speedy manner which can bring some resolution to this matter, and, hopefully, start everyone down the road to rebuilding a harmonious relationship in the schools in Kirkland Lake, which of course has got to happen.

It is not going to be easy; we have been through these before and there are certain lingering problems which occur. Hopefully the parties, upon the conclusion of the matter

and a resolution being arrived at, can start back to building harmonious relationships. As I have said in every one of these disputes, the quality of education depends upon quality teachers and it depends upon a high morale in the schools. That's what we have to re-establish, and it is not easy to do in some of these areas.

With respect to the opinions of other members of this House, we believe that can best be done through the passage of this legislation which will cause schools to reopen and the programme for the 650 students in this particular area to begin again. I would urge the members of this House to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wells has moved second reading of Bill 2. Mr. Bain has moved that Bill 2 be not now read a second time but be read a second time one hour hence and that it now be referred back to have incorporated therein the following amendments—shall we dispense with reading them?

Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: We will vote, then, first of all on the main motion.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, before we take the vote, since there will be a division and bells, if that division and bells can be fairly quick, we might finish the bill clause-by-clause and third reading tonight.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, I hope that can be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The motion is for second reading of Bill 2.

The House divided on the motion that Bill 2 be now read a second time, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Auld	Bain
Belanger	Bryden
Bernier	Burr
Breithaupt	Davidson
Brunelle	(Cambridge)
Bullbrook	Deans
Cunningham	di Santo
Davis	Dukszta
Eaton	Ferrier
Edighoffer	Foulds
Ferris	Godfrey
Gaunt	Laughren
Good	Lawlor
Gregory	Lewis
Grossman	Lupusella

AYES	NAYS
Haggerty	MacDonald
Hall	Mackenzie
Handleman	Makarchuk
Henderson	McClellan
Hodgson	Moffatt
Irvine	Renwick
Johnson	Samis
(Wellington-	Sandeman
Dufferin-Peel)	Swart
Kennedy	Wildman
Kerr	Young
Kerrio	Ziemba—26
Lane	
Leluk	
Maeck	
Mancini	
McCague	
McKessock	
Meen	
Miller	
(Muskoka)	
Morrow	
Newman	
(Durham North)	
Newman	
(Windsor-	
Walkerville)	
Nixon	
Norton	
Parrott	
Peterson	
Reed	
(Halton-Burlington)	
Reid	
(Rainy River)	
Riddell	
Rollins	
Ruston	
Scrivener	
Shore	
Singer	
Smith	
(Hamilton Mountain)	
Smith	
(Nipissing)	
Spence	
Stephenson	
Sweeney	
Timbrell	
Villeneuve	
Welch	
Wells	
Wiseman	
Worton	
Yakabuski—60	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 60, the "nays" are 26.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

[10:00]

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Committee of the whole House.

KIRKLAND LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS' DISPUTE ACT

House in committee on Bill 2, An Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any comments or amendments, and if so, to what section?

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps the minister might want to take advantage of a further opportunity to explain to the House, or even to the one or two members who criticized the actions of the commission referred to under 1(d), in the specific instance of this strike. He was able to explain a number of meetings they have had in the other negotiations, but the question at the time was the action of the commission in this specific strike action. Was it under their initiative that they went to Kirkland Lake to hold public hearings as to whether or not the school programme was in danger, or did the minister, in fact, ask them for advice in this regard?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, the Education Relations Commission was involved, of course, in a manner of knowing what is going on, before Sept. 11.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. There is too much noise in the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Wells: On Sept. 11 the Education Relations Commission appointed a fact-finder in this dispute, and the fact-finder's report came back to the commission and it formed the basis for mediation which took place with a mediator appointed by the commission. The commission supervised the final offer vote and the strike vote on Nov. 20. They again appointed a mediator, Mr. Pathe, who mediated and, in contact constantly with the commission, attempted to bring about a settlement of that dispute all through January and at different times in February.

Mr. Lewis: A better mediator could not be found.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right; a very fine mediator who worked very hard under the aegis of the commission and appointed by the commission in this dispute.

The commission went to Kirkland Lake as a result of a letter I wrote to them asking them if they would give me an opinion as to whether the students' programmes were in jeopardy or not.

Mr. Nixon: If I might just pursue that for a moment, Mr. Chairman. The question, of course, is really related to the responsibility of the commission to advise the House, or the minister, I believe, when, in its opinion, the educational programme is in jeopardy. The other things that it did are, I wouldn't say routine, but they are set out quite specifically and in the past have been done by other, let's say, officials in the ministry and under the minister's order, I presume.

But I am very much concerned about the responsibility that under the legislation lies with the commission to advise the minister when the commission, in its opinion, feels that the programme is in jeopardy. I wanted the minister to put on the record, as he has done, that they went to Kirkland Lake—I shouldn't say they; the chairman went to Kirkland Lake—when he was requested for an opinion in this connection by the minister. It almost looks as if the minister saw that little squib in the *Globe and Mail* a couple of days before the Legislature reconvened and he said, "My God, are they still out on strike? We are going to have to do something about that. I better get in touch with Owen."

It's just exactly the way it looks to, let's say, an unsophisticated observer from this House such as myself. He had decided that it was time to take action and he required the justification of the commission.

I believe the concern that is felt in this connection by myself, and was referred to rather obliquely and gently by the Leader of the Opposition, who has had his fangs drawn in this connection just a bit by the blandishments of the minister and his multitude of friends in the education establishment—

Mr. Lewis: Not just a bit; almost totally drawn.

Mr. Nixon: It appears that you are fangless in this regard.

Mr. Lewis: Totally fangless, but at least I am one of four.

Mr. Nixon: Right. Well, maybe tomorrow he will decide to dismiss you from that special and select company, and I have a feeling that he will end up as only one person really knowing what is right for the board and the teachers and the students.

I want it clearly understood that the commission took no action to determine if the education programme was in danger until the minister asked it. He indicated the date of the letter; it was very soon before the House reconvened and it appeared to be more for the convenience of the minister and this House than for the good of the students involved.

I feel it is inadequate, and I would say if the minister—he can respond any way he wants—but I would hope that some time somebody will respond moderately and reasonably and look at the possibility of tightening up that specific responsibility. We are not in favour of compulsory arbitration except in those instances, and they have got to be individual instances, where obviously the greater good must be served by action of this House. But I have a feeling the commission, in this area of its responsibility alone, is simply acting at the convenience of the minister and that is not good enough.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me respond, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I think there was a misunderstanding. I did not intend, and I don't believe I ever said, that I was one of the experts on public service bargaining, because I certainly am not and I certainly do not—

Mr. Nixon: I would agree that you are not. You and I are on the same side there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I certainly do not include myself in that category. But I do include the chairman of the Education Relations Commission and I include the vice-chairman of the Education Relations Commission.

Mr. Nixon: We are not questioning the bargaining.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right. But I think that that is very pertinent to the point; that these people are, I think, some of the well-known experts, and as far as the Ontario scene is concerned he is probably one of the top experts in public service bargaining in this particular jurisdiction. I think you are casting an aspersion on him which doesn't deserve to be cast. The fact that I didn't ask him doesn't mean that the commission wasn't aware of its responsibility and I have to assume it means that it concluded the pupils' programmes were not in jeopardy.

There are two sides; they may not have been in jeopardy, and for the better good of the whole system and the desire to have a negotiated settlement, the commission felt that what it should do was appoint a mediator and

keep that mediator working, rather than suggesting to me that the pupils' programmes were in jeopardy and that somehow some legislated action should be taken. I have to assume that, based on their expertise, they felt that was the better way to handle this particular situation. They are sitting there, every hour of every day, with their staff and monitoring these situations in constant contact with the mediators who are working there, listening to their reports. They are very aware of these things and I don't think that they abrogated their responsibility at all. If you think they did because they didn't report to me earlier that the pupils' programmes were in jeopardy, then I guess that has to be your opinion. I have to assume that because they didn't report to me in that regard, they felt the programme wasn't in jeopardy.

Mr. Nixon: Why did you ask them?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I asked them because the question was being asked of me many times once it passed the 38 days as in Toronto. It's a very natural question; I am sure it would have been asked of me in this House, when I got in this House. It has passed 38 days; is the programme in jeopardy?

They had sent me a set of ground rules under which they would operate for this responsibility, one of them being that if I wished to have them give me an opinion, they would give it to me if I asked for it. The other was that under various circumstances, they would form their opinions themselves. I felt it would be my duty at that point in time to ask them. They could have come back to me and said, "No, the programme isn't in jeopardy."

Mr. Nixon: I won't pursue it except for another moment, to say to the minister that he is just assuming it was a coincidence that after he asked them they replied, "Yes, the programme was in jeopardy." It is probably the coincidence that concerns me more than anything else.

I am not questioning the ability of the commission in negotiations. As a matter of fact, I don't think they did much negotiating. They simply saw that the arbitrators and the fact-finders and so on were appointed as is required under the statute. They are undoubtedly people of ability but it concerns me that they decided that the programme was in jeopardy only after the minister asked them; after it was convenient when the Legislature had been called and after it appeared to have been brought to public attention by the Globe and Mail. I just leave it at that. The minister defends them. I am not criticiz-

ing them. I feel the statute is improperly drawn in this connection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I just point out to my friend that I think I indicated earlier—it certainly wasn't just because of the Globe and Mail; I just want to get the date correct—that on March 1, the director of education wrote me and outlined concerns about the students' programme; on March 1. I then subsequently asked the commission, after receiving that letter.

Mr. Bullbrook: If I might be permitted, I just want to ask so that I, as one individual member, may understand it: As a matter of clear logic, one has to come to the conclusion that if the Education Relations Committee has reported to you that the programme is in jeopardy, then it was in jeopardy prior to its investigation. As I understand my colleague, his concern is if it was in jeopardy prior to the report, when did it become in jeopardy? If it is incumbent upon the commission only to report when you require a report, again, as a matter of clear logic there might be a time when those student programmes are in jeopardy when nobody is investigating things. That's what I understand the question to be—that's what I understand the question to be not responded to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: As I indicated, we made a certain assumption in this House when we passed Bill 100. Correct? That assumption was that teachers had the right to strike. We therefore assumed, much as we all believed and hoped it wouldn't occur or, if it did occur, it would occur very rarely, that there would be work stoppages from time to time.

We heard people from all sides of the House, including the Liberal Party and the official opposition, say that it wasn't going to matter; that the greater good of the bargaining process had to take precedence and that a few weeks of missed school wasn't going to matter in the total general pattern. That's exactly what we all voted for in this House in Bill 100 and that's what we have.

Now the question is at what time does that withdrawal of services present a real problem to the students? I have to assume that the Education Relations Commission, given that duty, constantly have that in mind when there is a withdrawal of services. While they have hundreds of disputes to monitor and be concerned about, they only have a few—a handful—of places where there really is a strike occurring. They have mediators in those situations and they're in contact; so they know what's going on. They're intelligent people and they're capable people. If I didn't

hear from them. I would have to assume they didn't feel the programme was in jeopardy.

[10:15]

One of the other crucial points in this whole thing is again the imminence of a negotiated settlement at some point in time. It may be when they investigate and look at both sides they see a negotiated settlement can occur within a day or so, and so the aim of the commission is to get that negotiated settlement, because there's no question that the kind of atmosphere—the harmonious relationships, the accord that's built up through a negotiated settlement—is better than anything else, and that is to be desired. It probably would win if you were to balance it off with another day or two of a withdrawal.

These are the kinds of things that have to go through their minds as they try to do what I think is a very tough and complicated job and one which they try to do very well. You have to remember they have only been in operation since last August. They have had 200-and-some-odd collective bargaining situations to deal with somehow, over half of them in which they had to become involved. I think they've done a pretty good job in that whole situation.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to introduce two amendments to section 3. The amendments would be to subsections 4 and 5.

Mr. Chairman: We're dealing with section 1. We're dealing with the bill section by section.

Mr. Bain: I wasn't aware the remarks on the ERC related to sections. I'll give you notice that at the appropriate time I will introduce those two amendments.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Chairman, are we still going to discuss the Education Relations Commission then? May we still do that so that we don't stray on it?

Mr. Chairman: We're dealing with clause by clause, and we're on section 1 of the bill.

Mr. B. Newman: Yes, and that's 1(d) that I'm referring to and what the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk did make mention of.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We're not going to be debating the Education Relations Commission tonight. Mr. Chairman, the discussion on the ERC would be more appropriately on the estimates of the ministry.

Mr. B. Newman: Would not the minister agree that it would be better to have the ERC report to him at stated intervals during the length of a strike so that he would be fully cognizant as to whether the educational needs of the students are being put into jeopardy or not? They could be put into jeopardy in a short period of time. It might take a little longer, but at least you would have that information, I would think, maybe on a weekly basis once a strike has taken place.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, they do report to me weekly on an informal basis, on these disputes.

Mr. B. Newman: Informal is not good enough.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comment on section 1?

Mr. Sweeney: May I just ask for a point of clarification on what I believe the minister said just a few minutes ago? I want to be sure I understand what he said. My hearing was that the Education Relations Commission hadn't up until 40 days reported that the students' educational programme was in jeopardy and, therefore, the minister has to assume—I'm paraphrasing his words—that the programme was not in jeopardy.

The point of clarification is, while I would respect the minister's judgment that these gentlemen may be experts in the field of public service bargaining, does the minister accept their judgement as being equally competent in the area of judging that after 40 days, two months—not a few weeks but two months—the student programme had not at that time been in jeopardy? It is just a point of clarification. Is that what he said? Is that what he means?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have to assume if they didn't report to me that the programme was in jeopardy they felt it wasn't. Yes, that's what I'm saying.

Mr. B. Newman: They have all been sick.

Mr. Nixon: It is ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I also draw to your attention that on the Education Relations Commission are a former teacher and a former school trustee and a community college board member. The community college board member and the trustee are one person.

Mr. Nixon: There are all those and only one of them went up there for the hearing? All those and only one went?

Mr. Sweeney: Does the minister concur that, given the Toronto strike and now the Kirkland Lake strike, we can take two months out of a school year and there's no effect or it's not a serious effect?

Mr. B. Newman: Is that what you're saying?

Mr. Sweeney: Does the minister concur with that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: What I am prepared to say is that the time and the programme can be caught up, and that will depend upon the kind of situation that now comes into being between the teachers and the students.

Mr. Chairman: Shall section 1 stand as part of the bill?

Section 1 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Section 2?

Section 2 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Section 3? The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Bain moved that section 3, subsection 4 be amended as follows: Add after the word "parties" in the fifth line the following:

including in the case of the written notice to the arbitrator from the board the non-prejudiced offer of the board dated Feb. 27, 1976, to the branch affiliate.

Mr. Bain: Since the next amendment is a companion amendment I trust that the chairman would allow me to make the combined companion amendments clear.

Mr. Chairman: Proceed.

Mr. Bain further moved that subsection 5 of section 3 be amended to read as follows:

The arbitrator upon receipt of a notice shall examine the non-prejudiced offer of Feb. 27, 1976, of the board to the branch affiliate and on the basis of that offer shall examine into and decide all matters that are in dispute between the parties as evidenced by the notice referred to in subsection 4, and any other matters that appear to him to be necessary to be decided in order to make a decision no less favourable to the branch affiliate than the non-prejudiced offer made by the board on Feb. 27, 1976.

Mr. Bain: Speaking to the amendment—

Mr. Chairman: Just a minute; let's read the amendment.

Mr. Ferrier: Accept it as read.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the committee that it be accepted as read?

Agreed.

Mr. Ferrier: The minister accepts it with a smile on his face.

Mr. Bain: The purpose of this companion package of two amendments is to try to create a reasonably good atmosphere in KLCVI when it opens on Monday.

We feel the companion amendments are certainly not a solution as good as the reasoned amendment provided. It is important, nevertheless, to retrieve what we can from this very poor bill in an effort to build a harmonious relationship in the school. This is not going to happen just by our wishing to do it; we have to do it by giving both parties something that they will be able to point to and feel that they have accomplished something through their negotiations.

These two amendments build upon the successful aspects of the negotiations that occurred and, as has been mentioned earlier by myself and others, the two parties were within \$12,000 on the complete monetary item package in the first year of the contract.

It is only by drawing upon this area of agreement we are going to be able to arrive at a reasonable settlement. It's only by drawing upon this area of agreement that we are going to be able to have a board and a teaching staff at KLCVI that, although not entirely happy, will be much more predisposed to returning to normal teaching circumstances on Monday.

I hope the House will accept these two amendments. This, I feel very strongly, is a way to establish an atmosphere in KLCVI on Monday that will be conducive to learning.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to add, very briefly, that I think it is important that we establish a floor, as outlined in the amendment proposed by my colleague from Timiskaming. The floor we are proposing, that non-prejudiced offer, was one of the major reasons why the ERC, as late as last Saturday, thought there was a negotiable settlement possible. That was the basis for some hope, and one of the reasons that the minister has argued most strongly that the dispute could have continued in day terms longer than the Metro Toronto teacher dispute did.

I think it is important that in this piece of legislation we recognize the very fruitful bar-

gaining that had taken place in Kirkland Lake up to that time. Both parties, both the board and the teachers, feel that the bargaining that has taken place and the number of meetings that they had engaged in, in mediation negotiations, were not in vain and that they had actually accomplished something. This floor and this amendment that we propose will give them that feeling of accomplishment, and the attitude and the atmosphere that my colleague from Timiskaming speaks about in Kirkland Lake and in the classrooms in the Kirkland Lake High School will be much better for that and for the feeling of accomplishment by those two negotiating parties.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for London South.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Chairman, we will oppose this motion on the same basic theory as we did in the January one. I believe that it binds an arbitrator into a position which makes it virtually unworkable. It gives him much less of a degree of flexibility of how he perceives a proper settlement can be worked out.

Mr. Makarchuk: In other words, it is more important to the arbitrator.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid that I must oppose the amendment. I think I indicated a few minutes ago that this non-prejudiced offer is really some nebulous thing that has no real substance and I feel that, as my friend has just said, it would hinder proper arbitration. I think that in this case both parties should put forward their positions and let the arbitrator do his work.

Mr. Deans: Can I ask the minister a question? Is there another offer that the minister would be prepared to accept as the suitable floor level? Since he hangs his hat on the fact that the non-prejudiced offer was not legally or formally on the table, is there an offer that he might personally feel would be one that would be suitable to be written into the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, at this time, Mr. Chairman, I don't think there is.

Mr. Deans: Is it fair then to conclude that you don't believe in setting floor levels at all? It has nothing to do with it being on or not on the table, not legally or illegally presented, but, in fact, you're not prepared to accept anything.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Bain's amendments to subsection 4 and 5 of section 3, will please say aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

I declare the amendment lost.

Bill 2 reported.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report one bill without amendment and asks for leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Wells moved third reading of Bill 2, An Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute.

Mr. Deans: Just before third reading carries, I want to say something. I'm absolutely convinced that the more often we in this Legislature are prepared to deal with labour disputes, the more often we are prepared to pass legislation that will bring a resolution of a legally constituted strike, then the easier it's going to be for intransigent parties to sit back and await our decision.

Frankly, I think we're making a terrible mistake. I think we ought not to involve ourselves in these matters. There are many matters confronting many people across this province which deserve the attention of the Legislature; some of them much more long-lasting than the effect of this strike on the pupils or people of this area or any other area.

I want to suggest that I think we're simply moving slowly along the road to the elimination of rights which most of us—including the minister, I think—happen to believe are rights that the people ought to have in the Province of Ontario, with regard to collective bargaining. I hope that we, as a Legislature, will spend some time in the next short while deliberating other ways and improving on the ways currently there of resolving the labour disputes which are coming before us in rapid succession.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of Bill 2 being read the third time will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to; third reading of the bill.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the legislative assembly and took her seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. P. M. McGibbon (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the legislative assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed a certain bill to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said legislative assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Clerk Assistant: The following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 2, An Act respecting the Kirkland Lake Board of Education and Teachers' Dispute.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this bill.

The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House may I indicate that tomorrow we will go back to the consideration of supplementary estimates, carrying on where we left off yesterday with the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, March 12, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. members of the House would want to join me this morning in welcoming to the chamber Hon. James Morgan, Minister of Transportation and Communications in the province of Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Oral questions.

GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr. Lewis: A question for the Minister of Community and Social Services: What exactly is real and what is fantasy about the grants that the ministry is giving to Children's Aid Societies? Will the minister, for example, give to the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society the 10 per cent to 12 per cent increase it needs rather than the 3.1 per cent increase he has offered within the grounds of his redefinition, whatever that is, of what the government is going to do?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It may be difficult to distinguish reality from fantasy in the member's mind.

Mr. MacDonald: You should deal with the questions and not go off on those political tangents.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What I have been saying during the last two months has been consistent, namely, that no child or no person in this province in true need will do without because of the constraint programme.

I stated throughout my tour of this province that I was seeking additional funding to alleviate hardship in certain cases. I feel there are legitimate concerns in regard to some of the problems of the Children's Aid Societies, especially where an additional burden for child care has been transferred to them.

I have merely reconfirmed in my earlier statement and acknowledged that I will ensure that no child is neglected. That applies

to the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society as it applies to the other 49 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario.

Mr. Lewis: Can the minister perhaps be more specific and tell us, now that he has been successful with the Ministry of Correctional Services, how much additional money exactly is he now able to make available to the societies by virtue of his negotiations over section 8? What is the amount we are talking about?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There will be sufficient funds to alleviate the hardships that are imposed.

Mr. Lewis: What does that mean?

Mr. Deans: How do you budget on the basis of that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Simply this: I am not in a position today to give a finite figure.

Mr. Lewis: Give us an estimate.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. It's not a matter of putting money on the table for grabs. It's a matter of—

Mr. Lewis: How do you budget without knowing the amounts you have?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is a matter of ensuring that the true needs are provided for. It is not a matter of throwing X dollars to be divided again arbitrarily right across the board.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: Am I correct in my knowledge that your regulations and the legislation of the province require welfare boards and Children's Aid Societies to take on as a case a person who is in need? If that is so, how can you tell Metro and others that they are not going to get any more funds if your legislation requires them to take these people on their caseloads?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are two areas. As you know, we have probably the most progressive Child Welfare Act in any jurisdiction in the world.

Mr. Lewis: Which you are now undermining.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are two areas of concern when we deal with Children's Aid Societies. One, of course, is the active care of children. The other is in the area of preventive services. The area of preventive services—that is the jurisdiction, the authority for Children's Aid Societies to involve themselves in a whole spectrum of preventive services—induces some societies to conclude that they must actively pursue that whole spectrum. I have found that throughout Ontario that is picked up to varying degrees in terms of implementation so that some societies will say it's incumbent upon them under the Act to carry on these preventive programmes. Others feel that it's not incumbent; it's there. It depends on what society, really, you are dealing with as to what it feels its true legal obligations are. What I am ensuring is that the true hard-core services are maintained in terms of the accommodation of children in need.

Mr. Reid: And you will make up the difference in the budget in these cases?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, we will ensure that the—

Mr. Lewis: That's just fatuous nonsense. Give us the figures.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —Children's Aid Societies have sufficient funding to accommodate their needs so that they can—

Mr. Deans: How will they know that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —look after the children under their care.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition. Order, please. This is becoming a debate now.

Mr. Lewis: We want the answers. Mr. Speaker, when one asks the minister how much money, one could at least expect an answer rather than a dissertation.

Mr. Speaker: The ministers answer the questions as they see fit. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. McClellan: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, on the minister's answer.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow this supplementary.

Mr. McClellan: Since the minister said again that nobody in need will suffer hardship, could he explain to this House whether

he intends to proceed with the recruitment of foster homes as alternatives to "the higher cost of residential care"? Could he explain that utterly preposterous proposal to this House? Does he not know the difference between—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McClellan: —foster care and residential treatment?

Mr. Speaker: I allowed the member a supplementary question on the first question. We are getting into a broader field. Does the Leader of the Opposition have further questions?

PRIVATE LABORATORIES

Mr. Lewis: A question for the Minister of Health: Now that the minister has indicated that five doctors may be charged by the College of Physicians and Surgeons for relationships with private labs or a lab, can he indicate to us the nature of the police information which he is getting and at what point he intends to expand the government's approach to private labs to launch a full inquiry?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all I understand that the charges are not being brought by the police against the doctors. They will be brought by the College of Physicians and Surgeons under its regulations—under its disciplinary rules. The college has met with me in the last few days and said on the basis of its study of the relationships it has found, it feels it can take these people through its own action and, if necessary, to court over it.

Mr. Makarchuk: How come you charge the welfare people but don't charge the doctors?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was satisfied and pleased that the college was very concerned about this kind of relationship.

Mr. Makarchuk: That is refreshing.

Mr. MacDonald: Who have you smoked out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have faith in some people. I even have faith in you people a lot of the time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think there are many things we can do together and this is a good

example of one of them. I don't have to defend things I find wrong in my ministry. As members know from past experience, when good, valid points are brought up, I'm quite happy to have their assistance in resolving them, and this is one of those areas. I have nothing to defend. I have a problem that requires solution.

Mr. Lewis: Where is it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Certainly many of the points members have discussed in the estimates debate the other day, for example, are worthy and are being followed up by our ministry. I'm sure members knew that, because they've seen some of the comments that were made by our staff in some of the studies.

The second part of the question was, what am I going to do about an inquiry? I don't get the police information. I believe this is given to the Attorney General and I believe it's kept confidentially with him during the preparation of charges. So it's probably just as well kept there, knowing the confidentiality of information and what happens to it. I am determined to make a number of administrative changes within my ministry to eliminate some of the duplication in the present laboratory system of Ontario and to eliminate some of the incentives to hospitals that exist which allow them to send business out as a cost-saving measure internally, but a total increase to my budget.

Mr. MacDonald: They're just following the established process. You do that in the whole government all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I believe there's a place for a private lab. The idea that the private lab should not exist because one, two, three, four or 10 are found to have done something illicit doesn't mean that there isn't a place for a well-controlled private lab.

Mr. Lewis: You need an inquiry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What I need to know is the dimension of the problem before we decide that an inquiry is required, and we are trying to find that out quite quickly. I am getting assistance from a number of areas and I'll be getting advice from a number of areas. I'm sure the Premier (Mr. Davis) is as interested in this issue as I am. If the information indicates an inquiry from a judicial point of view is needed, I can assure the member it will go on.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: Is the minister's faith in the willingness and capa-

city of the doctors to police their own internal operations not shaken by the revelation of all that has been going on, and presumably going on for some time, when it was under their jurisdiction? If his faith is shaken a little in light of the facts, does he not think it is time that it should be subject to the normal rules that anybody else would be subject to outside in society?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm not going to argue with the experts like, I think, Justice McRuer who has said that the age of the self-governing college had passed.

Mr. Reid: Well, change it then.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would say that there are real advantages to us all in the continuation of systems that I believe have worked admirably well compared to many other systems. The courts don't catch all the thieves just because they're run by government. The colleges don't catch all the people who are professionally incompetent or not following the spirit of their regulations, and it's not because they're not under government that they don't. Right now I would rather work with the existing system that has been acknowledged and enshrined by this Legislature in the Health Disciplines Act. I found absolutely no unwillingness on the part of the college to process as quickly as possible and to cooperate with us when charges were made or alleged. If I had found that resistance, I would have had cause to agree with the member.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary: Doesn't the minister think the time for a public inquiry has arrived when his own deputy minister, almost a month ago, said that the abuse of OHIP by labs was felt to be widespread? Is that not reason for a full public inquiry?
[10:15]

Hon. F. S. Miller: This is in my estimates which are up today. Again I think this kind of thing needs to be explored in depth between us. I'm quite willing to accept the discussion, but I feel that using question period to answer that would really be taking time away from other ministers.

Mr. MacDonald: You are just bailing out the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), and you know it.

UNNECESSARY SURGERY

Mr. Lewis: Another quick question for the Minister of Health: Given the mounting

evidence of the unnecessary number of various operations and surgical procedures performed in the hospitals of Ontario, and the enormous additional cost to the public purse, would the minister be willing to establish a provincial audit committee between his ministry and the College of Physicians and Surgeons to look initially at the operative procedures of hysterectomy, tonsillectomy and gall-bladders, in an effort to see how many millions of dollars might be saved in Ontario if there were some serious control exercised in this field?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Again, I share my friend's interest in this from all points of view. I don't think it's a Canadian or Ontario phenomenon. It is a North American phenomenon.

Mr. MacDonald: Lead the world!

Mr. Reid: There's hardly a gall-bladder left in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister is answering the question. We are wasting time here.

Mr. Reid: Lots of gall but no gall-bladders.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections, please, and answer the question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'd love to ignore the interjections. The issue is a very crucial one. When I first became minister, I was intrigued to try to find those aspects of the health care system that were subject to management. My friend is referring to one that is of course subject to management; that is, unnecessary surgery. One of the first things I did was to ask some members of my staff to start reviewing those potentially manageable aspects of health care.

Mr. Deans: That's criminal.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It takes some time to amass the data, and I was referring to some of the data when we talked the other day. I can only tell the Leader of the Opposition that within a couple of months I hope to come out with some kind of a position on this that will allow us to discuss it further and act in that direction.

OHC LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Lewis: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. What is the minister going to do about the judgement of His Honour Judge Addy in the Federal Court

of Canada, trial division, on Karam and Karam and the National Capital Commission, when His Honour made very strong and condemnatory statements about the land acquisition policies of the Ontario Housing Corp.?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I have looked into that particular matter since I became aware of it in the newspaper reports. I think I have satisfied myself as to what the situation was as it related to the acquisition of that land. I would be quite prepared to make a statement here in the House concerning it. I don't propose to do so at this time and take up the time of the question period, but I would be prepared to make a statement early next week.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, would the minister be prepared to provide the information on which the land acquisition was based and to deal specifically with the very strong statements which Judge Addy makes?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I believe, to the best of my knowledge, the details were tabled in the House by my predecessor as they related to the acquisition of the land, the cost per acre and the total price.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, but will the minister comment on the content?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, indeed.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: Would the minister not agree, Mr. Speaker, in view of what Judge Addy says, and in view of the charges that were made and proved in this House relating to South Milton and other land acquisitions, that the time is now here for a full-scale inquiry to be held by a royal commission into the affairs of Ontario Housing to determine why Ontario money is being wasted in this fashion?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, it is an opinion of the hon. member that money in fact is being wasted. I am quite prepared to present the information that I have as it relates to the acquisition of land. Figures have been tabled in this House and, in response to the question of whether or not I would request an inquiry, my answer is No.

Mr. Bullbrook: By way of one final supplementary, if I may, would the minister include the minutes of Ontario Housing Corp. in the documents that he makes available to us, please?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Singer: You could run 12 hospitals on what Ontario Housing has wasted.

Mr. Lewis: This is a time of restraint, you know.

WELFARE PAYMENTS TO METRO TORONTO

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question directed to the Minister of Community and Social Services. In view of the continuing concern—and more recently expressed at Metro Toronto council—could the minister please make it clear whether he will or he will not pay, as agreed, the 80 per cent of the mandatory welfare costs incurred under provincial legislation by Metropolitan Toronto? Could we be just absolutely clear whether he is going to pay the 80 per cent of the welfare cost which Metro Toronto has to pay and has no choice but to pay under provincial legislation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As I explained earlier, there is always some debate as to what is and what is not mandatory; so, for that reason—

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Not at all.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. There is a very broad spectrum of services that are offered by Children's Aid Societies. For that very reason, we scrutinize their budgets very closely.

Mr. Lewis: We are not talking about Children's Aid.

Mr. S. Smith: Welfare, not Children's Aid.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We do in fact pay 80 per cent of the approved budget. That has been done in the past and will be done in the future.

Mr. Lewis: Of course, you have to.

Mrs. Campbell: Could the minister not distinguish between Metro council and Metro Children's Aid and would he answer the question as it applies to Metro council?

Mr. Shore: Yes or no?

Mr. McClellan: A simple question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of Metro council, I presume the member is talking again about the broad spectrum of social services that are administered through that council. We have set guidelines in terms of the overall parameters of spending, and I expect the Metro

council, like other councils within Ontario, to comply with the guidelines.

Mr. Lewis: If you are trying to be a Jimmy Auld, you will never pull it off.

MERCURY POLLUTION

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Is the minister aware of the viewpoint expressed by the chief of the Whitedog reserve in as much as it is the chief's opinion that sport fishing ought to be banned in the polluted waters around that reserve, keeping in mind especially the very high degree of mercury contamination in the blood of those Indians who are involved in guiding and certain other aspects of sport fishing? Has he heard the opinion of the chief with regard to this?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I have.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, can the Minister of Health offer us some excuse so that we can understand why his ministry has not moved swiftly to insist that the cabinet impose a ban on sport fishing in that area in accordance with the opinion of that particular chief?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It shocks me, Mr. Speaker, that a doctor would assume that one should take an action without getting medical advice first.

Mr. Reid: You have had five years.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have been asking for advice and I have, as members know, sent a team of eminent people to Japan and to other parts of the world during the month of November. I was promised a report by Feb. 18. The editor of that report changed positions and I am told he is within days of giving me the report. I don't want to prejudge it but I will be glad to make its contents available to the member and to the leader of the official opposition the moment it comes in because I want to do one of two things. I do not yet know what he will recommend to me but I want members to know and I want us to approach the problem in a sensible way. If he tells me we must close for the sake of health, I will be prepared to make that kind of recommendation. If he suggests other alternatives, I would hope the member would support me in my recommendation.

Mr. Foulds: Is the ministry in that investigation including the consideration of the report called the Great Lakes environmental

contaminants survey which indicated, I believe about two weeks ago, that lake trout from Lake Superior should not be eaten more than once a week because of the high mercury content in those fish.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I haven't seen that report, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Foulds: I asked the minister if his investigation would include the consideration of that report.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I had a specific set of things the first report was working on. I think it wise, at this late date, not to complicate it. I think one could compare one set of findings with the other, because they will be highly related. It talks about the levels of mercury in fish and the effect on health, which is basically what the issue is.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a supplementary question, in view of the fact that the same processes in the making of pulp and paper have been used in many other river systems in Ontario by many other companies, can the Minister of Health tell us what his ministry is doing to check on the fish in the other river systems, what figures he has, and will he agree to table any figures in the possession of his ministry in this regard?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I suppose the member's research department realizes that it is not the production of paper that causes the mercury contamination at all, but the production of caustic soda and chlorine.

Mr. Reid: Which is used in the process of pulp and paper; we understand that.

Mr. Lewis: They don't have their \$40,000 researcher yet.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Could the leader of the NDP just leak them some of his information?

Mr. S. Smith: Leak us an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. minister please ignore the interjections; thank you.

Mr. S. Smith: He loves them, Mr. Speaker. It is his charming way of avoiding the questions.

Mr. Ruston: How true.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. The fact remains that we have been looking at other systems, and this was isolated as the one that was the most critical. The member will recognize the original problem, I think, was sparked around Sarnia. The Dow Chemical case which, I know, was one of the—

Mr. Reid: We haven't had that question for a while.

Mr. Singer: The legal fees are up to half a million: "The polluters will pay."

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't suppose they are, because I don't think you're one of the counsellors.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, if I ignore the interjections in this House I'd respond to nothing.

Mr. Singer: He insulted you again, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is, yes, we have.

Mr. Ruston: No cameras today.

[10:30]

TRUCKERS' LICENCES

Mr. G. E. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In view of the fact that PCV licences are being replaced by R licences, limited to certain geographic areas of the province; and due to the fact that many truckers in Orillia and other parts of the province operate and reside at points close to the borders, will the minister allow previous holders of F licences to operate in more than one region?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, there is no easy answer to that particular question. As was explained during the debate on the amendment to the PCV Act last fall, the province is now divided up into five regions for the new R licence for dump truck operators. Each holder of an F licence, a former open F licence, will be automatically granted a new R licence for one of those five regions, the region of his choice. If an operator operates in two regions of the province, or more, he may then apply to the Ontario Highway Transport Board for authority to operate in the second, third, fourth or fifth region.

The chairman of the Highway Transport Board is now setting up places for hearings throughout the province. He will be announcing hearings where these applications will be heard—not here in Toronto, but a different location throughout the province. They will be at as informal a place as possible so that these truckers, especially those ones that are located close to a boundary and have operated in both regions, will be able to get their permanent authority to operate in a second region. In the meantime, these truckers, if they have work in more than one region, immediately can apply to the chairman of the board and he will be able to grant them temporary authority to operate in the second region until such time as it can be formalized. This is being expedited as quickly as possible.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister consider south boundary adjustments, where there are obvious problems, where people live close to the boundary. I am thinking of the lower section of Hali-burton where they are oriented to the south. Would the minister consider some boundary adjustments where there are obvious hardships, and if not, would he ensure that no one who has operated in the open F class for a number of years is going to lose his livelihood?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the boundaries that we are using are the boundaries of the five regions established by our ministry. If there was some good reason to adjust a particular boundary for this purpose, if it would simplify matters, I wouldn't be against doing so. But I am sure that if we moved a boundary over one township or one county, or whatever it may be, we would only then create the same situation at the next line, and I would far sooner deal with this particular problem. It's not something new. It's something that we knew was there when the legislation was passed. It was discussed here in the House. I gave assurances at that time and I am sure of we look in Hansard those assurances are still there.

I must say that perhaps the biggest problem is the misunderstanding or the lack of information regarding this particular matter. Any truckers I have talked to have been totally satisfied when I have explained the situation. With the schedule in the House, I can't meet, unfortunately, with every dump truck operator in the Province of Ontario. We are attempting to get information out through the OTA to all the trucking industry. These people are normally the people who own one or two or three trucks and they are harder to

contact through the association. It would be very hard and expensive to contact them through an advertising programme. So we have to find some way of explaining it to them. I think it will all be cleared up very shortly.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final supplementary on this.

Mr. Moffatt: Since the operators now have licences, would it not make sense to the minister that the holders of open licences receive communication from this office directly to correct the problem they anticipate happening in the next month as the construction season approaches?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, I already have that under way. I met with some of my staff last week on this, and it is either going to be done by way of a direct letter to everyone who has a licence or through their association; one or the other.

WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of Community and Social Services. If he is really interested in getting people off welfare, may I ask whether he considers the cancellation of the work incentive programmes, the work activity programmes, a step in the opposite direction to this? Is he prepared to raise the allowable earnings which recipients of social assistance may keep if they do take part-time employment, or will they end up with no more money even if they go out to work? And what is he doing to provide jobs which will help people make enough to support their families and to get off welfare if he is going to insist that they work?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will attempt to answer those three questions, Mr. Speaker. I presume the member is referring to the work activity programmes of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. Is that correct? Work activity programmes are carried on by a number of municipalities throughout Ontario. Of course, it's at the election of the municipalities whether or not they carry those on. We subsidize those to the extent of 80 per cent and of course we will continue to subsidize those programmes to the extent of 80 per cent of last year's expenditures plus a further 5½ per cent. In fact, we're increasing the moneys for work activity programmes. It is up to the local municipalities, in terms of their priorities, as to what they do in regard to carrying on their work activity programmes.

Ms. Bryden: May I clarify what I meant—work activity was one, the other was the wage supplement to the working poor.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Excuse me; that is a fourth matter then. In terms of the working poor there were three demonstration projects in Ontario that we entered into last fall. One was with Metropolitan Toronto; one was with Peterborough; and the other one was with Ottawa.

The Metropolitan Toronto one was financed to the extent of \$1.2 million. The word that I've got as late as this week is that it has not been successful in that only 12 applicants have applied so far in regard to that programme, and the metropolitan corporation has now reduced its share of the moneys allocated for that programme.

The hon. member also mentioned the matter of employment opportunities for welfare recipients. May I reiterate that we feel more can be done to place welfare recipients through closer co-operation and liaison with Canada Manpower offices.

Mr. Deans: Canada Manpower is useless; absolutely useless.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Traditionally, I think it only fair to say that Canada Manpower has not been effective in terms of placement of persons on welfare who are seeking jobs. Therefore, we have worked out with Canada Manpower the placement of welfare officers within the actual Canada Manpower offices in a number of centres—which, I gather, is working well—to assist in placements.

I believe there was another question that the member had as well?

Ms. Bryden: Yes; are you prepared to raise the allowable earnings?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, I'm sorry. In regard to the earnings of a person who may be on welfare, right now a person with dependants can keep the first \$100 of his earnings plus 25 per cent of the additional money. There are no plans to vary those provisions.

KENT COUNTY SCHOOL TEACHERS' STRIKE

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education. Could the Minister of Education inform me if any progress is being made in settling the strike of the secondary school teachers and the lock-out in the secondary schools in the county of Kent? The concern of the parents of the stu-

dents who are attending these schools has been brought to my attention. What action is the minister taking to bring about a settlement of this strike?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I can, of course, assure my friend that I appreciate him bringing this matter to my attention. It's been brought to my attention daily, ever since the event occurred, by my colleague who sits on my right—the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough)—who is as concerned as he is about this matter.

Mr. Shore: The Treasurer is down there now.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Indeed, he has had several meetings with the parties from time to time in an attempt to bring about some kind of resolution of the problem. At the present time, the Education Relations Commission has asked Dean Ianni of the law school in Windsor, who has been acting as a mediator, to go back. He is there now with another mediator attempting to bring the matter to a conclusion.

J. CLARK KEITH GENERATING PLANT

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Energy regarding the announced plan to close the J. Clark Keith generating plant in Windsor: In view of the Hydro chairman's expressed fears that blackouts or brownouts may be expected in Ontario in the not too distant future, why does Hydro even contemplate taking out of commission this fully-paid-for station which is still in excellent condition?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First of all, I think the hon. member is not exactly properly quoting the chairman of Hydro or me for that matter. The indications that have come from Mr. Taylor and me in recent weeks are that unless the traditional growth and consumption of electricity is dampened over the next few years, by the early 1980s we could be facing brownouts and blackouts.

On the question of the J. Clark Keith plant, first of all the member will know—and I believe members of his party have expressed concern about this over the years—that that plant is the least efficient in terms of environmental standards of any in the entire Hydro system. I am told that it still does not meet the Ministry of the Environment's pollution standards.

Secondly, in 1975 that plant was used to the enormous extent of 1.5 per cent of its

capacity. It is used as a peaking plant because, as the member knows, it is fuelled by coal and is therefore one of the most expensive in the system in terms of operating expenses.

This plant will be closed for about 2½ years, during which time it will be decided whether it will reopen. And, if it does reopen, whether it would be a coal-fired plant or whether it would be a residual oil-fired plant, perhaps using oil from the Petrosar facility in Sarnia.

Mr. Burr: When the ministry, or Hydro, predicts the amount of money to be saved by such a closing does it take into account the amount that is going to be paid out in unemployment insurance by the federal government and the amount that may be paid out in welfare by the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked Ontario Hydro ran neither the UIC nor the welfare department.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary of the minister: Is the minister aware that many times the local plant was accused of polluting the environment when it wasn't even operating?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that those accusations have been made in the past; on occasion, by members of the two parties opposite.

Mr. B. Newman: I am telling the minister that officials at the plant have received calls from the Minister of the Environment to turn down the plant; to shut off the plant, when it was not even operating. He can see that he can't use that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you; that is really not a supplementary question.

Mr. B. Newman: The question that I wanted to ask the minister is will he guarantee employment and placement to those who are going to lose their jobs as a result of the temporary shutdown of the plant?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You cannot have it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, every possible effort is being put forth by Ontario Hydro to relocate as many as possible of the staff who want to relocate in other parts of the province. They are also discussing with some of the staff the potential for early retirement.

There is one problem, which I wasn't aware of until a couple of days ago, which is

being encountered and that is we are dealing with two unions. There is a different union at J. Clark Keith from other parts of the Hydro system, and the two unions don't recognize one another.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN NIAGARA PENINSULA

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I noticed that he had a meeting with the city of Hamilton re bus service in the Niagara Peninsula and southwestern Ontario. The question I would like to ask is: Is any subsidy being provided for that service at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I presume the hon. member is referring to the service of the Canada Coach Lines? If that is his question—no, my ministry is not paying any subsidy for the operation of the Canada Coach Lines. We are, of course, paying subsidy to the city of Hamilton for the operation of the Hamilton Street Railway urban transit system.

Mr. G. I. Miller: A supplementary question: Is there any study being made to tie it in with the GO Transit system presently being provided from Hamilton to Toronto and other areas?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, Mr. Speaker, there is no specific study being made as to extending the GO Transit to include Canada Coach. My officials are working out some studies with the officials of the Hamilton Street Railway to determine to what degree Canada Coach Lines is supplying an urban transit service within the urban transit area of the Hamilton-Wentworth region. We expect to have a report on that within the next two months, I believe, and that might make some rationale for an adjustment to the subsidy base for the city of Hamilton.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? The member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister consider extending the study outside the urban area of Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, of course we are researching transportation needs and requirements continuously. It is not the government policy to subsidize the private car-

riers of passengers on bus systems throughout the province, other than the GO Transit system—which, of course, I am sure the member is aware of. I mean it is not government policy to be involved in intercity passenger transportation—in most cases carried by private carriers. In the case of the Canada Coach Lines, it is basically a private carrier which happens to be owned by the Hamilton Street Railway; the same as the Grey Coach Lines operates as a private carrier and is owned by the TTC.

POLICE FIREARMS

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. Would the minister explain why the regulations were changed to allow police officers in Ontario to use flat-nose bullets? What's the reason for that and what was the source of the request?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, there have been some changes in the regulations in connection with the weaponry that police forces in Ontario are allowed to use. There are technical reasons for it, but I am not sure of all of them. There have been rather extensive changes; but as far as this particular question is concerned, I will get some information for the members here.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener presented the report of the Provincial Auditor for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Leluk moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the amendment is to require teachers to make up instructional days lost during a strike.

An hon. member: How about a cat-o'-nine-tails?

An hon. member: Presumably without pay.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 20th order, House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: Dealing specifically with vote 2903, item 1.

On vote 2903:

Mr. Ziembra: Mr. Chairman, in recent weeks the Ontario government has been reminding all of us of the need for constraint, restraint and holding the line on public spending. They say that we must bite the bullet and cut back, especially in the areas of health and social services.

Since Dec. 19 last, the Minister of Health has been touring the province telling the citizens of Goderich, South Porcupine, Clinton, Durham, Bobcaygeon, Kemptville, Copper Cliff and others that their hospitals must be closed with the resulting loss of employment for these communities. We had been told that 5,000 hospital workers would lose their jobs and that 3,000 hospital beds would be eliminated in the name of restraint. According to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller), \$50 million is going to be shaved from his \$3.4-billion budget.

As the Health minister has made his rounds to these communities, he has become increasingly defensive about the cutbacks. He has begun to demand that members of the New Democratic Party say where they would cut back in the health system and achieve comparable savings without inflicting similar damage to the communities involved in the health care delivery system.

I want to respond to that challenge from the minister. I want to talk about one area of the health delivery system where an NDP government in this province would move without hesitation and without damaging the system one jot. As this debate continues, I'm confident that other members of this caucus will be talking specifically about the insensitivity and arbitrariness of the hospital closings. But I want to respond to the minister's challenge by demonstrating where we would have saved significant amounts of money while protecting the jobs of hospital workers and

further demonstrate how this particular ministry has its priorities all wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to relate to you a story, in many ways a very sordid story, a story that emerged piece by piece after many days of painstaking investigation by myself and one other person. Mr. Miller wants to save \$50 million, a nice round figure.

Mr. Chairman: I would remind the member, first of all, that you must restrict your comments to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan; and when you refer to another member of the House you refer to him either by the ministry he heads or the riding he represents.

Mr. Ziemba: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is the Ontario Health Insurance Plan that I'm going to be dealing with. The Minister of Health wants to save \$50 million, a nice round figure and one that jibes almost exactly with the amount of unnecessary laboratory testing that is being done in this province. OHIP payments for laboratory testing in private medical labs have risen from \$20 million in 1972 to \$88 million in this current year.

The minister is looking up, I see. The reason the pay-outs were so high last year, higher than even the ministry anticipated, was that apparently there was a leak from the ministry to the private lab sector that the ministry would be pegging the private labs as to how much business they were doing over the period of one year and that quota, that ceiling, would be imposed as a budget for each individual lab. What these private lab operators did, of course, was to fall all over themselves to try to get their business up, and the last quarter is when the leak came out. The volume of business they did was astronomical. In fact, it's going to be a surprise to this Legislature, I'm sure.

It was early in this debate that clever money investors began realizing that OHIP had left the public till unlocked. There was no control whatever by OHIP officials on whether medical tests were necessary or indeed even performed at all. When it became apparent that medical testing in private labs was a growth industry with an open-ended demand, the smart money simply moved in. A return on profit of 45 per cent of gross annual business was not in the slightest uncommon.

I have talked to a real estate agent who sells private labs. He sells them in much the same way as real estate agents sell Colonel Sanders franchises. He says they're simply a licence to print money. He makes on the average of \$10,000 every time he sells one of these. It's one of the really profitable ventures.

I submit this proliferation of medical labs has been going on for some time. In a speech delivered two years ago this month Dr. R. A. Haggar, chairman of the district committee for laboratory medicine in Hamilton said:

The failure of government to control the proliferation of commercial laboratories has probably been the greatest single factor in the excessive costs of laboratory tests. Ever since medical services became insured benefits hundreds of individuals have opened laboratories, and commercial enterprises have moved in to share this bonanza. In order to expand their operations, laboratory businessmen have launched aggressive campaigns to entice practising physicians to use their facilities. Some laboratories have advertised these services, personally solicited physicians and their employees, sent them gifts and have tried to convince government they can do lab tests cheaper than hospitals.

The signals were there as Dr. Haggar clearly indicated—here is a man who two years ago was clearly ahead of the times—the ministry chose to ignore them.

Applying inflationary considerations to the \$20 million worth of medical testing performed in 1972 we might today reasonably expect to be spending \$30 or \$35 million a year. But we're not spending \$35 million; we're spending in the neighbourhood of \$88 million on private medical testing.

The difference between what we might reasonably have expected to pay for this service and what we are paying is in excess of \$50 million or almost exactly what the Minister of Health is hoping to cut back on by reducing the quality of hospital services and throwing hospital workers out of work. If the minister had seen to it that OHIP was doing its job properly the hospital beds, hospital jobs and hospitals which were closed—all of them—could have been saved.

With proper management OHIP could have kept the growth of medical costs in line with the ordinary growth in revenues which comes with the regular expansion of the economy but OHIP isn't well managed. If the government doubts this it ought to ask the Ontario Provincial Police and the accountants who are investigating the laboratory testing scandal that I revealed last month, a month ago today.

After four weeks, OHIP has not yet been able to unsnarl its records to tell police investigators who was paid and how much for what. OHIP doesn't even know where half the requisition cards are. If it doesn't know

what's going on how can the ministry expect OHIP to control its own affairs?

But now for the story, including the evidence that I promised. This is a story of how OHIP was swindled; of how the government stood by ineptly while it all happened; and how the public paid the price.

The story begins inside Abko Laboratories, suite 201, 94 Cumberland St. in midtown Toronto. There, technologists who were paid as little as \$130 to \$140 a week became infuriated at the daily sight of OHIP billings being padded. Tests that were never performed were checked off for OHIP to pay. The doctors never complained and Abko employees knew why. They knew the reason because they had also seen cheques made out to doctors and bills which were being looked after for new office equipment in doctors' offices and personal gifts.

[11:00]

Finally, the employees of the lab decided that they had to take action publicly. They took company records that documented these transactions and brought them to me. For my part, I have turned over most of this to the OPP but, before I did, I photostated the original documents and it is these photostats that I want to share with the Legislature today.

The first is what I am sure Abko would call the hit parade of doctors. This shows the names of doctors and the amount of business they generated for the lab in the year 1974, and in the first margin it shows the commissions and kickbacks that the doctors were getting.

Here is a cheque for \$8,000, dated Feb. 4, 1974, and made out to Z. Nagy. It is signed by Valentin Abersok, a partner in Abko. On the reverse side of the cheque, Dr. Z. Nagy has endorsed it and included his address, 8 Wilket Rd., Willowdale.

Here is another cheque, for \$2,000, made out to Ilone Nagy, Dr. Nagy's daughter. On the bottom of this cheque, Abko has written, "Fixture and fixtures."

Here is a cheque for \$2,200, dated April 2, and made out to Ra-Za Services Ltd. It was not easy for me to locate Ra-Za Services but in time I found it to be a storefront medical clinic, complete with two labs down in the basement. The clinic is owned and operated by two doctors, a Dr. Khan and a Dr. Singh.

The basement is divided into a medical lab—it's really what they call a collector station or a bleeding station—and the other half of the basement is a radiology lab where they

do x-rays. Rents run a little over \$500 for each side; that's \$1,000 plus a month. Abko paid over \$2,200 for four months' rent and they never moved in. The present lab, Flemington Labs, has taken over the lease and the operator of Flemington Labs is experiencing no difficulty in paying the \$500-a-month rent to Dr. Khan and Dr. Singh. In addition to that, he pays the salary of a technologist, a young woman who takes the blood samples and sends them on to the head office. Apparently there is no difficulty in paying this rent, because Flemington Labs is being fed by the two doctors upstairs.

When I interviewed Ra-Za's secretary, and I commented on how much money was being charged for the cellar, she explained it as a referral fee before correcting herself and saying it's the rent. In any case it has to be the highest rent paid for any basement on Danforth Ave., compliments of OHIP and your taxes and mine, Mr. Chairman.

I'll tell you another thing: Driving around this city and around this province, I couldn't help but notice how many apartment buildings are being converted to medical centres, how many storefront medical clinics there are and how many medical centres are being built. They are all over the place—medical centres for rent in a lot of these office buildings that couldn't be rented for office purposes. So it seems they are just mushrooming and it's all thanks to OHIP. It's a real opportunity for them. They all follow the same pattern too. The doctors are upstairs and the pharmacy and the medical lab, as well as the radiology lab, are downstairs. We'll get back to that later.

I also have here a receipt stamped "paid" from the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., documenting that repair services for Dr. Nagy's television set were paid for by Abko. Nothing was too petty for these people. The obvious question to ask is, why was Abko Medical Laboratories on Cumberland St. being so generous to Dr. Nagy?

Indeed, in the records that I have obtained concerning Abko are detailed sheets indicating—I showed you one of them—the amount of business in dollar terms that each doctor did with this private laboratory. These sheets reveal that referrals to Abko by Dr. Nagy amounted to \$17,825 in 1974 and \$15,259 in 1975.

Let me say and let me be very precise about this, these figures indicate Dr. Nagy's referrals in terms of actual revenue. They don't indicate necessarily what Abko may have finally billed OHIP for; that was another matter. But Dr. Nagy should not be

singled out for special treatment; he is by no means alone.

Let me deal next with the champion source of Abko revenue, a Dr. Marko Mihic. In one month alone, March, 1974, Dr. Mihic sent Abko \$4,000 worth of testing work. Now that's performance. Abko performs tests requested by Dr. Mihic and in return wealth is created—wealth for Abko, wealth for Dr. Mihic and for Dr. Mihic's family. Of course, every cent of this wealth was paid for by you and me and all the other residents and employers of Ontario who pay premiums and taxes to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Because Dr. Mihic is the winner of the Abko cup, let me just take a moment to document for the Legislature the dollar amounts of testing he referred month-by-month through 1974 to Abko. In January, 1974, Dr. Mihic sent \$2,331 worth of business to Abko; in February, \$3,805; in March, as I have already mentioned, \$4,087.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's real growth.

Mr. MacDonald: It's what you call reverse strength.

Mr. Ziemba: In April it was \$2,259; in May, \$3,054; in June, \$2,474; and in July, 3,189. But what's this, Mr. Chairman? In August it was \$1,656; it dropped away down. Presumably, Dr. Mihic took an August vacation in 1974.

Mr. Mackenzie: One doctor, and one lab tested them all.

Mr. Ziemba: In September it was \$2,818; in October, \$2,501; in November, \$2,427 and in December, \$4,142.

Mr. Makarchuk: A fine Christmas present!

Mr. Ziemba: In one year, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Marko Mihic sent \$34,743 worth of business Abko's way. In return, the records show that such industry paid Dr. Mihic handsomely. Abko records indicate the company paid \$3,500 in several instalments to Dr. Mihic—at least one member of his family helped him on his T4 slip, I see.

I have here three cheques both made out to N. Mihic, Dr. Mihic's son Nicki, one for \$1,500 and two others for \$1,000 each.

Mr. Makarchuk: There is real private enterprise.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is not private enterprise, that's theft.

Mr. Swart: Theft by whom? Will the minister say that outside the House?

Hon. Mr. Miller: I have got other people saying it for me. Will he say this outside the House?

An hon. member: Why?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Miller: Somebody just challenged me to say something outside the House.

Mr. MacDonald: This is what you are supposed to do with regard to the College's inadequate supervision of the profession.

Interjections.

Mr. Ziemba: The cheque for \$1,500 was cashed on Feb. 1, 1974, by Nicki Mihic and has his address on the reverse side—278 Oriole Parkway, Toronto, Ont.

I must not leave the Legislature with the impression that it was all dollars and cents with Abko; it wasn't. I have here a bill from Simpson's made out to A. Gergely at 2177 Danforth Ave. It's for a dyed otter-muskrat coat. They have good taste, don't they? The coat was purchased for or by a Dr. Anna Gergely at 2177 Danforth Ave., where she has both her medical office and her apartment, but the Simpson's bill was paid for by an official of Abko.

I wonder if this is any consolation to the registered nurses that I've been reading about in the Globe and Mail earlier this week, who are thrown out of the hospitals and have to clerk in Woolworth's. Dr. Gergely's dyed otter fur coat.

In fact, I cannot contrast what this government has allowed to take place in the health care delivery system more starkly than that. It's buccaneer, private enterprise run amok in its most ruthless and inhuman form. The families in this province who can least afford to be unemployed—cleaning staff, ward attendants, nurses, orderlies, technicians, ordinary working people—are losing their jobs while a doctor receives a fur coat, paid for by the taxpayers. Where is that minister who likes welfare bashing? He's not here. I'm sorry he couldn't hear this.

I have cancelled cheques here for \$1,000 and another for \$700 made out to Dr. Yat T. Tse, of 129 Dundas St., by Dr. Joseph Kohari, another Abko partner. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Tse owns an apartment building, King's Plaza Apartments, at 122 Dowling Ave. in Toronto. Last July,

Abko kindly paid the apartment building's fuel bills in the amount of \$1,525.79. I've got that bill here, paid by Abko. The bill was paid to Star Fuels on Lawrence Ave. W. Also in July of last year, Dr. Tse had his life insurance premium with the Maritime Life Assurance Co. paid for by Abko in the amount of \$376.29. In June of last year, Dr. Tse had a little landscaping done at his home at 301 Hillhurst Blvd. and the Express Landscaping and Gardening Co.'s bill for \$76 was paid for by Abko. What a petty chiseler. I hope he's one of the five you've reported, Mr. Minister.

A bill for \$180 from Anca Laboratories in Whitby was made out to Dr. Tse, and once again it was picked up by Abko. I have it all documented here. It's apparent that Dr. Tse preferred payments in goods and services instead of cash and Abko obliged, including a bill for \$57.50 from Sands Pharmaceuticals. And if you think that Dr. Tse benefited a great deal from Abko, bear in mind that over the course of 1974, Dr. Tse sent more than \$11,000 worth of business Abko's way.

Next we come to Dr. Fred Nishikawa at 265 St. Clair Ave. E. Dr. Nishikawa is clearly a loyal family man. Abko's cheque for \$1,000 was made out to Fred's wife, Mrs. Mollie Nishikawa, and she endorsed it when she cashed it on Aug. 10, 1973, at the Donwoods Plaza branch of the Toronto Dominion Bank. It's right here, Mr. Chairman. There is another Abko entry showing a payment in the amount of \$411.75, indicating Abko reciprocated in Dr. Nishikawa's loyalty to them.

In 1971, Abko received \$6,255 worth of business from Dr. Nishikawa's referrals. A hustling private enterpriser, Dr. Nishikawa improved his productivity year by year—\$10,629 in 1973 and \$10,993 in 1974.

[11:15]

Dr. C. T. Leung, who had just moved into new offices at 600 Sherbourne St.—a kind of condominium office, very nice—received a \$299 examination table supplied by Abko—and a personal favour. Abko hired Dr. Leung's father at a weekly salary of \$150. The senior Leung was one of Abko's highest paid employees. And according to other employees at the medical laboratory, Mr. Leung did nothing for his weekly salary.

Now, this a case of a double-cross and a triple-cross. Dr. Leung was sending business Abko's way, but in the meantime the lab which was located in this posh new condominium was expecting business from other doctors. I learned that the delivery person had to sneak the samples past the lab downstairs, in and out of the doctor's office.

Dr. Claude Hale of St. George St. is a member of the staff at Wellesley Hospital and had a \$350 month subsidy from Abko towards his office rent. And there's a cheque for \$1,000 from Abko, endorsed when cashed by Dr. Hale, Jan. 20, 1973, on record in the Abko files.

Dr. A. E. Kadry of 29 Wellesley St. received a whopping Christmas present from Abko Medical Laboratories on Dec. 17, 1973. The cheque for \$8,400 was cashed two days later. One cannot help but ask the Health minister—

Mr. Makarchuk: Does he believe in Santa Claus?

Mr. Ziemba: One cannot help but ask the Health minister: Are the jobs of some hospital workers in Ontario being eliminated because of Dr. Kadry's 1973 Christmas present?

In 1973, Dr. Kadry sent \$22,604 worth of referrals to Abko. Now three of his colleagues—they all shared this Kadry clinic—Dr. Gallimore, Dr. Padimore and a Dr. Roger, operating out of this location, sent a whopping \$59,120 Abko's way during 1974. Twenty-two thousand dollars that Dr. Kadry sent in is a lot of money, but a mere pittance compared with the amount of Dr. Anna Lauks, a gynecologist and obstetrician at Women's College Hospital, sent Abko's way that same year. Dr. Lauks sent the incredible but documented amount of \$54,433 worth of referrals to Abko in 1973. According to Abko's records—it is right here—Dr. Lauks received a cheque each month for \$460 from Abko in return, to help pay her rent.

In 1973, Dr. Natalie Romanik, who occupies medical offices in the same premises as Abko, dispatched \$49,213 worth of business to Abko. Dr. Romanik received monthly returns of \$500 from Abko.

Yet another in-house source of business for Abko was Dr. Joseph Florence, at 94 Cumberland. In 1973 he sent Abko \$6,237 and in 1974 \$4,458. In return, Abko paid a bill from Eaton's home furnishings for \$508—and I have got it here—and gave him cheques of \$200 and \$700.

Mr. Bullbrook: I am starting to understand why the minister needs supplementary estimates.

Mr. Ziemba: Dr. J. N. Vanek, who occupies the next office to Dr. Leung at 600 Sherbourne St., had a bill for goods shipped from the Arte Shoppe to Dr. Vanek's home at 32 Chelford Rd. I have got the bill here. The bill was worth \$949.75, and it was paid for by Abko.

One final note about Abko. Cobac Developments is a company owned by the same men who own Abko Laboratories—Dr. Kohari and Mr. Abersok. Cobac Developments is in the business of decorating, equipping and refurbishing doctors' offices. At 94 Cumberland St., Dr. Hanincec, Dr. Vujnovic and Dr. Romanik, all had their offices done over.

In the west end and, I am sorry to say, in my riding, the two Dr. Gajics—husband and wife—and a Dr. Mihic—

Mr. Norton: Did that really happen in a socialist riding? I thought it was only in free enterprise—

Mr. Swart: Free enterprise still remains.

Mr. Warner: They are on the fringe.

Mr. Ziemba: —had their offices outfitted at a cost of about \$5,000 each; between \$4,000 and \$5,000. That's approximately \$30,000 worth of work done by Cobac, provided at no cost, right down to the last Q tip, and paid for by Abko.

Mr. Warner: Still only a police investigation?

Mr. Ziemba: So far I have only discussed one laboratory, Abko. But I don't believe this story begins and ends with Abko. The OHIP payments for private medical labs did not leap from \$17.8 million in 1971 to \$88 million in 1975 because of one private medical laboratory. I think Abko is the tip of the iceberg.

Let me come back to Dr. Haggart and his speech in Hamilton in 1974:

Physicians are the ones who order all the laboratory tests but have to answer to no one for their actions. Fortunately, the majority are reasonable men who do not abuse the system; only a minority over-utilize the laboratories. In some instances, however, practising physicians own or direct laboratories. It should go without saying that no physician should have any direct or indirect financial interest in a laboratory (or a pharmacy or optical supply house or any other medical enterprise) to which he might send his own patients. This is clearly a conflict of interest and can only result in accusations of unethical practice.

What Abko has been engaged in isn't just illegal because it is taking money unjustifiably from OHIP. It also breaks regulation 577 made under the Health Disciplines Act.

Regulation 577 says that it is professional misconduct to have a conflict of interest.

For receiving fees from any person to whom a member—of the College of Physicians and Surgeons—has referred a patient or requesting or accepting a rebate or commission for the referral of a patient, the regulation stipulates, a doctor is open to disciplinary action.

In addition, so does conduct or action which would be considered disgraceful or dishonourable by members of the profession. It would appear that not only has the government been lax in its failure to prevent a ripoff of the medical system of the magnitude of an Abko, but the College of Physicians and Surgeons was lax as well.

These are the people you have so much faith in, Mr. Minister, through the chairman, who are going to clean up this mess—the same people who were dealing with that crackpot doctor who was beating his patient with an iron bar and who gave the guy a fine.

Perhaps it's no longer possible for the profession to police itself. Certainly the cost to the taxpayers makes answers to these kinds of questions extremely pertinent. The money that pays for OHIP and the remainder of Ontario's health care delivery system is properly spread right across our society because we are interested in all members of our society being healthy. Accordingly, all society requires all of the facts in order to decide how its interests are served best.

It is for this reason that I am proposing that a select committee of this Legislature be set up to investigate OHIP generally, and real or potential conflicts of interest on the part of doctors in particular.

I have here a press clipping from the London Free Press, dated Feb. 13, 1976. "Davis Prepared to investigate Allegations involving Health Labs". This is a month ago. This is the day I released the story to the Toronto Star.

It says: Premier William Davis said today he is prepared to launch a full and public investigation into allegations of false billings, unnecessary testing and possible conflict of interest involving private health laboratories. "It is absolutely vital that the government move with dispatch to make public any wrong-doing, either by private testing laboratories or doctors so that the full nature of any alleged fraudulent activities may be fully understood and, where necessary, appropriate charges laid," the Premier said.

That was Feb. 13—what was he doing, Mr. Chairman? He hasn't moved yet and he's got one of these—I described it in a press conference last week; it's one of these ripoff labs, ADS Laboratories—which is right in his riding in Brampton.

Representation on that committee, Mr. Chairman, would happily—as a result of this minority government situation—include a majority from political parties which don't have a vested interest in apologizing for what they have failed at. The committee I am proposing would have the power to subpoena witnesses and compile testimony under oath, with the right of cross-examination by all interested parties. I want a full and open inquiry to let the doctors, many of whom I have mentioned, prove the excuses that they have given to the police on the advice of their lawyers—that the money paid out to them by Abko were not payments but loans, and therefore proper. Let them prove that.

Abko records that I have checked don't show any agreements by these doctors. I don't believe for one second that these were ever intended to be loans. This was a form of payola in order to get business for a private medical laboratory. It happened because the OHIP system was powerless to prevent it from happening. This is exactly the argument that I would use for not cutting back funding for hospital labs, Mr. Chairman. I have yet to come across a hospital lab that turns over any gifts, fur coats, or \$8,000 cheques to doctors.

All my life, Mr. Chairman, I have believed that the practice of medicine is a decent, honourable profession. I still do. It's a great profession. I hope my son, John, will become a doctor. He's nine now. I believe strongly that the vast majority of doctors are scrupulous and honest in their chosen profession. The vast majority of doctors are not involved in the types of practices that I have outlined in this speech. And it's these men and women who must be protected. This is another reason why this Legislature must order a public inquiry to ensure that the innocent are spared of any stigma associated with these revelations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, am I not allowed to reply?

Mr. S. Smith: If the minister would like. I can interject at any time.

Mr. Chairman: If you wish.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, the member for High Park-Swansea is, of course touching upon matters of great concern to me as well as the Legislature. I have been deeply concerned with the irregularities he alleges have occurred. The police, I understand, are investigating them now. I don't know if charges have been laid or not. The College of Physicians and Surgeons has been involved in examining the relationship with every doctor whose name that they have.

Mr. Ziembra: No charges have yet been laid.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But if this member didn't have a pre-1492 view of the world, he would not try to draw the conclusions he's drawing. We have a vested interest in finding every person in every part of government dealing or private enterprise who, through any fraudulent means, breaks the law. That job will go on as long as human beings are in business in any form at all. What he can't see is that the world isn't flat; that because he has found one person—

Mr. McClellan: One?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am talking about a business. I quite agree there are probably others. That, in fact, one should jump to the conclusion that it was private enterprise that was at fault. That's where you and I disagree.

Mr. Swart: Your deputy minister said it was widespread.

Mr. Warner: This didn't take place in a public place.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, but what takes place in a public place is inefficiency in many ways. Your forms of government are able to tolerate total inefficiency by letting the state assume all responsibility. I would rather, any time at all—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please, the minister has the floor.

[11:30]

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would rather, at any time at all, have to deal in the normal, traditional way with the people who break the laws, by fining and prosecuting them, than damn the system that has made this country one of the best in the world. You would like to jump to conclusions and say—

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: May I ask you to be quiet? Did I not sit patiently through what I consider a very important speech?

Mr. MacDonald: Because that was wise.

Hon. F. S. Miller: May I not have the same kind of respect in return?

Mr. MacDonald: Your reaction to this is to defend free enterprise. It's irrelevant.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If you will let me finish, perhaps I will be able to draw some conclusions.

Mr. S. Smith: I'd like to talk today too.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It will be my duty to find inefficiencies in those things, such as hospitals, that are publicly financed. Admittedly, I am not likely to find people breaking the laws in public hospitals. It is not against the law to have too many people on staff or to provide extra services that may or may not be required, but it still costs the same kinds of tax dollars out of you and I. And to draw the comparison that I should not have cut out inefficiency in hospitals because I could have found inefficiencies in private labs is ridiculous, absolutely and totally ridiculous. I am working on them both. They are not mutually exclusive. I am going to get rid of any of the excesses.

The great growth in the private lab sector has not been because of the sweetheart deals, although I admit they exist. The great growth is partly my ministry's fault, and I quite accept it, in terms of the funding mechanisms we have had for hospitals which have created it. And it is partly because the free enterprise system has always been able to offer ways of giving services that are legal, apart from the things you talked about.

Mr. Swart: It is not free enterprise; it's private enterprise.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There is a great deal of competition among the 282 laboratories in this province that are licensed as private labs and, sadly enough, this kind of competition at times brings up the kinds of things you have raised. But let me say that I will endorse the police and the college in every action they take to eliminate the things which you have alleged today. Assuming they are correct—and I don't question that part of it; I don't know whether they are or not, a court must make that decision—you and I are on the same side in that argument. We can't tolerate that kind of thing. I have been keen-

ly aware of it and working on it. The very fact that it was brought up, as you may discover when we come to court, may have blown the case. That's the thing we have to find out.

Mr. Renwick: No.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I said, "may have."

Mr. MacDonald: Don't raise that—

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not bringing the issues that you were discussing with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry).

Mr. Renwick: Either the evidence is there or it is not there.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I hope it is but what I am saying, sir, is that in fact we believe evidence was destroyed that would have been useful to us.

Mr. Renwick: That's why we have been calling for an overall judicial inquiry to prevent exactly that happening.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Right. I have never ruled that out, but there was—

Mr. Deans: You haven't done it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, but again, sir, you are a lawyer. You realize that one could have judicial inquiries every day of the week when somebody pops up with an irregularity somewhere.

Mr. MacDonald: We've had them for less excuse than this.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I heard two called for today—

Mr. Renwick: We are concerned about the very thing you are, that evidence may possibly be destroyed.

Mr. Bullbrook: Let's not get into this again. If he and Renwick want to talk, let them go outside and talk for a while. There was half an hour yesterday with McMurtry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But, what I am trying to say is that I have a great deal of interest in cutting down two things: the ordering of unnecessary tests, which is perfectly legal and it is being done by doctors who don't get one penny kickback in any sense at all, because it has become easy to do, because it's good defensive medicine, because in many instances the forms and so on are designed in a way that allows a doctor to have a shopping list.

Mr. Duksza: That is your responsibility. It is your ministry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not arguing that.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the minister just respond to what has been said by the member and ignore the interjections?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will try to. Please have a quiet chat later with the members of the organization who are making them.

We do have to work on those things. You assume all problems are resolvable at once. Well, look, one thing I have learned in my ministry is that I have many, many, many problems.

Mr. Deans: You sure do.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Sure I do, and you would if you won.

Mr. S. Smith: We all would if they won.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You wouldn't. Fine, I almost have.

An hon. member: You must live right at times.

Mr. MacDonald: We know in advance.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You live in a dream world. Some day, I say, when—

Mr. Breithaupt: I almost wish they did.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The minister is no longer responding to the remarks of the member for High Park-Swansea. He is responding to the interjections. I will now recognize the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Norton: Restore some order among the people on the other side.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never interjected. I think I may have made one during the speech of the member for High Park-Swansea. I think I normally have a reasonably quiet stance while people are talking to me.

It is very difficult to ignore interjections and to blame the speaker for responding to them. Without taking some action to penalize those making them is not totally fair.

Mr. Chairman: I have asked them to refrain from interjecting and I hoped that you would have ignored them. It seems we are not making any progress at all. I will recognize the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The minister, in fact, does not

usually respond to interjections; generally speaking he responds to thoughts which come to him from random places, as I recall.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's an interjection I can't afford to ignore.

Mr. Mackenzie: Holton says he is illegal.

Mr. S. Smith: I am pleased to stand up.

Mr. Renwick: That wasn't an interjection, because you were on your feet.

Mr. S. Smith: In the estimates that we are discussing today it is perfectly obvious that the points brought up by the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziembra) are extremely important points, which I am very pleased that he has brought up in this House. I want to support him in his efforts in doing this particular type of investigative work.

I would also like to say that there are many other members, I suspect, who have information that they would like to bring forward—and I am going to talk about some of this. They would very much like to have the inquiry that was already promised to the people of this province by the Premier (Mr. Davis) of this province. It would provide the proper forum for people to come forward with various types of evidence—some of which would be hearsay—but which would be extremely helpful to the people, and to the medical profession as a whole, so that they would be forewarned about the kinds of facilities and services and deals that happen to exist. It would be very helpful to the ministry as well.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why the Premier has not made good on a very reasonable promise, and one which I congratulated him for and which I was very pleased to see reported. He would have the support of all parties in the House for such an inquiry; and it could in no way reflect badly upon him or upon his government. As far as I am concerned, it is something that should have already gone ahead.

I want to say something about the private labs, and then something about the public labs that have been closed. With regard to the private labs, I think it is obvious and it is well known in the medical profession, and the ministry knows it very well, that far too much ordering of laboratory tests goes on all the time. I am speaking of honest people; ordering them at honest labs. I am not speaking only of those where there are some very questionable proceedings.

It seems very clear that the present system, which the ministry seems to be very enamoured of, really gives the doctor no incentive to be frugal or thrifty with public money.

The story is repeated over and over again—because the same is true in hospital beds, the same is true in return visits, the same is true with surgery, and so on. The incentives are all to spend more and not to spend less. The ministry seems to have a strange inertia here. They seem unable to introduce a method of payment which would, in fact, encourage doctors to be more frugal; to have them police each other; to set standards for each other; to have publication in each region and in each area of the names of those doctors who are clearly over-ordering to ask the medical societies to really police themselves. And failing that, to introduce non-medical people into the policing function, so that the interests of the public could properly be served.

Of course, it is the doctor who has to decide which tests to order. But we well know from various medical auditing procedures that there are ways in which doctors can be brought to meet a certain standard. I bring to your attention the example of utilization committees which in some hospitals are very effective indeed and which publish for everyone the average number of days in hospital or the average number of tests or the types of tests which ought to be ordered and the frequency with which they ought to be ordered. Most doctors will try to keep within these standards but if there is no attention paid to this, if they are not published, if the committees don't exist or are toothless, then I think a good many well-meaning doctors just take the easy way out.

This government threatens deterrent fees on the patients. They are saying if you penalize the patient, then he might scream loud enough so the doctor won't misuse the system and won't overorder the tests. And, of course, they are right in a way. They have a certain logic on their side in the sense that they could reduce fees and payments about seven per cent, according to the Saskatchewan experience, if they introduced a deterrent fee on the patient.

First of all, it seems to me grossly unjust that it's the patient who should have to suffer financially because the doctors refuse to police themselves and the ministry refuses to help the doctors police themselves. It strikes me, furthermore, as unjust because the experience in Saskatchewan showed that the people who were deterred from seeking services were those people in large families and those people who were elderly.

There may not be an indentity between the large families and the elderly, on the one hand, and the poor and the sick on the other, but it strikes me as sufficiently likely that they

are the same people. This is the work of Dr. Beck in Saskatchewan. Our party cannot possibly support deterrent fees and we, therefore, would hope that the minister would stop blaming the patient for the sins of the doctor. As a physician, I have worked very hard with my fellow physicians and I find a vast majority of them very interested and very willing to adapt their practices in the public interest. But somebody has to sit down with them; the mechanism must be set up. And this ministry shows absolutely no energy for that type of a flexible approach.

With regard to the labs, the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories, which I suspect has many members who are perfectly honest people trying to do a good job, has pointed out that between \$3 million and \$4 million a year could be saved by the simple expedient of preventing the ordering of profile testing. To explain this—and the minister knows it very well—when you want to test, let's say somebody's liver function, it could be done very well by ordering one test or sometimes two or three, but many of the laboratory requisitions and so on make it mandatory pretty well to order a whole profile which consists of maybe 10, 11 or 12 tests and they are all done and they are billed individually to OHIP. The benefit to the patient is highly questionable and the association of labs has suggested that this be in some way curtailed and they have made very specific suggestions in a report to Mr. Backley on Jan. 27 of this year.

I know the minister has a lot of problems and he frequently reveals many of them here in the House, for that matter.

Mr. Reid: Nothing Freudian about that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman, I must ask for my diagnosis today because I understand the balance of your party has it and I would rather like to see it.

Mr. Reid: It is not good.

Mr. Breithaupt: We will give you a full profile.

Mr. S. Smith: The minister himself has put it very well, Mr. Chairman, when he said how difficult it is to give bad news to people. I can't possibly answer his question.

Mr. Grossman: It is harder to receive it.

Mr. S. Smith: The recommendations have been made and they strike me as very modest and reasonable recommendations. I don't understand why between the end of January

and now he could not have taken some steps to implement them. For one thing, they recommend—and it sounds like a simple mechanical thing—that none of the laboratory requisitions should be allowed to be reprinted and reused without approval of a certain advisory committee and, to me, that should have been set up immediately. I don't understand what the delay is about.

There are a number of other recommendations and I won't burden the House with reading them all. They are in the report which is open to any member to read. But these recommendations should be implemented immediately.

[11.45]

Let me tell you the story that occurred in Hamilton. A very distinguished doctor there called me—he actually called a friend of mine to say he wanted this message passed on to me. He was very disturbed that a particular laboratory company, a private lab, had approached him, as a representative of a group of doctors who own their own building and have their clinics there, to offer to provide a laboratory service for these doctors. The offer was a very strange one inasmuch as it consisted of an offer to rent premises in the doctor's building at much higher than any rate of rent that would normally be charged for those particular buildings.

Furthermore, the company offered to hire for the doctors—or to have the doctors hire and the company would pay the salary—a person to do some of the blood-letting and the preparations for testing and so on. This particular person, who would work in the doctor's office, would be paid at whatever the going rate was but the doctors would be compensated for a salary much higher than the going rate. They could spend whatever portion of that they thought would be necessary to hire the particular technician involved.

Furthermore, if that were not sufficient, there was an offer to form a pharmacy in that particular building and, again, to adjust the rents in such a way that, although it might not be legally a kickback, the amount, the volume, of prescriptions put through that pharmacy would, one way or another, be reflected in higher rents which would come back to the doctors' group. In addition to that, if that were not enough, they were offered trips to Hawaii with their wives, if they so preferred.

I calculated that the total cost of this particular package to the laboratory company must surely come to somewhere between—I don't know—maybe \$23,000 to \$32,000 a year.

I am being fairly careful in that particular estimate.

Knowing what these doctors could possibly generate, even if they became lab crazy in the way of testing, that must mean that for every \$30,000 of lab tests about \$6,000, as far as I can make out—\$6,000 to \$8,000 at least, minimum—would come back in one form of kickback or another.

These people would have no truck with such individuals. These people were very honest. They simply threw them out of the office and got hold of my people immediately.

I was about to reveal this information when, strangely enough, two days later the Premier (Mr. Davis) of the province announced that there would be an inquiry. I said to them there was the proper place for us to give this information because a lot of it was hearsay; we had nothing in writing. I speak in the Legislature well aware of a certain immunity concerned in so doing.

I am terribly disappointed because I wonder how many other good people like my friend must exist, who would come forward if there were such an inquiry; who could be persuaded, through the local academies of medicine and medical societies, to come forward so as to protect the name of the medical profession and the laboratory profession.

With regard to the public health labs closed, I've had occasion to visit them now. I have not visited the one in St. Catharines but I've been to Kenora, Woodstock and North Bay. I am very disturbed because I ended up in each of these places spending an evening talking with people and trying to guess what the minister has in mind.

It is a very disturbing thing, if any of you have done this, to meet with a bunch of people who are losing their jobs. I'm in favour of restraint and I was prepared to stand up and say, "I'm sorry but you may have to lose your jobs. That is just the way it is. If we are cutting back, jobs are lost." Yet I couldn't answer their questions which had to do with how many dollars would be saved; how many people would it take to do these tests in a neighbouring lab; and so on. It's awfully tough.

We started guessing—maybe, if he has in mind switching this type of test to this lab and this type of test to another, he could save this. It was a guessing game. I cannot understand why the same ministry that actually has courses in management—the famous Ministry of Health management technique courses which tell you, if you are

a civil servant in that ministry, that the proper way to manage is to consult with your employees; to consult with the people under you; to talk with them; to share the decision-making—couldn't do such a simple thing as that. The minister's answer that if he were to do that he would just get a lot of flak and feedback and it would make his life difficult is an answer that I find really one of the worst he has ever given in his ministry since I've known him in my very short time here. I'm just amazed that he would come up with answers like that. When you can talk with people, when you ask their opinion, when you explain to them in a painstaking way the logic of what you're doing and why you're compelled to do it, of course that's difficult. It's complicated, it's time-consuming; but good heavens, have we reached a point in 1976 that the government is so old and so tired that it has neither the patience nor the energy to consult with the very people involved. Are matters in such a hurry that it has come to this state of affairs?

Look at Kenora. Kenora is a lab which I have visited. It's a very modern and a very nice lab. It has four people working there—a chief technician, an assistant technician and then two people at the aid or secretarial level. To take the tests out of Kenora and switch them to Thunder Bay, they will probably have to hire at least a technician in Thunder Bay and possibly one more person. One of these people has built his own house with his own hands in Kenora, having been assured that the job would be a long-lasting one. Kenora being a disadvantaged area economically, he's not going to get anything for that house when he sells it; so he's in really bad difficulties there. He has to move to take another job with a lab service elsewhere.

They have to hire a courier service. Then there's the problem that the roads are frequently impassable. I calculated that they are going to save probably the salary of one secretary and maybe two. In a place like Kenora—where unemployment is so rampant and where the economy is so down compared to the rest of the Province of Ontario; where, probably at this moment as we sit here, I suspect there are 30 or 40 civil servants drawing a salary working out plans on how to increase employment in Kenora—to save one or two salaries for a secretary and make the people of Kenora feel that they are being picked on in this way makes no sense at all. If he had gone up to look at that lab and spoken to the people there, then the minister would know that they're

going to have to break steamlines and gaslines and take down a wall in order to get the equipment out of that place. It doesn't appear to make sense. It was only built six or seven years ago. It doesn't make sense at all.

I wish the minister would be less stubborn. He seems to feel that he's going out on a limb on these closings, and he seems to feel that somehow or other he just has to stick with them, unless of course he's advised by the minister sitting beside him from time to time that he has made a mistake in Milton and places like that. Once in a while he can be persuaded, apparently, by certain female hospital administrators, but apart from that particular penchant of the minister it seems to me that he ought not to be so stubborn.

It is senseless to close the Kenora lab, absolutely senseless. He ought to be willing to accept that maybe the advice he is given by his ministry has not always been brilliant advice and that maybe he should exercise some of his prerogatives as the Minister of Health and not just be the servant of the people who are under him in the ministry.

I want to say a word about dental services, because the minister has constantly said that with regard to OHIP no services would be endangered in his cutback and yet there persists the rumour that he intends to phase out dental services in hospitals for those people who go in, for instance to have a large number of teeth extracted and it is suggested that it be done in a hospital. He feels, we are told, that that should not be done under OHIP and personally I would like to hear whether that is his decision, because I like to be open with people. I personally disagree totally with that decision if it is his decision.

Let me talk about doctors' fees and about OHIP, because obviously we will discuss hospitals under another vote. One of the problems that we keep hearing about with regard to OHIP is the administrative cost. There is a belief about, whether it be correct or not, that to administer that particular insurance programme is extremely costly and most insurance people toss around a figure which indicates that OHIP is much more costly to administer than, let's say PSI was before it. I think it is very important that the true, complete costs of administering OHIP, not just the ones that the minister is fond of passing around from time to time, but every single cost of administration of OHIP, be published in a way that everybody can understand so that we know how much of the

money goes for administration. I hear stories every day of the number of clerks who are sending out all kinds of duplicated material from OHIP and the amount of coffee drunk in the office and things of this kind, and I am very concerned. I don't wish to slander anybody who is working there and working hard, but I think it is important that the minister give us the figures on administration in OHIP and that they better be totally accurate and complete figures.

I am concerned also, in OHIP, that you never seem to come to grips with this whole business of an OMA fee schedule and the whole question of the disparity in incomes between the various specialties in the practice of medicine. It is so obvious that there are various surgical specialties that are vastly overpaid in this province and it is so obvious that there are many hardworking, rural particularly, general practitioners who are in some ways, in some respects, underpaid for the amount of work and the hours they put in. That particular discrepancy is something which this government has failed to deal with over the years.

I would say that the minister would be very wise seriously to consider what has been recommended to him in a number of reports, that is to let the medical profession know that the total amount of money that they can have for fees in a given year is just a certain amount, whatever it happens to be, and let them figure out a way to divide it between themselves, because at the moment what you are doing is playing the old Windsor-Ottawa-Toronto game that happens in education.

As long as you have across-the-board increases, then that means the rich get richer and the poor get relatively poorer in this particular way. What happens is that they keep having their eyes set on the people who are at the high part of this profession and as they go up, as the leading surgeons go up in income, everybody else has to go up as well to keep pace.

I would say to you that in the long run the province would save money if it could get the medical profession to divide its own money and say: "This is the amount you have, you figure out how you are going to divide it. That is all that you are going to have for now"; because right now the fee for service and the fee for procedure makes very little sense. The people pay a great deal of money to support the procedure that any given surgeon does, and yet the surgeon collects a rather high fee.

I want to talk on the subject of unnecessary surgery. This is a topic I mentioned at a

press conference some time ago and I wish to return to it at this time in the House. We are very disturbed by this. Of course, there is no clear definition of what constitutes appropriate surgery and so on. It is a rather difficult matter, but there have been various studies—one very close to here by Eugene Vayda and others by Bunker—that show that Canadian and United States surgical rates are much higher than those in England and Wales, yet death rates and incidence of illness from these various conditions for which the surgery is recommended are really no different in North America as opposed to England and Wales. It's interesting that the only thing that seems to correlate with the incidence of surgery is the incidence of surgery. Every study that has been done has come to the conclusion that the one thing that guarantees that a lot of surgery will be performed is if you have a lot of surgeons. It doesn't seem to matter as to what the illness incidence or the health care situation generally is, it is the method of payment. If you pay for procedure and the number of surgeries, that determines how much of the so-called discretionary surgery gets done. It is all paid under OHIP.

There are many operations that are questionable—inguinal hernia, tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, hysterectomy, cholecystectomy. Obviously there are times these operations need to be done and they are perfectly evident, but there is a large discretion in there. There is a large element of discretion where a choice can be made whether to do this surgery or not, and the thing that seems to encourage the balance to be shifted in favour of doing it seems to be whether there are surgeons around looking for work to do. It also seems to be the way in which you pay your surgeons.

I would like to bring to your attention some of the results from these studies. They're in the public domain, of course, and anybody can find them.

[12:00]

The evidence, first: In 1972, the rate for 100,000 of the population, age corrected, for hysterectomy in England and Wales was 213; in Newfoundland it was 502, in Manitoba 522 and Ontario 630. That may not seem like a very large difference but even between the two closest, Ontario and Manitoba, the difference really is that you could have had 4,000 fewer hysterectomies—that's just one operation—in one year in Ontario alone simply by applying the same criteria used in Manitoba. There is no evidence that in On-

tario there is anything more in the way of illness that requires more hysterectomies.

I'm not even taking up the issue which many people have brought up of how unfair it is to patients because every time you do an operation there's the risk, of course, of anaesthetic death and complications. I'm not even taking up here the issue of how unfair it is to women that hysterectomies are performed by male surgeons so frequently when they wouldn't be quite so quick to perform an analogous operation on people of male gender.

The fact is that just looking at it from the point of view of dollars and cents the 4,000 operations—I'll get into how much that costs in a moment—if you figure the hospital costs and the cost of the surgeon and so on, the 4,000 operations could have saved us \$4.5 million. That's just in one year.

If we look at tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy, the rate in 1972, for instance, in England and Wales—where they have a lot of bronchial disease and so on—is 497; Newfoundland 368, Manitoba 597 and Ontario 741.

Again, if we just take the next highest, Manitoba, and compare it with Ontario, we could have had 10,529 fewer tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies in Ontario with impunity. Not only were 10,00 children subjected to hospitalization and dangerous operations for nothing but, in fact, it cost the public a great deal of money. Considering that much shorter length of stay, of course, is involved in that particular operation, we calculate the savings to be \$2,471,393.

Since 1972 there have been changes. Ontario's rate has come down somewhat for hysterectomy and tonsillectomy but Manitoba's has come down more and those in other provinces have also come down. If we were to use the standards of England and Wales, in point of fact, we'd be talking about reductions of \$15 million and \$16 million a year just for those two operations alone.

I'm not even going into the figures on hernia, on cholecystectomy, on certain aspects of mastectomy and on prostatectomy which are also costing the public in this province a tremendous fortune, even apart from the fact that the surgery should never be performed in the first place.

When the minister goes around this province and talks about the necessity for us all to show restraint—he got me into a heck of a lot of difficulty because I had a press conference when he finally decided to cut the beds and to cut money from some of the larger city

hospitals. When he finally decided to let a community like Hamilton make its own decision about it, I congratulated him. I actually stood up and said, "That's really good. Finally, you're cutting where it needs to be cut—in the big hospitals and the big cities. Finally, you're giving a place like Hamilton a chance to get together and make its own choice, its own decisions."

Unfortunately, that was taken in some parts of the province to mean that I approved of the way he's been going around doing all the cuts, and of course nothing could be farther from the truth.

The fact of the matter is that when you can see this money in unnecessary surgery, why do you always look for the cleaners you can throw out of work? Why do you always look for the nurses' aides you can throw out of work? Why do you look for the small towns and the hospitals and the public health labs which you can kick out very easily? They don't have much clout.

Why is it you won't deal with the doctors who need to be formed into groups which will police each other properly, not with the present sort of self-policing which amounts to nothing in the way of medical audit and nothing in the way of saving the public's money? There is no reward for frugality and thrift with the public's money today. Why is it that you refuse to introduce standards committees and utilization committees? Why will you not confront the medical profession head on?

You would be doing the medical profession a favour there too. There are many of us in that profession, some of whom are members of this House now, who have been fighting for years to get the ordinary doctor in practice to consider the public money and to consider the public interest, not just the private matter he happens to be dealing with. We would be delighted to assist the minister, I am sure, in this particular venture.

There are many doctors, I can tell you, who are perfectly public-spirited and who would like to be able to work to decrease unnecessary utilization of health facilities. I worked, in fact, as assistant chairman of the utilization committee at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. I can tell you that there were 20 and 30 doctors volunteering for service on that committee who then formed what we called "patrolling functions," in the sense that they spoke to their fellow doctors and brought to their attention excessive lengths of stay and things of this kind.

Why can you not introduce that sort of thing across this province? Why is it so much

easier to sit in your office and simply dictate a note saying, "We have decided to save X million by closing this lab and \$100,000 by closing that one," when the savings are really out there to be made in a fundamental restructuring of the way you go about dealing with the medical profession. You can deal with them in a way which would be honourable, which would be acceptable to them and which wouldn't be a slur on them in any way whatsoever.

It could be done if you had the energy and the enthusiasm and the willingness to take on the task. I am afraid you don't at the moment. I am afraid that after running in this last direction and telling us all how we are somehow inaccurate in our figures; that we didn't really need to save money; that there was no waste in government; there was no fat in government; suddenly you find yourself rushing about in a haphazard manner, trying to cut left and right. We are supposed to admire this. I am willing to accept a repentant sinner at some point but don't expect me to admire you for doing it. I'll accept it but I won't admire it.

I think you are abrogating your responsibilities in terms of dealing with the medical profession.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is difficult to carry the responses if I listen to a series of speakers because often the speaker has left. If I may try to answer each one in turn, I would appreciate it and I will try to be brief.

You started on the question of the laboratories and the publicity and the statement in which the Premier (Mr. Davis) said there might be an inquiry.

Mr. Warner: Might be?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Most certainly in the interval there has been a good deal of work done to prepare—read it carefully; I will read it again without making unequivocal statements—most certainly we are preparing the evidence to determine if an inquiry should be held. Most certainly I feel there is nothing to be lost and much to be gained through any evidence which comes out through it. I don't have any particularly protective stance in this or any other thing which uncovers areas which need to be improved in my ministry.

I am curious to think, though, that you don't believe that we look at some of the practices of physicians today, whether it be in the ordering of laboratory tests which you first alluded to, or in the requirement for unnecessary surgery which you alluded to at the end. In either case, I know you are aware of the medical committees in many hospitals.

You must know that profiles on laboratory testing and tests ordered, and profiles on the billing practices of physicians are available, are scrutinized and are turned over to peers for review. It does take a doctor to review a doctor's practice. I hope you will agree with that.

The differentiation, though, that I seem to feel in your comments is that somehow you would have the state telling the medical profession how many hysterectomies are permitted a year, etc.

Mr. S. Smith: I didn't say that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We have approached it another way.

Mr. S. Smith: It's not what I said.

An hon. member: He didn't say that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I didn't say he said it. Mr. Chairman, I was told not to listen to interjections, so I'm going to plug my ears and plod forward regardless.

Mr. S. Smith: You might at least listen to the address.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I simply point out that we are proceeding in that direction. The rate of surgery is too high. We chose to combat it through two means. One is to limit the number of specialists. I agree with your statement that surgery is proportional to surgeons. Psychiatry is proportional to psychiatrists. Perhaps one of the things we've been blessed with in this province is a shortage of psychiatrists. If in fact your comments upon all of us having our appendices out because there are a lot of surgeons around are correct, think how many people are mentally well because we don't have psychiatrists in the province in the numbers we should have.

Mr. S. Smith: May I just say a word on that. I happen to agree with you about that. But one of the things you should do in this regard—and I'm very serious about this, because it's an enormous waste of money in psychiatry—is you should look at the fact that at a place like Toronto on St. Clair Avenue you have all kinds of psychiatrists sitting there talking to people and being paid with no limit for any length or any number of visits for chats and discussions, and being paid at a very high rate by OHIP, while the mentally ill of this province are treated by a relatively small number of psychiatrists in rather poor conditions in the provincial hospitals. Your comment is absolutely correct. I wish that you'd take exactly what I said about surgery and apply it to psychiatry and every other specialty.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fact, it is interesting to note that the high rates that psychiatrists are paid in private practice are lower than they were in the universities. That is an interesting fact. I looked through the statistics the other day of the comparative salaries of the various specialists who teach and the various specialists who practice, and psychiatrists are, as you probably know, relatively low on both totem poles. They do not earn the kind of money other doctors do, perhaps because they are usually dealing on a one for one basis with patients. Perhaps it takes a considerable time to deal effectively with one patient.

Mr. S. Smith: Hourly rates versus fees for services.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. So, in effect, the psychiatrist who does his job has certain problems. I guess one of the best reasons for group therapy was it got more people into a room at one time to be talked to and billed all at once.

Mr. Moffatt: That's very good.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The OMA fee schedule is not set by the province. Let's get that clear. The province determines the growth in the OMA fee schedule in a total per cent. It was settled at 8.1 per cent this year.

Again I agree with the member. There are many inequities in the individual fees in the schedule set by the physicians. If they give surgeons a 10 per cent increase on a particular procedure, and you've quoted the numbers of them, so many are done per year, that the computer says: "You've used up so much of the dollars we will give you." If they say an office visit should go up five per cent, our computer says: "You've used so much of the dollars we will give you;" until in effect the individual changes in the fee schedule multiplied by the frequency of the procedures equal the amount we allow.

Surely, again that is better than the state being the decider of the relative values of physicians' services. I truly believe that physicians will fight that out themselves and that I should control the costs of the system. It is an open-ended system in the sense that I have to pay for those necessary medical services rendered by the physicians of the province. These have increased; and the very reason we are here today is they increased last year 3.5 per cent more than predicted. Of the \$18.5 million I'm asking for under this vote, I believe about \$13.5 million was generated by an increase in the

per patient visits to physicians. It doesn't mean I believe they should have.
[12:15]

I heard a doctor of the Ontario Medical Association stand up last year—at least he was quoted as saying this; I didn't hear him—after the relatively unsatisfactory four per cent increase of 1975, and say: "Well, fellows, see your patients a little faster, a little more often and you'll get more money."

I decry that kind of approach. You do too. We have a job to work at it. But I'm not convinced yet that a global budget for the physicians' component of the OHIP billing is the answer. Certainly it has been considered, certainly it's been discussed and it has never been totally rejected. But it has implications that I think you will realize are not easy to administer.

One would have to predetermine the pro-ration of the OMA schedule and adjust it pretty frequently until, all of a sudden at the end of the year you might be getting 30 per cent of the schedule for services you rendered. If we worked that route I think that could have a very harmful effect upon, for example a physician who comes into the business during the last quarter of the year; and also people who are coming in for necessary medical care at that time.

I got a little confused by your comments. You said I sat in my office and dispatched memos to people telling them to save money, and then I charged off in all directions, or words to that effect. Well, I certainly tried to go around and see most of the groups that were affected. I think it was a useful exercise, and I'm still talking to them. I must admit I'm hearing some very interesting suggestions coming from people. I think I'm trying to keep an open mind on those.

Let me go back for a second, though. I'm not blaming patients or MDs for the growth in the percentage of utilization. I blame the system. The system is designed by government and the system needs to be reviewed by government. I've talked about deterrent fees; they may not be the answer. Certainly the academics tell me you're right. Certainly my stomach tells me you're wrong.

Let me draw the analogy I've used a couple of times. The system right now has apparent free access. The patient comes and demands of the doctor, or the doctor demands of the patient to come. I think it's true to say both happen—and both happen unnecessarily at times, I think it's true to say. But because the system has taken away personal responsibility and accountability on

both sides, it's easy to do, isn't it? It's easy to order people back; it's easy to come. I think simply of the buffet luncheon: You pay your \$3.50 at any Holiday Inn and take twice as much as you would normally ever eat for lunch.

Mr. Reid: Speak for yourself.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In your case, three times.

Mr. Reid: If you weren't running every morning, you'd be a balloon.

Mr. S. Smith: That's not an appropriate analogy.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All I can say to you is that people and doctors look at the system and say, "It is provided by the state, therefore we should utilize it to the fullest." Okay? The fullest is often—

Mr. Reid: Come off it. It is the doctors who should be policing the system.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I mustn't reply to any interjections. I mustn't reply to any interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Do you hear another voice behind you, Frank?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's the toughest stretch of my willpower I've had since I became minister.

I certainly agree I do not like profile testing. I can tell you the steps to rectify that in a regulatory sense are already in motion. Certainly the kinds of relationships that were alleged by the member for High Park-Swansea and by you to be occurring—and I believe were occurring, whether they were low rental rates or high rental rates depending upon the lessee or the lessor—are now going to be covered as conflicts of interest under section 27, I believe it is, of the regulations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, on the assumption that their counsel approved the draft I see them working on at the present moment.

You know, I think they are taking very responsible action. I think they have been shocked by some of the things they have seen—just as the labs have. The great bulk of the people are honest, and they really want to see the system made tight enough so that people bending the rules have something to lose—their licence, a fine, court; whatever it may be. I think we would all agree that kind of approach should be taken.

But the way I would like to control unnecessary surgery, unnecessary cost, unnecessary tests, is in slightly other ways. First, it is proportional to the number of physicians; therefore control the number of physicians. At least for the last few years 50 per cent of the physicians being registered by the college came from outside of Ontario or outside of Canada in many instances. I am very encouraged that the steps we have taken in the last while has cut that down dramatically.

I think I have the figures here just for fun. During the latter half of 1975, the licensing of medical immigrants in Ontario was held to 49 physicians. Now that's a dramatic change. That is not because we have not appreciated immigrant physicians when we needed them. It is because we now are refusing to let them go to a place unless they are needed—to help the north, for example—or come in unless their specialty is in short supply.

I feel that step one, taken almost a year ago now, is working well. It took until July, roughly, to get the federal government and ourselves clear of details that had to be worked out. It is a good example of federal-provincial co-operation in its best form, I think.

The second area, of course, was elective surgery, which is often the unnecessary surgery. It is most often performed if there is easy access to operating facilities and easy access to beds. Is that a fair statement? Well, I've got one doctor indicating yes and one doctor saying no.

Mr. S. Smith: That's not entirely fair.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right. I am sure, as a physician, you can tell me where I am wrong. But most certainly the ability to ignore your fellow doctors' improper admission and improper procedural steps is easy if it isn't hurting your practice of medicine with the people that you personally believe need admission and treatment. Now as long as you got yours in and he got twice as many in, you'll grumble. The day you can't get yours in when they need to get in and he's still got his in, who shouldn't be there, you'll act. That's where the kinds of committees you talk about are effective and will be encouraged; but they also require one real control upon them, the need to operate and act. They don't act until we have tailored the number of active treatment beds to equate roughly to need. That was the basic reason behind the closures of beds in this province; to tailor them to the need of the people so that those in there wouldn't be colecystectomies that shouldn't be in. When you read

off that list I've only got about two to go, and one I am not eligible for.

Mr. S. Smith: Prostatectomy.

Mr. Moffatt: Tell us which one.

Mr. Breithaupt: Perhaps we can go back and have a second chance.

Mr. Warner: Ignore the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I guess I should point out—and I did the other day when you were absent—that 80 per cent of the savings made in this last round in dollars and in beds were not made in rural Ontario but in cities. I just want to point out that the inconsistencies you have accused me of sometimes pop up in the emanations from you. It says here:

The Ontario Liberal leader Stuart Smith praised the provincial government Friday for ordering the closing of 1,218 hospital beds and the layoff of thousands of hospital workers. He said the \$29.2 million in budget cuts, "will force the hospitals to operate more efficiently and more cost consciously. I congratulate the minister because it has taken a lot of courage. He certainly has my support in making these cost reductions."

I don't know whether you said that—

Mr. S. Smith: I did.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —but the Ottawa Citizen, dated Feb. 28, 1976, says you did. Later in the day, the Toronto Star, dated Feb. 28, 1976, quoted you at another time and another place as saying: "It was not only a pointless but a cruel exercise." Then, just a little later, on March 9, on an open-line radio show on CFPL London, you said: "If you get us in this year, we would, in fact, reopen the hospitals."

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of privilege.

Mr. Chairman: Will the hon. member state his point of privilege.

Mr. S. Smith: That is exactly the point that seems to have been perhaps badly put so that people were not able to get the difference. I would have thought the difference is elementary, but it does seem as though there has been a problem.

Interjection.

Mr. S. Smith: This statement attributed to me I definitely did make. When I congratulated the minister it was on the subject of his phase two.

Mr. Lawlor: That's merely an expression, not a point of privilege.

Mr. S. Smith: In point of fact, I did approve of the fact that he was cutting back beds, but I never approved the closing of hospitals. That is what is a pointless and cruel exercise. The closing of small rural hospitals was pointless and cruel. The cutting back of beds I approved of and I congratulated him for; his cutting of budgets in the large cities and the way he did it I congratulated him for.

Mr. Grossman: Like Doctors Hospital?

Mr. S. Smith: But certainly not the closing of the small rural hospitals. I definitely opposed him on the hospital closures, those which served rural or ethnic communities; my exact words.

Mr. Chairman: We seem to have strayed a little bit from this vote. I'm wondering if the hon. minister might return to the health insurance programme.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm not quite finished yet. I sat down to let him have his point of privilege. I will have a few more quotes to make from time to time, because I think they are appropriate. I do appreciate the ones when you support me.

Mr. S. Smith: You damn well should appreciate them, but I'm against the way you closed those town hospitals. You didn't have to do that.

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What did you say in Chesley?

Mr. S. Smith: I wasn't in Chesley.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What did you say to Chesley then?

Mr. Chairman: Order please. I wonder if we could return to health insurance, item 1.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We discussed the provincial health labs for a while and you questioned the saving in North Bay. I can appreciate both the lack of understanding and the unwillingness to understand how we saved \$167,000 per year net in the closure of the North Bay lab. The figures are here. I don't want to read them into the record. I'm quite happy to have you look at them if you will, but I am totally satisfied that the arithmetic is sound.

I only have to say to you, whether it is North Bay at \$167,000 or Kenora at only

\$12,700 net, I have one basic question: When is a saving justified and when is it not? When should I or shouldn't I do things?

For example, in North Bay, some reference was made to the kidney function testing going on in the community. It's a great programme; it should continue. But you know, it doesn't require the lab to be in North Bay; and if, in fact, the lab in Orillia can do it without extra staff—and I understood they could—and it takes one day extra for those samples to go back and forth at the very most, then I would suggest to you that no harm has been done to the patient who is being screened for a possible problem—a person who, had there not been a programme at all, wouldn't have been screened at all; a person who in almost any other community in Ontario isn't being screened—and that the delay is justified in terms of relative costs.

[12:30]

The kinds of things our provincial labs did are not of the staff type, you know that. There aren't, in the main, doctors waiting for a decision to proceed with the diagnosis of a patient on an urgent basis. Those are usually done in the hospitals. One of the reasons that North Bay gradually could be replaced was that the hospitals had gained much more proficiency and capacity in the very tests that our lab in North Bay did at one time.

He then went on to say that I dashed off and was influenced by a female administrator. I almost stood up on a point of privilege then because I thought I was being slandered. Then I stopped and wondered what kind he was affected by.

As for dental services; yes, you are quite correct. We are cutting out a number of the benefits under the OHIP plan for dental services. These have been discussed at considerable length with the Ontario Dental Association and, in fact, while I don't know that I have their unqualified blessing, they feel that a number of the moves were justifiable in the interest of good dental decision-making.

We have tried to keep access open for those people who need a hospital on the basis of medical need. We are working on ways and means of making sure that the dentist, either before or after a procedure, depending upon its urgency, will have some right to point out that a particular patient, be it a retarded child, a very young child or a person injured in an accident, would have the right to have certain coverages through the OHIP plan—not for the dental part of it but for the hospital part of the coverage while the procedures were being performed. I think you

will find that the changes, once they are finally regularized, will be fair. That's really all I have to say on that one, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I am going to try to finish my remarks by 1 o'clock. It may not be possible, but I will try. I think perhaps first of all—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, if I am absent for a second, there is no disrespect; I have to go out for a second. Okay?

Mr. Swart: We will carry on. Just before the leader of the third party leaves, I would just like to say very kindly to him if I could—and he really should know this—that he does not really need to make contradictory statements himself. He has got a caucus that will do it for him.

Mr. S. Smith: I shouldn't have bothered showing you the respect of staying.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal primarily with the matter of the closing of the health labs. I will try to confine myself to the vote we have before us, but I want to discuss the public lab closings within the parameters of the general cutbacks, whether they are hospitals, municipal social services or whatever they may be.

Up to the time of the revelations of my colleague the member for High Park-Swansea, the matter of public lab closings certainly was not as dramatic as hospitals, was not as serious to the public, I guess, as the social services and did not have as widespread an impact as the increase in taxes that is going to take place in the municipal field. But I say that the closing of the public health labs, and what is happening in the private health lab field, more than anything else gives us an insight into the irresponsibility of the ministry and, for that matter, the government of this province. It is irresponsible, what is happening. What is happening in the private health labs is their responsibility because they haven't policed the system. It is fiscal irresponsibility on the part of the government, and I think it gives us an insight into the dominant motives of what the government is doing in the field of cutbacks.

I suggest there are two dominant motives in what is taking place. The first has been stated a number of times, I think, and it is the posturing the government is doing about restraints, primarily for political reasons, to appear tough before the public, to imply that they are going to watch their tax dollars.

The second motive, I suggest, is a real attempt to destroy efficient public institutions

and to let the provision of services revert back to the private sector at a greater cost to the public.

Just two examples: The relationship of the closing of hospitals and the cutbacks to homes for the aged—where many nursing services are provided—to a decision to not make any cutbacks to private nursing homes, even though it can be documented all over this province that the private nursing homes too, to a very substantial degree, are ripping off the government and the taxpayer. It's documented by the director of the homes for the aged in the Niagara Peninsula that the nursing patients who need heavy care are being refused by the private institutions and are going to the nursing care section of the homes for the aged. The private nursing homes can make more profit, of course, from those patients who don't need heavy care.

The second example, of course, of the motive, is what is being done to the public health labs, where the government is shutting down the public health labs, or a substantial number of them. But in the period of time when the cost of the private labs has gone up from \$20.5 million to \$80 million or whatever the figure is—probably \$88 million—the cost of the public labs has only gone up from \$7.5 million to \$12.5 million.

I say they are doing this simply to carry out the motives which I have mentioned and without any studies being done to substantiate closing these public labs.

The ministry simply doesn't have any statistics, in spite of what was just said about North Bay, to prove there is going to be a financial saving with the closing of the public labs. I refer specifically now to the public lab in St. Catharines.

The regional council of Niagara asked for figures on Feb. 5 to justify the closing down of the public lab there; it has not yet got them. Figures were promised to the Niagara regional health unit, when it objected to the closing down of the public lab, to justify it. They have not been provided. The union, OPSEU, has been trying to get figures ever since the announcements were made on Dec. 18 and it has not been able to get the figures to justify the closing.

I sent a telegram to the minister on Feb. 13 asking for those detailed figures. I followed it up with a letter two days later and a further letter on Feb. 20. I have not yet received the figures to justify the closing down of that lab.

I say to you the very vague statistics they provided at the beginning and supplemented

a little bit later are wrong. They are not accurate; they are full of inaccuracies and full of mis-statements.

I have a letter here which I received in reply to my telegram; that's the size of the letter. I asked for detailed figures and that's the size of the letter I got back. That letter says that over 90 per cent of the St. Catharines' laboratory workload is made up of serology tests and water and milk testing.

I also have here a printout from OHIP, from the Ministry of Health, which shows that the figure is 75.8 per cent, not over 90 per cent. If we look at that in reverse the minister is saying there is no clinical testing being done, or less than 10 per cent of clinical testing is being done by that lab. The printout showed that it's 24 per cent, the other tests that are being done down there. That's an error of 150 per cent. And do you know who that letter is signed by? It is signed by the man who is coming back to his seat now, the hon. Minister of Health. He has signed the letter which, by the ministry's own figures, is out by 150 per cent.

Of course, the contradiction was in the letters that were sent to the Woodstock lab, where there are four different sets of statistical information for the varied numbers of people who were going to be effected. One letter and one memo was contradictory to the next one.

That letter I got from the minister said there was going to be a saving of something like \$56,000 in closing down the St. Catharines public health lab, which of course serves the whole Niagara Peninsula. In fact, on Feb. 20, the Ministry of Health published a little further statement giving a few statistics on what would happen and the savings that would accrue from the closing down of that lab. I read this to you under the budget items:

An estimated \$56,000 saving would be realized by the laboratory closure. Staff salaries for five employees account for a saving of \$55,000.

They have seven employees there now.

An additional saving of \$11,000 will be realized from reduced rental payments. Courier service will cost an estimated \$10,000, making a total saving of \$56,000 annually.

Let me tell you, the cost this year in the budget for that lab, or the amount to be spent, is \$106,000; and they're going to save \$50,000 of that. Let me deal with some of these figures for just a minute. It says there will be an additional saving of \$11,000 from reduced rental payments.

You know where the lab is located; it's located in a part of the Shaver hospital. They pay a rent of something in excess of \$10,000. But do you know where that rent goes? It goes to the Ministry of Health. So they're going to save \$11,000 because they don't pay \$11,000 to the Ministry of Health. Of course, it is no saving whatsoever in rent when you're going to lose \$11,000 income and pay out \$11,000 less. I don't look upon that as a saving.

He mentions the courier service will cost \$10,000. I wonder if the minister knows that they have tried six different places, as of two days ago, to get a courier service to go to Hamilton, and that the cheapest offer they have got is \$14,000; not \$10,000 but \$14,000. Perhaps that is because there was another mistake made in this memo. At the top it says the St. Catharines public health laboratory is 35 miles from Hamilton; actually it is 45 miles from the health laboratory in Hamilton. That is also an error of about 30 per cent in the statistics in this letter.

But that isn't all, because the OPSEU has computed the cost of doing the tests which will be farmed out. This appears to be less than 10 per cent, and in fact is 24 per cent. The cost of those will be some \$26,028 according to the fee paid by OHIP. That \$26,000 isn't going to be saved. It doesn't mention that in the letter, they are going to pay for those costs. However, if you add up the \$4,000, \$11,000, \$26,000, that's over \$40,000 of the \$56,000 that isn't going to be saved. By any yardstick it isn't going to be saved, Mr. Minister.

And do you know what? That still leaves 75 per cent of all the tests to be done in Hamilton. How are you going to pay for those out of that other \$16,000 saving?

[12:45]

It is just ludicrous, this report—the savings are simply not there. There are, in fact, no savings in the closing of that lab; it is, in fact, going to be more costly. And, I am sure, Mr. Minister, that you have seen the figures put out by OPSEU at the Woodstock lab. I have not seen the cost of the tests there related to what OHIP pay refuted in any way.

In fact, the cost of the tests there is substantially cheaper than what you are paying for them from private labs. In fact, the total costs in the Woodstock lab for your chemistry tests, your microbiology tests, your haematology tests, are \$212,389.76. That is what it is costing the public at the present time. If you farm them out the OHIP payments would be \$313,295.72, or almost 50 per cent more, for making those tests in a private lab.

And, of course, the same sort of thing holds true in the St. Catharines area. Do you know that the Hamilton lab at the present time, according to DBS, has an output of something like 153.9 per cent of the normal output by BPS? St. Catharines is one of the highest producers in the province. It has an output of something over 160 per cent per employee compared with normal output. And yet we are going to close the St. Catharines lab down.

You may think, Mr. Minister, and your government may think, that because you are going to have somewhat bigger labs they may operate more cheaply. Whether it's hospitals or anything else that seems to be a philosophy of your government. Those of us who have had some experience over the years with regional government know that the bigger they get doesn't mean that it costs less to the taxpayer and I suggest the same is true in the field of public health labs.

I don't need to document here the impossibility of policing the private labs. At least, it must be impossible because with the years your government has been in power and the obvious ripoffs that are taking place in certain areas with the private labs—the increases in payments—means that you must not be able to police them, or else you don't care. I suppose there aren't really many alternatives to come to but those.

I would like to quote, just to back up what the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba) has said, what the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories said in a letter to your deputy minister on Jan. 27, expressing their concern about it. I think it's fair to point out, Mr. Minister, that their concern is like your concern; it became a concern after Dec. 18. It wasn't a concern of the association or of your ministry six months ago or a year ago. It became a concern when investigations started because you are going to close down the public labs and you were making comparisons between the public and the private labs. They say themselves—and I think this is perhaps somewhat amusing—that an advisory committee comprised of representation from the Ontario Medical Health Association, section of laboratory medicine, the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories should be formed immediately to recommend and assist the Ministry of Health with the implementation of policy. Those three groups are the three groups that are involved now. Those are the three groups that have permitted what is taking place to take place, and this is the way they want the policing.

But they make some admissions here too. They suggest that the advisory committee set up a mechanism whereby licensed independent laboratories are audited for billing procedures.

That's a very admirable thing. It says: "Such audits should show that the tests billed are actually ordered and performed." Do you think there is some suspicion with them, perhaps, by that time, that this wasn't being done? It goes on:

The Ontario Medical Association should be encouraged to advise physicians on the changing practice of laboratory medicine, including procedures that may now be redundant and the need to exercise care in ordering laboratory procedures. This should be timed to coincide with the elimination of profiles from laboratory requisition.

Again I point out that they want this policing committee to be the same three groups that are involved in the situation that exists today.

It looks as though their concern and your concern, as I say, started after the investigation started. Your government surely must have had some reason to investigate the situation prior to this time, what with the increases taking place. I sat on a municipal council for many years and one rookie councillor who came onto that council, in the very first time he was going over the budget would have picked out something like this as a thing that needs to be investigated, when it is the single biggest increase in the expenditures of that department. You even had the legislation passed to police it, and I can give you quotes from the deputy minister and yourself when you were asked what happened in the area of lab ownership and the payment after the legislation was introduced back in 1972. "I am inclined to think nothing," the Deputy Minister of Health said. And you are quoted as saying: "I can't answer you, or guess or say this did or this did not happen." Is that good enough for the government of this province, that they give that kind of an answer after legislation was passed three years before?

Yet it must have been perfectly obvious that increase in payments to the private health labs was excessive. We are talking here about savings, savings in an amount that should eliminate the need to cut the hospitals back; savings which could be made from the private labs. One of the most respected people in the Niagara area, the other night at the Ontario Mental Health Association—and I am sure the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) knows him, Dick Thornton, who is

now the director of the health council—made this statement. I wrote it down, almost word for word:

We, the Health Council, have been examining the private health labs for six months and we are convinced that we should persuade the doctors to direct the tests back into the hospital labs and we'd get it done at half the cost.

That is what a respected—and I may not be using this term politically but I may also be using it politically—conservative man who has been involved in the hospital field, and a man who is concerned about public expenditures, had to say publicly in Niagara Falls when my leader was there.

Let me also read to you some comments from Dr. J. N. Burkholder, who is the medical officer of health for the Niagara region. This is the point I was coming to—and I think I will conclude by 1 o'clock—and this was his analysis of closing down the lab:

In essence, then, I think that the burden of proof is on the Ministry of Health to show that closing our laboratory will result in any substantial saving or, even more, saving of the entire cost of operation. I want to stress that we, in the health unit, have a high regard for the quality of work and reliability and communication provided by this laboratory. A few years ago, a proposal was made [and I could elaborate on this] to strengthen the work of this laboratory, but the proposal was not allowed to materialize. Meanwhile, as you may be aware, the private enterprise laboratories have enjoyed a fantastic growth rate at the expense of the taxpayer.

Again, from the medical officer of health in the Niagara region.

Mr. Warner: Right. Do something about it.

Mr. Swart: I say to you the responsibility for this mess lies squarely with you. I'm for an inquiry too, but I hope that inquiry doesn't take the focus off the government, because they are the ones responsible for allowing this to get to the stage that it is.

You posture that you are trying to save money, as does the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough). You have the dramatic and highly visual road show put on by you and the Treasurer and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) going around saving all these huge sums of money. You posture as competent business people who are the only ones to be trusted to run this province.

Mr. Reid: Sounds like a set piece doesn't it?

Mr. Swart: Right. But the real situation is that you've made cuts in the wrong places. You've made cuts without any meaningful investigation. The cursory facts you've produced are wrong; you haven't even tried to implement even the minor safeguards that you thought were necessary when you passed the bill back in 1972. Any thorough study will show conclusively that the public labs should be left open and expanded, for economic reasons, if you want to save money for the public of this province.

In fact, I say your conduct of business, your government's conduct of business in this regard, is deplorable. How you can posture as competent business people is beyond me. The \$2 billion deficit this government had last year is—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Look at B.C.

Mr. Swart: Yes. It's greater per capita than B.C.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We predicted ours.

Mr. Swart: That's perhaps even worse, when you plan for it!

Hon. F. S. Miller: It isn't.

Mr. Swart: It is the greatest deficit per capita that any province in this nation has ever had and you posture as competent business people.

Now on these so-called cutbacks: Either one of two things is the case—and you must admit this. You've either allowed and promoted tremendous overspending and overbuilding and overstaffing in the hospitals up to this time; or you are wrong now. It has to be one or the other.

Mr. Chairman: I'm wondering if the hon. member could come to a point where he could conclude his debate.

Mr. Swart: I will be finished in three minutes if I may have that time.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is 1 o'clock now and normally the committee should rise and report.

Mr. Swart: Fine then, Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my remarks on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment, may I indicate our programme for next week. We sit on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week; and of those four days, on three of them we sit in the evening—Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On Monday we have the contribution of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Lewis) to the Throne Speech debate, followed by the consideration of supplementary estimates for the balance of that afternoon and Monday evening.

Tuesday, the leader of the Liberal Party will enter the Throne Speech debate, following which we will have supplementary estimates and we will adjourn at 6. Sorry, that's Tuesday evening; on Tuesday evening we sit.

On Wednesday the Premier (Mr. Davis) will be involved in the Throne Speech debate and we will adjourn at 6.

On Thursday we will have supplementary estimates until 10:30 p.m. The hope is that we will complete the supplementary estimates both here and in the estimates committee by Thursday and also the motion for interim supply. We will rise on Thursday evening to take advantage of the mid-term break the following week.

Are there any questions about next week's programme?

Mr. Renwick: Extremely lucid.

Hon. Mr. Welch moves the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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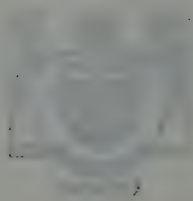
Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, March 15, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

OHC LAND ACQUISITION

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker on Friday last, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) asked a question of me concerning the acquisition of land in Gloucester township, near Ottawa. I would like to respond to that question by a statement today. As the hon. members—

Mr. Singer: Didn't you say that you had already responded or your predecessor had?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has a statement to make.

Mr. Singer: Yes, that is exactly what you said.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I must respond to the interjection from somewhere on the other side of the House—

Mr. Deans: You don't have to.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —that I did not state that I had responded to the question. I had said that the information had been tabled in this Legislature last May, and that information is correct.

Mr. Nixon: Now some additional information is available!

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As the hon. members are aware, the Carlsbad Springs land assembly in Gloucester township, southeast of Ottawa, has been discussed in the Legislature and the previous Housing Minister tabled the pertinent details last spring, partially on May 16 and partially on May 27. However, as I am a relative newcomer to this ministry and because of the 20-20 hindsight a number of people have developed as a result of the judge's remarks, perhaps the hon. members will allow me to review the matter.

Mr. Singer: Isn't that awful!

Mr. Nixon: Don't criticize the judge.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It was my understanding that in the spring of 1972, Ontario Housing Corp. identified the Carlsbad Springs site, about 10 miles from downtown Ottawa, as a potential growth centre. Approval was given for the assembly of 1,500 acres at a cost not to exceed \$1,200 per acre, a price level that had been recommended by senior OHC land staff following an examination of real estate price levels in the area.

The acquisitions were negotiated on behalf of OHC by the Ottawa staff of A. E. Le-Page Ltd., and by late summer the firm had optioned about 1,500 acres at approximately \$1,000 per acre. In the course of reviewing OHC's land assembly proposals for financing purposes, Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. became aware of the Carlsbad Springs assembly. Central Mortgage and Housing recommended the expansion of the assembly to 5,000 acres and indicated a willingness to participate in the land purchase.

The National Capital Commission also endorsed the concept and committed itself to the acquisition of 4,000 additional acres around the site for greenbelt purposes.

A steering committee, which eventually included representatives of OHC, CMHC, the National Capital Commission, the federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, the regional and township municipalities, was formed to make decisions on the land assembly and its subsequent planning. The original committee met for the first time in September, 1972.

The steering committee continued to use the real estate firm to obtain the land through private negotiation with individual owners because the process was in place and producing the desired results. Critics claim the remaining lands should have been expropriated, but this route was not used because of the many obstacles posed by provincial expropriation legislation.

Mr. Singer: Such as?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: One of the major difficulties would have been in proving a specific need for the land—remember, it had been identified only as a potential growth site.

Mr. Singer: Didn't stop you in Milton or anywhere else. Awful.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Because of the increased size of the development and the increased activity in the area, land prices rose. As resistance grew, it became necessary for the steering committee—which included the representatives of the various groups I have previously mentioned—to review the negotiations and to authorize price limit increases.

From the \$1,200 initial ceiling to a \$1,500 to \$1,700 range, the committee's approved limit finally settled at the \$2,000 per acre level. In only five of the 77 transactions was it necessary to exceed that limit, and then only by minimal amounts. Including the original OHC assembly, the partnership, when activity ceased in 1974, had acquired 5,518 acres at an average price of \$1,486 per acre, for a total cost of \$8,201,672.

I have already touched on the difficulties of expropriating land under provincial legislation. It is a process the Ontario government does not invoke lightly. Because of the safeguards provided for the owner under expropriation—

Mr. Singer: No matter what it might cost.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —it is not necessarily a less expensive way of acquiring land.

For those who would point to the lower prices awarded in the National Capital Commission expropriation judgement, which touched off criticism of our technique, I remind them that the partnership bought land for development purposes. The National Capital Commission, with wider powers of expropriation, is acquiring greenbelt land which has a lower market value.

Finally, I would add only that it was recognized there was a potential for paying higher prices towards the end of assembly because of strategic location or the quality of the holdings. The decision to proceed on individual purchases—

Mr. Singer: The word was out.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —was based on the best judgement of the time, and it resulted in a successful assembly.

Mr. Singer: Shame. You should be really ashamed to read that table of wanton neglect in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

OHC LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Minister of Housing flowing from his statement. Does the minister recognize that in most cases where there is massive purchasing taking place, that the smallest, the weakest of the community are the ones who are approached first and who get the least; and that the largest, developers and otherwise, who assemble land are those who hold out to the end because of the advice that they're being given? Doesn't the minister feel that a more appropriate policy ought to be developed and brought into the Legislature for the purposes of ensuring that the individual land holder, the smaller, individual land holder, is protected against the loss of revenue as a result of the government's activities?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that we can state that all of the land that was acquired from the very beginning was only in small land holdings. I do not have with me the breakdown of the exact purchases. That is available—I can get it. I believe it was, in fact, tabled in the House, and would indicate that there were varying sizes of parcels of land bought—from large holdings to small—at the very beginning. It appears to me, from the information that I've been able to gather, that one of the major problems was that so many different agencies became involved, that it became public knowledge that the land was being purchased for development purposes and the prices went up. That's what happened.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the minister's off-the-cuff remark—it wasn't in here—about 20-20 hindsight, how is it in his statement he didn't deal with the comments of Mr. Justice Addy and the very serious criticism? And wouldn't it occur to the minister, in view of the South Milton incident and this one, that by now Ontario Housing should have some realistic programme of acquiring land which was fair to the taxpayers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the reference to 20-20 hindsight was not a reference to the judge, but reference to comments made by others since.

Mr. Singer: Or before?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Secondly, the hon. member knows full well that one does not stand in any public forum these days and make any comment about the statements made by judges—

Mr. Singer: Oh, nonsense, nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Unless he has a friend up in Sussex Dr.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Do I understand from the minister that he is saying that when the land was bought by OHC it didn't know what he was going to do with it and that's why it couldn't use expropriation? Doesn't that sound more like an excuse after the fact?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Housing Corp. knew full well what they had planned to do with the property. As I said in the statement, it was as a potential development site and a potential growth centre. Under the Expropriation Act—and I'm sure the hon. member is familiar with it—if there is a question as to a hearing of necessity under the Expropriation Act, one may very well might not be able to expropriate unless he can say that that particular land was to be needed immediately. It was looked upon as a potential site.

Mr. Singer: Oh, you don't have to say that at all.

Mr. Cassidy: Does the minister not think that the legislation should be examined in order to ensure that when a large assembly like this is being made the first vendors are treated equally with the people who sell at the very end, rather than having some people paid \$700 or \$800 an acre while others who had the wisdom, foresight and business acumen and probably were not long-time holders, get \$2,000 an acre or more?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member has asked his question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what Act he would be referring to, because if one is negotiating the purchase of the land, one goes in and negotiates with the owner and one pays what the willing seller is prepared to offer to the willing buyer. What Act is involved I don't know. We're not dealing with the Expropriation Act in that particular case.

AUTO INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Premier. At what point in the history of the province does the Premier feel he might be prepared to intervene on behalf of the consumers who are being ripped off by the insurance companies—auto insurance companies in particular—and provide for them the kinds of savings that he is at least attributed

to have said ought to be there? This is a speech that he made over the weekend.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I didn't say the savings that ought to be there. In fact, I think I made it fairly clear that we were very encouraged by the statistics, basically from Metro, in the first two months of the—well, the Act actually wasn't in operation. The speed limits were actually not in force, but I think people were starting to abide by the legislation as it was to be proclaimed, and by the speed limits.

I indicated then, in response to a question—I can't give the exact question—on whether or not this would have an effect on insurance rates, I offered the opinion, not being an expert in the industry, that if these figures were to continue obviously it would have some impact. Whether that impact would reflect itself in a stabilization of rates, or even potentially a reduction in rates at some point in time, I am not qualified to comment. I did make it clear that while we were encouraged, it is still a little bit premature to start making judgements on the basis of the statistics from a two-month period.

I would also say, in reply to the question, that as a government we are obviously concerned about what consumers pay for insurance, but I'm also quite prepared to say in this House that the experience in this province is going to be that it's going to remain in the private sector, unlike the experience they had in British Columbia, where everybody was being ripped off.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: I wouldn't have doubted that the Premier would want them to get the ripoff. What I'm interested in knowing is, at what point does he propose to ensure that the public of Ontario are not paying more for insurance than the actual incidence of accidents would require them to be paying? Is he going to take steps to ensure that the rates that are being charged are commensurate with the costs of insuring automobile drivers in the Province of Ontario, and if so, how and when?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the industry has functioned relatively well in this province.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Not like in BC.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are not planning it, though I know the member for Wentworth—and it is part of their philosophy—as part of his policy, would have a totally state-controlled insurance system. I have to say

that this government does not plan a state-run or controlled insurance industry.

[2:15]

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier would advise us if he is prepared to have his appropriate minister proclaim the sections in the Insurance Act, which have stood unproclaimed for maybe 35 years or more, which would allow the government to control insurance rates without taking over the industry?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the member for Wilson Heights has asked that question of the appropriate minister on one or two occasions in this House, if memory serves me correctly. I don't think his answer has changed.

Mr. Singer: How about yours?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If he would like to direct the question to the hon. minister, I'm sure he would be delighted. My answer hasn't changed.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions? The member for Wentworth.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Mr. Deans: Yes, I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Does the minister think that the statements of his parliamentary assistant have contributed anything to the ongoing debate over the protection of the tenants in the landlord-tenant disputes that are currently going on? Secondly, is the minister aware that many of those spokesmen for the tenant review boards, or the landlord review boards—rental review boards—are giving out misinformation with regard to whether or not tenants ought to or ought not to pay the rents that are being asked of them which exceed the eight per cent?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what comments of my parliamentary assistant are being referred to by the hon. member. I know he's been very helpful in implementing the programme of rent review. He has been a very good spokesman for our ministry in dealing with this matter.

Mr. Deans: He hasn't been.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: As far as the information being given out by rent review officers is concerned, I have met this morning with the executive director of the rent review programme. We are issuing instructions to

them to obtain some kind of uniformity in their interpretation of the law. We also want to inform them that there is such a thing as an information, under which offences can be dealt with; and also that information officers who are employed by our ministry in each of the rent review offices will be fully instructed as to the interpretation of our ministry of the Act.

Mr. Deans: A further supplementary question: Is the minister prepared, on receiving information on landlords who are either not paying rebates or are demanding additional amounts over and above the eight per cent, to proceed on behalf of the tenants—as the parliamentary assistant indicated the minister would—and to lay the charges yourselves and to take those people to court and to recover for the tenants the amount that they have been required to pay, and to protect them along the way?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I lost track after the first five questions.

Mr. Deans: You lost track?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We are certainly prepared to take action in the case of offences under the Act. That would be the same as any other offence under any other Act. I'm sure the hon. member would not have a rent review officer act as a judge out of any concern for civil rights. That's not his job. His job is to review the rent. His job, if necessary, is to provide the Crown attorney with the proper information which will enable the Crown attorney to lay a charge. Under the charge there is a fine. The legislation does not provide for the recovery of the rebate by either the rent review officer or the court.

Mr. Deans: Or the tenant.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: However, in the view of the ministry, if the courts levy a fine—which means that the landlord is guilty of an offence—it would be a very simple matter for the tenant to go to the small claims court and ask for a rebate. There is also the other method, which we are suggesting to them, and that is simply to withhold the amount of the rebate from future rents.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Will the minister then protect the tenant in the event that they are taken to court with that advice—that they should withhold the amount?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, if the landlord is found guilty of an offence under

the rent review legislation, I find it very difficult to believe that he would have any kind of counsel that would advise him to take the tenant to court, after having been found guilty of an offence.

Mr. Cassidy: You are tying it all up in legal red tape again.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Wentworth have any further questions?

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Wildman: In the light of those statements, would the minister be willing to advise the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) to discontinue the policy of breaking rent review laws by charging government employees renting government housing throughout the north rent increases of 40 per cent or more by payroll deduction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a supplementary to the original question.

Mr. Cassidy: That was a good question.

PAYMENTS TO GODERICH DOCTOR

Mr. Deans: Could I ask the Minister of Health if he would be prepared to have tabled in the Legislature the basis for the decision by what he refers to as senior ministry personnel with regard to the possible conflict of interest, which is reportedly in the auditors' statement in the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital, whereby they decided to try to recover only \$1,000 of some \$73,000 that appears to have been paid improperly to a doctor on staff?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have no idea if the money was paid improperly or not.

Mr. Deans: I said, "which appears to be."

Hon. F. S. Miller: I understand that they were OHIP billings for services that he rendered. However, I have no reason not to make the information available, providing legal counsel tell me it is in order to do so.

PRIVATE LABORATORIES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Health. Can the minister tell us how many reports he has received from within his ministry during the past five or six years warning of the potential for abuse in the private labora-

tory system, given the system of payment that the ministry has adopted?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have been the minister for two years and almost a month. I don't go past that point—

Mr. Singer: Are you resigning today?

Hon. F. S. Miller: After that amount of time you start counting your days. At least you hope you start counting your days.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't count on it.

Mr. Foulds: I take that as a vote of confidence.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That was a threat from the Premier.

Mr. S. Smith: There's no need to count them; they're numbered.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am seeing who is clapping.

In any case, I have been aware of the need personally to look into the laboratory matters for upwards of a year and a half, and we have been doing so; in fact, while our actions weren't followed by the press, I can tell the hon. member that we were and are prepared to step in in a number of ways to control rather loose billing practices.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Although the question was obviously not answered—the question was very clear; I am simply repeating it—how many reports has he received from within his ministry warning of the potential for abuse within the private labs, given his ministry's present system of payment, and would he please tell us whether he is prepared to make these reports public and whether these reports contain any suggested alternative methods of payment for private laboratory services?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, at my request, a report was written. I had it in my hands in December. That report is being acted on now.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Will the minister make that report public so that we can all see what the suggested alternatives have been?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, once the cabinet has had the opportunity to look at the policy options, they will become known.

CANADA PENSION PLAN CHANGES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Could he

explain to us why Ontario was the only province to withhold support of proposed Canada Pension Plan changes which would have entitled spouses who work at home to be eligible for Canada Pension Plan benefits?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the leader of the third party is referring to negotiations that took place in February in Ottawa with the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare and the provincial ministers of welfare or my counterparts.

The position I took in dealing with that particular aspect of the negotiations was that I was concerned about adding another dimension to a number of income supplementation and support programmes that we had. I wasn't convinced that we had a model that would reflect the financial implications of the proposal. There were a number of matters that had to be examined and for that reason, while I didn't veto the proposal, I took the position that I could not support it until we had studied the matter further.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Perhaps I should ask for a translation rather than a supplementary question but—

Mr. Yakabuski: I thought you weren't in bed with the feds? I thought you had dissociated yourself from the feds?

Mr. S. Smith: —in view of the fact that Ontario by itself can, in fact, veto this legislation and in view of the fact that Ontario was the only province to dissent—

Mr. Yakabuski: You are in cahoots with the feds.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Could the minister please explain to the House why he thought it would cost us a lot of money if Canada Pension Plan credits earned by spouses during marriage were split equally between the spouses on marriage dissolution? What would be so expensive about that? It's something desired by all the provinces in the country and Ontario singlehandedly vetoed it for reasons nobody can fathom. Would you please explain yourself?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will simply repeat that it was not vetoed. While Ontario could exercise that power, that was not done because further review was felt necessary, not only by this province. We have, of course, scheduled a new meeting in June at which the matter will be considered again. It wasn't a question of vetoing the proposal but I think you'll

appreciate that there are many problems inherent in that.

It's simplistic to say that we will take the pension plan of one spouse and automatically split that into two which may not be a viable pension for either party. There are also ramifications in terms of the current review of the whole area of family law and family property, what happens on dissolution of a marriage and so on. There are many aspects and ramifications which we felt should be considered before going off and supporting just a straight splitting.

I think the leader of the third party may appreciate that once you split, of course, you have to start building up the half pension so that it becomes viable. There are many inherent problems which we wanted to review.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Just admit you didn't understand it. Face up to it.

GO TRANSIT TERMINALS

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has a question.

An hon. member: Don't count on it.

Mr. Williams: The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority issued a statement over the weekend to the effect that GO Transit buses should unload their passengers at suburban subway terminals rather than run into the city in direct competition with the Toronto Transit Commission. This may seem to have some sense but does this mean that the present service from Keswick and Newmarket to Toronto via Woodbine Ave. and the Don Valley Parkway would be terminated prior to or in conjunction with the start-up of the Richmond Hill GO Transit rail service?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I can't give an exact answer on that particular bus route. I do know that the chairman and members of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority have been having discussions with the TTC to eliminate, if at all possible, any duplication of bus routes when one system is travelling over the same routes as the other.

It is also, of course, our desire to fully utilize the subway system by having the passengers, where possible, utilize the subway system rather than bringing the buses downtown. I've not had an opportunity this morn-

ing to get a full report from the chairman but I will be doing so and I'll report to the member.

NORWICH UNION INSURANCE

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, a question of the hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Could the minister inform the House as to what discussions took place between his department and Norwich Union Insurance group, prior to its announcement that it is getting out of the insurance business in Ontario almost immediately? Does his department have any concern, and perhaps some attitude of helpfulness, towards the 300 or so agents who have been tied in closely with the Norwich group and whose relationship is now terminating on Friday of this week, and for the policyholders who are being cut off and whose policies will not be renewed with that company as of May 1?

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I think there were three questions there. In answer to the first, I'm not aware of there having been any discussion between Norwich and my ministry but I'd certainly be pleased to ensure that my statement is true.

The answer to the second part of the question is I think I understand Norwich's decision. There was a question asked by the member's colleague earlier today about how we look at insurance rates and Norwich has consistently lost money in this business and has made a business decision to remove itself from the industry. This is still a free province in a free country, where people can cease doing business as well as commence doing business.

As far as the agents are concerned, I am quite sure that other insurance companies will be seeking agents in those areas to fill the vacuum left by Norwich's departure from the field and the same thing will apply to the policyholders—others will be taking up their policies.

I can assure all members of the House that if anybody has difficulty, either a former Norwich customer or otherwise, in obtaining coverage, that our department of insurance is always prepared to assist in placing insurance.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question.

Mr. Young: Well, a supplementary to that I think. I take for granted that the minister and his department are ready to assist in this field. Certainly there are some policyholders

who seem to be having difficulty in placing the insurance and so I would simply ask the minister again, will he and his department assist in placing such insurance which is having difficulty?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, that's been the consistent policy of the department and it will continue.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary of the minister. Is the minister aware that many small insurance agents are having difficulty finding companies that will help them, or that will take them on as agents, and as a result may end up bankrupt?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, certainly we are aware of this. It is a reflection, I believe, of the situation of insurance underwriters in this province; many of them are leaving the province because they aren't able to earn enough on their investment to warrant continuation of business.

We are concerned about the agents who are unable to find underwriters for their customers and I can say that our department of insurance is assisting any agent who is unable to place insurance. That doesn't necessarily mean that we will be able to find a place for them all, but we certainly will assist as many as possible in placing insurance for their customers.

NON-RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Since the minister's predecessor, the gentleman who sits to his right there, indicated on March 14, 1975, that the government would give the Ontario soft drink industry 12 months to start using more refillable pop containers or face legislation, and since the same minister has indicated on one or more occasions that the industry was not co-operating, what action is the minister proposing in this respect?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I have just received a copy of the waste management advisory board's report and its recommendations based on the year's experience as a result of my predecessor's edict in March of 1975.

Mr. Foulds: Edict?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I hope to table that report this week and also to comment briefly on some of its recommendations.

Mr. Gaunt: A supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Gaunt: Is the minister considering legislation in this particular field and does the report recommend that course of action?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The report does recommend that certain regulations be drafted and in some cases approved by the government. I don't want to make any comment on that at the present time until we have had a chance to look at those recommendations—

Mr. Reid: You are going to keep dragging your feet.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and I have had an opportunity to discuss them with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Solicitor General has the answer to a question asked previously.

POLICE FIREARMS

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: On Friday, March 12, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) asked me why regulation 679 under the Police Act, which relates to police weaponry, was amended as it was on Nov. 14, 1975.

The reason, fundamentally, is to provide a more effective firearms package for police constables with increased safety both for the constable and the public. The ammunition previously in use had been unchanged since 1902. It was designed for a type of weapon no longer used and was not satisfactory for modern conditions. In particular, its penetration capacity was such that it ricocheted badly, particularly in situations where modern laminated windshields were involved.

Members will understand that this was an unsatisfactory situation. Because of this generally perceived problem in the policing community, a study was initiated by the Ontario Police Commission, using a team of professional armourers and experts from the Centre of Forensic Sciences. As a result, a new package regulation was developed, altering the projectile shape from the oval formerly used to what is known as a truncated cone. This indeed has a flat tip but this is not its salient feature.

In conjunction with the change in ammunition, the regulations concerning the weapon were changed to provide for a maximum muzzle velocity, a minimum barrel length and all-steel construction. I would also emphasize that the severe restrictions on the use of weapons were unchanged. Fundamentally, the constable may only use his

weapon as a last resort for the saving of his own life or the life of another citizen and, as hon. members know, in every single instance where a policeman in this province uses a weapon, an investigation is made into the circumstances by the Ontario Police Commission.

I think everyone will agree that the new regulation is in the interests of everyone in the policing community and amongst the public at large, and I am pleased to have had this opportunity to allay any concerns which this updating may have raised.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Government Services, in the light of the earlier statements by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about rent review and tenants' problems with high rents if she intends to discontinue the policy of breaking the rent review law by charging rent increases of about 40 per cent and more by payroll deduction to government employees renting government housing throughout the north?

Some hon. members: Shame.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I would require more information on this subject before answering the member.

Mr. Foulds: Are you going to get it?

ICE STORM DAMAGE

Mr. Haggerty: I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Is the Premier prepared to consider special financial assistance for those municipalities that were on the receiving end of a serious ice storm on March 2 and 3 that has caused considerable damage to property and hydro services and, as a result, the municipalities of the town of Fort Erie and the city of Port Colborne have been declared disaster areas?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think this question should be properly answered by the Treasurer and the Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, who has responsibility for the municipalities.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to redirect it?

Mr. Haggerty: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, we have only received a request from one municipality requesting designation.

I believe the only municipality I have heard from to date is the town of Blenheim. Whether other municipalities have in fact applied for designation, I am not sure.

The committee within the government which looks at these things is assessing the situation, and I think the member will be aware that a great deal of the burden of the storm, if I can put it that way, was borne by Ontario Hydro and by Bell Telephone; those are agencies that would not normally be reimbursed for storm damage, and I can't conceive of them being reimbursed for such damage. Certainly local utilities have had some heavy bills to pay, and whether that is an appropriate reimbursement, I don't know.

There is some property damage in my own part of Ontario, but not as much as one might have expected in a storm of that size. There isn't that much damage to buildings, but there is some; and some of it is insurable. The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) has met with the Crop Insurance Commission, and with farmers from Essex and Kent, with respect to damage to the cherry trees and the peach trees, and some discussion is under way on that matter with the federal Minister of Agriculture. But I think it would be premature at this point for us to say generally that some sort of extraordinary assistance was going to be provided. It is under study and, when a decision is made, it will be communicated.

RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Health; it is a two-part question. First of all, I would like to know whether the task force which the federal government has implemented in order to deal with the radiation situation in the town of Port Hope fills the requirement of a public inquiry as apparently asked for by the minister about two months ago? Secondly, what are the criteria being used to decide which houses will be offered agreements to repair and which houses will not be offered them? Is there a specific radon gas level which the house has to meet before the owner is offered an agreement to repair that building?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, I can't say that the task force does or does not meet all our needs. I'm not sure yet because I haven't seen all the terms of reference that it's operating under. I never called for an inquiry; I may well have been quoted as saying so. In fact, one of the things I was concerned about was, really, the short-comings of legislation as it

deals with radiation hazards between our government and the federal government.

The second part of it: We were recommending to anyone who was in a house with a radon level of more than 50 picocuries that they not wait for spring or any other more convenient time to absent themselves from their facilities. That's strictly an empirical decision; it shouldn't be taken as a scientifically-based decision. But staff, after a lot of thought, arrived at that figure as one which they should not allow people to remain in until conditions in the weather improve.

Since, again, the province played no part in the payment for any of these repairs; it was strictly done, as I understand it, with an Eldorado Nuclear—I think the term used was slush fund.

Mr. Peterson: You're the only guys with those.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We really didn't have anything to say about what the criteria were. We weren't involved in the payments, therefore it was not our responsibility to determine who got covered and who didn't. We simply helped notify or helped locate those houses which, in our opinion, were unsafe for human habitation.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary; the member for Durham East first of all.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, in response to the answer, two points: One, would the minister please clarify with the member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe) whether the minister did or did not call for a public inquiry, since he is on record in Port Hope as having indicated that?

Mr. Speaker: That's what I understood.

Mr. Moffatt: Secondly, as I understand it, there are members from the Health Ministry on the task force. Is that a fact or not?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I said I was personally not aware of the details. I will make myself keenly aware of the details. That doesn't mean that my staff aren't very competently handling it. But I would point out to you, with a staff of 14,000 or thereabouts, I am not always aware of all the details that they are aware of.

Mr. Singer: Keenly?

Mr. Shore: Get rid of a few thousand.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for London Centre with a supplementary.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the minister has just said he agreed to this task force, but he's not sure of the requirements. He has put his staff on it and if he is not happy he'll do something about it. Now, could the minister tell us those requirements that he requires personally as the Minister of Health responsible for that area, and what kinds of terms of reference does he want to see from the federal task force? And if they don't meet up to that, what is the minister prepared to do about it as a provincial matter?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, I defend the provincial record anytime—the fact is that we acted while others did not.

Mr. Reid: And you don't know what it is.

Mr. S. Smith: Oh, come on. There has to be an inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am fully aware of what we did while others talked—and there's a big difference. We went around locating the places where people were at risk and recommending that they move in the absence of any federal action. Now, that seems to me an important point.

Mr. Reid: What are you doing now?

Mr. Yakabuski: Shame on the feds.

Mr. S. Smith: You will run on anybody's record except your own.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was very concerned about the laws as they existed, because I was unable to get a clear definition from some of my staff as to where our responsibilities began and ended. I felt we had to know where other potential sites were in Canada. That information, I am told, was given by the federal minister. I understand, too, that the federal member for the general Northumberland area has argued about the full disclosure of that information, so I can't tell whether it's full or not. Certainly, he named a number of sites apart from Port Hope. The task force was, I understood, primarily going to be looking at correction of existing sites and location of others, and possibly would have other duties.

Mr. S. Smith: You are running on everybody's record but your own.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that was a final supplementary. Is this a different supplementary now?

Mr. Peterson: It is a different supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the circumstances, I think I'd better allow this supplementary. [2:45]

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that you were involved, I compliment you on that one.

Would the minister tell this House what steps he and his ministry have taken to guarantee voluntary testing of anyone involved in the community who wants to have that kind of testing for lung disease as well as for potential genetic harm over the years?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all, you may recall that a family named Lewis, I believe, who were in the house with the highest density for over 20 years, were subjected to very thorough tests—not just tests that were accepted as medically significant but, I am told, a whole series of research tests—at the Princess Margaret Hospital, at the University of Toronto, and by any other persons who come along suggesting they might help.

I heard arguments, first of all, that the work at Princess Margaret was of an informational nature rather than a diagnostic nature. I heard comments that the overall body scan recommended by the University of Toronto would show nothing; it did not. But, rather than argue, these people were willing to go along to be checked; and we were quite willing to have them checked if other sources or other groups wanted to do it.

I was delighted when, I understand, they were given a clean bill of health within the last week or so, at least according to Mr. Lewis himself in the newspapers.

Mr. Peterson: According to the Globe and Mail.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's correct. I tried to find information on these tests and I was excluded from it, because the doctors felt it was strictly the kind of thing that they would deal with their patient about. I was not entitled to know the results. I have to honour that kind of confidentiality if a doctor insists on it.

Mr. Peterson: What about all of the other people in Port Hope? What are you going to do with them?

SUDBURY HOSPITAL INQUIRY

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General tell us, in view of the attendance of his official, Mr. Howard, at the inquiry in Sudbury, and what must have been Mr. Howard's reports to the Attorney General, and in view of Mr. Lebel's evidence, when are appropriate charges going to be laid against Mr. Lebel for his actions in connection with the Laurentian Hospital?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am of course aware of that inquiry, but I have seen no report and in my view it would be premature to consider whether or not any charges should be laid in respect to any of the evidence or as a result of any of the evidence adduced at that inquiry. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not catch the name of the gentleman who the hon. member said attended from my ministry.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Howard.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Howard? Well, he was the counsel to the commissioner. He is not a member of our ministry; he was counsel to the commissioner, Judge Waisberg. He is in private practice in Toronto.

Mr. Singer: Well, by way of supplementary, does the minister not have available to him transcripts of the evidence—at least the transcript of Lebel's evidence—and isn't it apparent that a charge of some sort should be laid in view of the actions that are described there?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, it would be premature for me to express an opinion, except to assure the hon. member that the transcripts will be carefully reviewed.

COAL DUST ON HAMILTON BEACH

Mr. Davison: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of the Environment. Now that the ministry officials have traced the source of the coal dust that fell on the Hamilton Beach, Feb. 7 and 8, to an untreated coal pile at Dominion Foundries and Steel company, would the minister inform the House as to what action will be taken against Dofasco for its damage-causing negligence?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, steps have been taken by the company as a result of instructions of my ministry in Hamilton—

Mr. Martel: Any charges?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —so that that particular incident won't happen again. If the aggrieved individuals feel that they should lay charges—

Mr. Warner: Why don't you?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —we of course will assist them. But in a case like this, where we don't feel this incident was necessarily the negligence of the company, we don't feel that charges should be laid in this instance.

Mr. Laughren: Like Inco all over again.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: But we have taken steps to cover by spraying that particular stockpile in the hope that that type of incident won't happen again.

Mr. Martel: Do you feel charges should be laid?

WINTARIO

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Recreation. Can the minister advise me whether or not any decision has been made by his ministry concerning the application made to Wintario back in the fall of 1975 from the Belleville Yardsmen's Benefit Fund Inc. concerning the Quinte Sports Complex in Belleville, Ont. These gentlemen are prepared to put \$2.5 million into this project; can the minister assure me that politics has not or will not enter into this decision?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, you understand how shocked I am with the last part of that particular question. My father is a retired CNR brakeman; why would I be against yardsmen at all?

The answer to the first part of that question is that no decision has yet been made; and the answer to the second part is yes, I can assure him that such is not an influential factor in making this consideration.

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Has the minister or his officials met, or are they to meet this week, with a Conservative candidate in Quinte concerning this application?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm not aware of any such meeting, Mr. Speaker, and I might say in my very quiet way that I resent such implications. I defy any member of this House, on

any side of the House, to give me any evidence where partisanship has, in fact, had any bearing with respect to any of these applications.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Who is the candidate?

STUDENT LAW SERVICE

Mr. Bounsall: A question of the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker: Is the Attorney General not very concerned that no programmes from his ministry were accepted by the Experience '76 programme, particularly the programme of last year for senior law students to staff the community legal aid clinics associated with the universities, a programme which provides an invaluable service to the community and which must fold this summer if they don't get that summer student funding?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't aware that there had been any final determination of that matter. I only learned the other day for the first time that my ministry might not be involved. I've asked for a meeting with the appropriate officials to pursue the matter, because I am concerned about it. I assure the hon. members I'm concerned with relation to the value of these law student services in these community clinics, because as a ministry we've worked very hard to ensure that these community clinics continue to be funded by the Law Society.

Mr. Bounsall: I gather then that the minister will be approaching the Management Board of Cabinet in a very forceful way to get this programme restored? Will the minister try and ensure that there are more positions made available in the programme this summer, because of the success of last summer's programme? In the intervening time, funded through the law schools as part of their training programme, they are handling a much higher caseload at the moment than they did last summer.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I don't think I have anything to add to my previous answer, other than to say that I am concerned about the matter. It is being reviewed and I'll have some further information for the hon. member opposite within the next day or two.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Edighoffer, from the standing miscellaneous estimates committee, reports the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Government Service be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Ministry of Government Services

Supply and services programme \$2,650,000

Ministry of Housing

Home buyers grant programme \$6,000,000

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. MacDonald moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. MacDonald: The purpose of this bill is to provide the public access without cost to government documents. Its underlying principle can be simply stated. Governments, in the past, have tended to operate on the assumption that all information is secret except what they choose to make public. The reverse, in my view, should be the case. All information should be public except for certain kinds of information.

Mr. Speaker: I'm afraid the hon. member is debating the bill. He's given the principle of the bill.

Mr. MacDonald: No, I am right on the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You may state the principle but not debate the principle, if I may clarify it.

Mr. MacDonald: That's right. The reverse should be the case. All information should be public except for certain categories which can be legitimately kept secret and the bill sets forth those exemptions.

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to prevent discrimination on the basis of a physical handicap when the physical handicap does not prevent the individual from performing the duties and responsibilities of the employment opportunity. Such legislation has been operative in Nova Scotia for over a year.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, notice was sent around with regard to the estimates committee meeting immediately after the question period. I just want to make it clear to the members of the committee there is an understanding that the estimates committee will not, in fact, meet today, tomorrow or on Wednesday until after the three leaders have had their opportunity to reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Breithaupt: Yes, that has been agreed to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that's the agreement; that's right.

Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Lewis: Here we go again, Mr. Speaker, once more into the fray on the ides of March, a propitious day to begin the reply to the Speech from the Throne, with the Premier (Mr. Davis) speaking on St. Patrick's Day and the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith), as always, happily in between.

I guess, having made that unnecessarily gratuitous reference, I want to acknowledge the new leader of the Liberal Party a little more formally than was possible on the day the House reconvened.

We will clash often in the House, I have no doubt, and there will be profound differences, but I must say to the leader of the Liberal Party that I don't underestimate his job or his role one drop. It's an unbelievable piece of work to try to embrace the Province of Ontario, to cover it, to absorb its nuances and move in a period of years let alone a period of months or less. I fully sympathize with the leader of the Liberal Party as he tries to encompass everything in such a short period of time.

[3:00]

In the last three or four weeks I myself have been in the communities of Sharbot Lake, Dresden and Iron Bridge. I thought to myself that after 12 to 13 years in politics that was the first time I had been into those three separate communities for any length of time in the entire period. What an extraordinarily large province it is and how difficult it is to get around. Some of us understand the relentlessness of it all.

However, the leader of the Liberal Party is not entirely an unknown quantity as he takes his seat in the House. We have had glimpses of insight into some of his attitudes and approaches, three of which I want briefly to mention, and then launch into the government where the real adversary lies.

First of all, about the Liberal leader, I was extremely gratified to read that he is really more a Tory than a Liberal. That was reassuring. It was the wise man of the fourth estate, Harold Greer, in the *Hamilton Spectator*, doubtless circulated—

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: What is all the coughing for? An inestimably perceptive man, Harold Greer, in those rare columns with which we agree. This one is headed, "Smith's Philosophy Not Far from That of the Conservatives," and it contains a quote from the member for Hamilton West, who said shortly after his election as leader: "Philosophically, I suppose there are not too many differences between the Conservatives and the sort of Liberal Party I would like to see shaping up under my leadership."

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is room over here.

Mr. Lewis: "The difference, however, may not be in philosophy but in practice."

Mr. Foulds: There sure is; we'll be over.

Mr. S. Smith: We will be occupying that room pretty soon.

Mr. Lewis: This rump over here was rather the way it was between 1971 and 1975. The members can envisage them as brethren if they would.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We envisage everybody as brethren.

Mr. Lewis: If it is just a difference in practice, I wondered why the voters would choose a learned fellow from Hamilton West rather than a learned fellow from Brampton.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They won't. The answer to that is obvious: they won't.

Mr. Lewis: That's right. In that choice they will continue choosing the member for Brampton, I agree. There is, happily, another choice.

"Of course," said the member for Hamilton West, "many of the criticisms of the Conservative government might also be levelled at the federal Liberal government, but I can assure you that if they deserve those criticisms I will be glad to make them." And Harold Greer says: "So a Liberal is a Conservative is a Liberal. Now, where does that get us? More important, where does it leave a lonely Liberal like me?"

Mr. Shore: Where do you start defining that one?

Mr. Lewis: We all have compassion for dear Harold. But he has struck an interesting note as the free enterprisers on my left rush to embrace the free enterprisers across the way in their negotiation of the throne.

There is another aspect to the leader of the Liberal Party that I just wanted to spend a word on, and that is that I noticed early on in the leadership race he said he was going to stand toe to toe and slug it out with the leader of the NDP.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Right out there.

Mr. Lewis: I want the House to know, I concede in advance. I always thought I was capable of greater rhetorical excesses than most people in the Legislature. I always thought I had a gift for outrageous hyperbole second to none. But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have met my match and I want to show honourable concession in advance. I met my match, I guess, two or three weeks ago it was, when the leader of the Liberal Party held a press conference early in the afternoon, just after lunch, and said of the Minister of Health—he who had been closing down hospitals and reforming the health services—"You are a courageous man and I congratulate you for it; humane, decent, courageous."

Hon. F. S. Miller: He was right.

Mr. Lewis: And then the leader of the Liberal Party went to speak to the faithful at dinner and he said the Minister of Health was the bubonic plague. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, courage for lunch and the plague for dinner, and not even intellectual indigestion along the way. I have to bow, not just to a peer, but to a master—

Mr. Shore: The Leader of the Opposition is still the champ.

Mr. Lewis: —and I do so with great pleasure.

The leader of the Liberal Party is upset with the NDP. We appreciate that. I had some information related to surveys recently which makes me feel fairly good about that obsession. He feels that we don't understand the climate. I have only one observation which came to me from some unhappy party supporters from the Sarnia Observer, Dec. 3, 1975, when the various Liberal leadership candidates were vying for the finale:

Dr. Stuart Smith said to the meeting the economics of the NDP "has not changed one iota from the time of Karl Marx."

That's in quotes. Well, I mean he discerns the difference between Groucho and Karl and I've always felt that at least is one useful step.

He said he doubted if some of the NDP understood Marx's philosophy. "The NDP is depressed over the fact that people are competitive by nature," he said. "We don't take over a person's life when we liberate them."

Are you ready for the next sentence, my colleagues?

"We don't liberate them the way the Russians liberated Latvia."

Mr. Martel: He needs a psychiatrist.

Mr. S. Smith: If the Premier wants to borrow the line, it is his; it is okay.

Mr. Good: That didn't bring a very good response.

Mr. Lewis: There we are. As a matter of fact, the only other fellow in the House who used the relationship to the Russians latterly, is another chap from Hamilton who represents the Mountain. I thought to myself whatever else politics brings in Ontario in the next little while I hope it is rather less of that stuff than more.

In any event, were not now the government cherishing its 36 per cent—is that what it got—36 per cent of the popular vote in September, 1975?

Mr. Shore: What percentage did you get?

Mr. Lewis: Twenty-nine, as a matter of fact, which for us was an extraordinary achievement.

Mr. Breithaupt: We got one per cent more.

Mr. Lewis: And it is still going up, although I wouldn't have believed it. But then I'll come back to that at the end of my remarks.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Have you polled your household?

Mr. Lewis: The honeymoon period of the Legislature that characterized the fall of 1975 is obviously very much over. I said that once and people thought that it was sabre rattling. They felt that I was immediately implying the Legislature or the government would somehow come to an end and threatening to do so. I want the Premier and others in the Legislature to know that I always felt that was a simple statement of fact rather than a statement of provocation.

I think it's probably true that the effort to overcome differences in the immediate wake of the minority outcome in September, 1975 allowed for some very productive and useful legislative activity in the later fall and that every party in the Legislature moved hard to do that. But the events in the interim have caused fundamental divisions, at least between the government and ourselves, divisions on matters of philosophy, approach and attitudes. It doesn't mean that minority governments won't work for some considerable time. It does mean, however, that we will have to oppose and want to oppose a number of the initiatives which the government has taken and will take and that the euphoria which was characteristic of post-September is simply not enough. No one on this side of the Legislature in the official opposition feels particularly uptight about that reality. It is, I think, simply a reality and has to be faced.

Because a lot has happened between Dec. 18, and March 9, other than that brief and largely unreal couple of days when we ordered the Metropolitan Toronto teachers back to work, I want to deal this afternoon with a number of things that have happened, to which we have taken exception, and a number of things that haven't happened which we think should have occurred. I want to deal with Health and the Minister of Health. I would like to deal with Community and Social Services. I want to deal a little with agriculture since it is the special penchant of the Premier. Oh, yes, 26 acres an hour; that's not just penchant with the Premier, it's paranoia. So I'll spend a little time on it. I want also to deal with some environ-

mental hazards as they relate to government. But, Mr. Speaker, primarily, I want to focus initially on the restraint programme of the government—so-called—as it affects health and hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, pretty simply put, at the heart of the storm of public feeling and political opposition, lies the closing of small community hospitals. And even though it has been done before, though not frequently in this Legislature, I want to review some of the aspects of that controversy. I must say that the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell)—is that the riding?—spoke feelingly about his own community. And my own colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) I thought put it extremely well on the lead off to the supplementary Health estimates last week.

But, let me very briefly try to recapitulate a number of grounds as to why we, in the New Democratic Party caucus, feel so strongly about what occurred.

First, there was about the whole episode a profoundly undemocratic character. If the government is going to undertake a startling and dislocating redefinition of health services to the extent that it involves the closing down of small community hospitals, then the Legislature should be much in session for much of the minister's activity. We should be able to debate it in this forum as it is proceeding, or before it takes place, so that there is some sense in the province generally that there exists a focus for discontent.

The minister's refusal to set it out before the Legislature before Dec. 18—as a matter of fact, with great respect, the duplicity inherent in the Legislature closing on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 18, and the telegrams going to Goderich and Northeastern and the four public health labs on Friday, Dec. 19, is a particular blemish on the behaviour of the government. It tends to show up in the public mind, if I may say—and I don't expect the minister to agree—the kind of anti-democratic, almost insolent political behaviour for which a great many of us are now rebuked, government and politicians generally.

The second thing I wanted to say to the minister, Mr. Speaker, is that we oppose the closing down of the community hospitals also because of the lack of consultation and the incredible arbitrariness with which it was conducted.

I had never understood a position quite so incredible as that which the Minister of Health engaged in during the couple of months that he ran around the province closing down hospitals. I must admit that I,

myself, went from community to community with a fear and anxiety that they might be next on the list. It was strong and compelling. The minister induced in the Province of Ontario a sense of unease unparalleled in a number of years, and he did it in a way which made everything appear to be a fait accompli and the entire process to appear to be senseless, insensitive and unfeeling.

We disagree with the rationale that the minister provided for the closings. Even so, it was surely unnecessary to approach it in that fashion. I know the minister has made the argument again and again that had he taken time to consult in advance, it wouldn't have worked. I know that Mr. Chatfield, in his interview with the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, said that the more people you consult with the harder it is to reach a consensus.

[3:15]

If you will forgive me, Mr. Minister, to the Speaker, those are the words of a bureaucrat who is both skilled and knowledgeable, but they should not be the patterns of behaviour of a politician. The minister's refusal to consult the community in advance engendered such anger and frustration and rage that I have not seen its like in some time. I remember getting the letter from the doctors at the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich and I just wanted to put it on the record, because I could hardly credit it then and I can hardly credit it now. This is the county of Charlie MacNaughton; this is the county where people used to be Tory and this is the county where people are not given to extremes or to immoderation. It is to Frank Miller:

Hon. Sir:

At a special meeting of the medical staff of the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital, Goderich, Ontario, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

The ministerial decision to close the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital has been without due consultation of local health professionals and seriously endangers adequate provision of total psychiatric care in Huron county. We believe this represents an unbridled, unilateral use of force of the government without consultation, compassion or reason. The planned closure of general hospital beds in Huron county threatens the right of the people in Huron county to adequate health care and the method used by the provincial government in planning these closures is totally undemocratic.

Therefore, we call upon the Minister of Health to: (1) Reverse his decision on the closure of the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital; (2) Withdraw plans for closure of general hospital beds in Huron county; (3) Commit himself and his ministry to decision by consultation with representatives at local levels; or, failing responsible actions on these lines, we call upon the minister, the hon. Frank Miller, the deputy minister, Mr. Allan Backley, and their institutional advisors to resign immediately.

The Medical Staff

I was really flummoxed by the extent of feeling which this letter conveys.

I think the feelings are real and are legitimate because the government showed absolutely no regard for the capacities of local communities to participate in decisions which profoundly affect their very survival. It's another example of the contempt—maybe that's too strong a word—of the indifference, profound and unrelenting, which the government has developed over the last few years toward small communities in rural Ontario.

I think that's why the Conservative base is eroding in rural Ontario, and that leads me to the third point I wanted to make very briefly.

Apart from the atmosphere of execution which accompanied the closing of the hospitals, there was an equal atmosphere of no concern for the human consequences, which were approached as though the Minister of Health—to use a memorable phrase that a socialist colleague of mine once used in another jurisdiction—was some desiccated, calculating machine. Everything was beds and everything was dollars and nothing was the human consequence.

When, again, the interview was given to the newspapers, it was said how difficult it was to measure these things in human terms. It is a most extraordinary sequence of events, when we have such dramatic consequences for patients, and even more dramatic consequences for staff, that it is impossible for the ministry to measure those consequences but to deal only with beds and financial savings. That, too, spread enormous disillusion through the communities affected.

We know the Minister of Health conveyed a kind of martyrdom about it all. We know that the Minister of Health said: "I am doing something I don't really want to do, which is terribly unpopular, and if you pelt me with snowballs, I will understand." But it was, when all is said and done, an irrational way to behave in Ontario.

Ontario is a reasonable province. It is made up of reasonable, intelligent, thinking people; and it is time that the government responded in kind rather than stamping on their rationality.

The fourth point I want to make about the execution is that the government engendered a kind of despair in these small communities and in vulnerable and isolated ethnic communities; at least they have their own sense of isolation. In downtown Toronto, in the case of Doctors Hospital, the government engendered that kind of despair which simply didn't make sense and, in its own way, is unforgivable. I don't think it's necessary to push small communities that way.

I myself met with a number of the boards and staff and representatives of citizens groups. My colleagues, along with members of the Liberal caucus, attended mass community meetings in Goderich and in Kingston and in Durham. It really makes one wonder why it's necessary for the government to push communities beyond the breaking point. When the delegation from the community of Durham came to visit the caucuses here at Queen's Park—I don't know whether they met with the government caucus, but they did meet with the NDP and I believe they met with the Liberal caucus, they set out before us the saga of Durham, which the member can put better than I. They pointed out that Durham lost its high school, Durham has lost a nursing home, Durham has lost an arena, Durham has lost its public library—Durham even lost its name to a larger regional municipality—and then you take away the hospital.

An hon. member: How much did it save?

Mr. Lewis: I want to tell you, that's just too much to rain down on a small community in western Ontario. It doesn't make sense. These are the factors that are worthy of measurement by a political party and by a government.

Your total saving on behalf of Durham, so you said, would be \$550,000. If you want a straight response, Mr. Minister, through the Chair, it just isn't worth it. To do what you're doing to Durham isn't worth a saving of \$550,000.

That community has felt itself under siege for the last two or three years, non-stop. Those of you who were there during the time of the main controversy know what the community felt like. Those of you who know the results in Durham in the last provincial election, in the little village of Durham, know

how it changed its political allegiance, largely because of the pressure it felt it was subject to; and it's just not worth upsetting it again. There's more to life than that.

Let me say to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) through the Chair: \$550,000 you can get from one private lab in this province, you don't have to close down Durham.

I must say that the 1,000 or more people who turned out at the Durham meeting—virtually the whole town—felt again that it's just not a civilized way to behave. You don't have to be a romantic, you don't have to spend your whole life believing in consultation, you just have to know that you can only lacerate and abuse small communities for so long before they rise in opposition to the government. You are gradually, systematically, eroding the confidence of small communities, and therefore, their confidence in your government, or whatever is now left of it.

The last point I wanted to make about the execution of it, briefly, is that you focused your attack on primary care models, and that's the most irrational dimension of all. Not only didn't you consult, not only didn't you provide information, not only did you do it insensitively, not only did you engender fear and anxiety on the part of the communities, but you chose those communities which had first rate primary care models.

Both opposition parties have been saying to the government for years it spends too much time depending on the medical model for specialized care, make of the medical model a community health centre. Ironically, in cases like Durham and Clinton and Paris-Willett and Doctors, you had created primary care models with clinics near the hospital, with much greater outpatient loads than inpatient loads with a real sense of the hospital relationship to the community—and that's exactly the model you choose to decimate.

It's just not rational. It doesn't make sense. For the saving of money involved, it just doesn't add up. One of the reasons that it doesn't add up is because the saving of money is an illusion.

We oppose you on all those small closings for that whole complex of reasons, largely related to the way in which you went about it and the hospitals which you chose. I want to say to the Premier (Mr. Davis) that it is a matter of some considerable conviction, even of principle, around the delivery of health care services that you chose those hospitals and the two psychiatric centres at Goderich and Northeastern to zero in on. It speaks to

a philosophy of government which we find abhorrent.

The whole process of appeal is equally ludicrous, because you relent only on your terms and you cause the community extraordinary anxiety in the process, so that they don't really feel they've regained anything; they only feel an increased sense of aggravation and everyone scrambles frantically to plan in some way that will satisfy the appetites of the Minister of Health. Is there anything they can provide which will appease the minister and rescue their hospital and, therefore, their community? For places like Durham and Clinton we are not talking about beds, we are talking about a community. The government approached it as though it were beds, but they built the hospital; they contributed to it; they depend on it. It represents economic security for them and the government dashes it to the ground.

For all of that complex of reasons we don't think it makes any sense for the government to behave in Ontario the way it behaves. But let me take it a step further which is, in economic terms, that much more compelling.

The government hasn't even been able to prove the financial savings. As a matter of fact, it hasn't even been able to provide with accuracy the bare amounts. We will be able to get into this in the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Health tonight, tomorrow night, Wednesday night, whenever it comes and how long it takes. Very briefly, I want to point out a couple of things which I really didn't understand myself and maybe I can share them with the House.

Every time we turn around the Ministry of Health is issuing new financial statements on cost savings. The Minister of Health issued fact sheets on all of the hospital cutbacks in the last very few days and those fact sheets again amend the original intent. I can't remember any more what the original figure was that the government was going to save from the closing of Goderich and North-eastern. Can the minister remember what it was now?

Hon. F. S. Miller: About \$4 million.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, \$4 million or so, in round figures, was what he was going to save but with every week that passes since Dec. 19, the figure is eroded.

I want to provide figures for Goderich and Northeastern which show that the government is going to lose money on both. The figures are irrefutable because they are the government's. I want to tell the minister I rely on his figures when it's useful to rely

upon them. I want to tell him I have looked long and hard for the evidence—I didn't expect it to fall into my lap—but here is his fact sheet on Goderich Psychiatric Hospital. If he has a pen or pencil in front of him I would like him to join with me in a little arithmetical calculation.

By the way, there is, of course, a mistake in his figures which we had to find for him and send to his office today to get corrected. That's very sloppy; it's not even nice. I want to urge the minister that when he is putting out figures which involve the closing down of communities and community hospitals, he gets them right.

Mr. Lawlor: Get another adding machine.

Mr. Lewis: The figures are these. The annual cost of operating Goderich Psychiatric is \$4,754,000. Then the minister says: Expenditures necessary to implement and maintain the proposed programmes are—I will give you the right figure here—\$1.48 million, salaries for staff and variable costs at London and Owen Sound; \$1 million, adult ward psychiatric units at Stratford and Goderich; \$187,000, child and adolescent programme costs at Goderich. Now here is the one that really gets to one—the minister has before Management Board at this moment the estimated cost for the mental retardation resource centre at Goderich \$2,615,000—given to us this morning courtesy of an excellent person whose name I will not use for fear he expunges him from the public service of Ontario. The exact total expenditure at Goderich therefore becomes \$5,282,200; the total cost before was \$4,754,000. The minister's net saving is a loss of \$527,000. My congratulations to him.

Mr. Shore: He should be able to handle that.

Mr. Peterson: That's an easy one.

Hon. F. S. Miller: With great respect that's the kind of arithmetic—

Mr. Lewis: Well, tell me where I'm wrong. Go ahead. I'll sit down and tell me where I'm wrong.

[3:30]

Hon. F. S. Miller: For one thing, it comes from the federal government. That's the reason, because he's comparing two entirely different programmes; a programme which is in another ministry, occupying space which otherwise would have been vacant, but which had been provided.

Mr. Lewis: Come on. Well that's really an interesting matter.

Mr. MacDonald: I thought this was a government restriction.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You are opposed to accepting federal money for retardation; is that what you are saying?

Mr. Martel: Where is the money?

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, if the minister wants a direct answer to his question, we are all opposed to turning the Goderich psychiatric facilities into an adult institution for the mentally retarded. It's not only the caucuses on this side of the House which are opposed to it, but the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded is opposed to it. The working group associated with Huron and London related counties says:

The decision to use the Goderich institution as a mental retardation facility was made in an arbitrary and political manner without any consultation whatsoever with the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded or the London district working group.

They refused to participate with the minister on it—because they want no part of that.

Now first talk to us about the ministry's restraint programme. Does the minister mean it is all right to cut back in the Ministry of Health, and then the government can spend further in the Ministry of Community and Social Services? Does the minister know why he opened up Goderich as a facility for the adult mentally retarded? For the worst possible reasons; so he could get 50 per cent of the cost funded by the federal government. That's the motive.

He's already got four major centres for the mentally retarded in the vicinity of Goderich. Nobody in the world suggests he should be setting up a centre for 150 adult retarded of Goderich. What kind of community value is that? What kind of good faith is that for the mentally retarded?

Mr. MacDonald: They'll close it down next year.

Mr. Lewis: The fact of the matter is that the minister has rationalized his services as follows: He destroyed an excellent psychiatric unit, he dislocated a community, he has thrown a number of adolescents and children who were in treatment out of the continuity of treatment, he has set out a centre for the

adult retarded at Goderich which is not wanted and makes no sense in economic or human terms; and he ends up spending \$527,000 more than he spent before. The figures are exact and I challenge the minister to deny them. He wouldn't give them to me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are wrong.

Mr. Lewis: When I wrote to him, he wouldn't give them to me. I had to phone the civil servants to find out what they were.

I just want to go to my speech for a few minutes, just to show the minister what he has done. In Northeastern, these are the figures.

By the way, what I didn't say, because it was a moment of charity, is that these figures do not include the alcoholic services, which he is committed to allocate in other locations in Goderich. All of these figures don't even include that; in fact it will cost much more. He dismantled a psychiatric model of a first rate kind and ended up spending more of the taxpayers' money to do it; and got less both for psychiatry and retardation. His people are economic incompetents.

Let me tell you what he did at Northeastern, because here again the Ministry of Community and Social Services was good enough to give us the figures. One day they will give the minister the figures, then he'll be able to understand; if the ministry ever develops the figures itself for the minister.

In the Northeastern example, the total annual cost for Northeastern, when he closed it down, was \$3,445,000. The expenditures necessary to implement and maintain the proposed programmes are: \$1,272,000 for staff and variable costs at North Bay and vicinity; \$500,000 adult ward psychiatric unit at Northeastern—that's 20 beds—and child and adolescent programme costs at Northeastern, \$398,000. The cost of the mental retardation resource centre, from the ministry, is \$1.4 million budgeted, giving a total cost for Northeastern of \$3,571,000; which is exactly \$126,000 more than he said he was originally paying.

Don't give me this intellectual hokum, this financial nitwitty about if it is moved into Community and Social Services it's all right. Again, the minister is setting up a mental retardation institution in a place where it was not sought and it is costing more money. For all I know, the minister is going to get a schedule 2 facility so he is not going to call it a schedule 1 facility.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, it's a resource centre. It's not schedule 1 or 2.

Mr. Lewis: They were forced to the alternative.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's not what the member said in my office. Remember, I was there.

Mr. Lewis: The working group in Timmins-Porcupine said they would have a psychiatric and retardation facility of equal beds or more beds than the psychiatric side. They never agreed to an institution which is primarily for the retarded. That was the government's doing. They have to accept it to save jobs.

Mr. Riddell: Perhaps they didn't like the system.

Mr. Lewis: That's what the government told them.

But let me come back for a moment. What isn't included in this, because again we didn't feel it necessary to drive the nail through the wall is the cost of the alcoholism programme which the minister says will retain its current level of service. It doesn't include, let me read from the minister's release: "Regional psychiatric teams, staffed by health workers from the communities being served, will provide outpatient and daycare service for residents of Timmins, Kapuskasing and Timiskaming." Where are the costs for that?

At the very least the attacks on Northeastern and Goderich result in a loss overall—or in an additional expenditure, because I suppose more money spent on people isn't a loss—but an additional expenditure of something close to \$¾ million. Now that takes some doing, and it's going to be more when we add in all these ancillary facilities. It's something that we warned the minister about at the outset and he laughed it off at the time. Let me not belabour it further.

Mr. Riddell: Even Charlie MacNaughton warned you of the fallacies of your system.

Mr. Lewis: Who was that excellent lawyer in Goderich?

Mr. Gaunt: Jim Donnelly.

Mr. Lewis: Jim Donnelly, who was before the Workmen's Compensation committee; I think he's another good Tory.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. Lewis: Jim Donnelly was positively ashen at the—

Mr. Nixon: The Donnellys are all going Liberal.

Mr. Lewis: That's all right, because the Liberals are all coming to us. It matters not as long as it's an even flow.

Mr. Nixon: If we get the Tories and you get the Liberals we are ahead of you, buddy.

Mr. Lewis: Let me just move quickly to Durham.

One of the things the minister didn't point out—I don't know whether it was pointed out to the Premier—was that Durham is one of the very few hospitals in this province which showed a budgetary surplus, which has come in under budget every single year since 1971. It saved the Province of Ontario \$58,000 in 1971; \$53,000 in 1972; \$39,000 in 1973; \$14,000 in 1974; and \$20,000 in 1975. It saved a total of almost \$200,000 over five years on budgets which had been approved by the ministry; and as a way of thanks, the minister closed them down. That's appreciation and a half. That's a smart way to deal with a small community hospital.

Mr. Shore: That is why they are closing them down; they don't want any of that stuff.

Mr. Lewis: The minister sent them letters saying there is a chronic care shortage of some 34 beds in the county and then pointed out that their rate of chronic occupancy was running at about 29 per cent. Anyone else might have tried to mesh the two.

For their surpluses the minister penalizes them; for their chronic care vacancies he penalizes them. There was no rationality when it came to Durham.

At Clinton, the minister took the single, most efficient hospital in the entire Huron county community, and because it was efficient and because it was the centre geographically, he closed it down. Again, it's very hard to comprehend the behaviour of the ministry. The minister said that if every hospital was operating at 90 per cent level of efficiency in the surrounding area they might be able to absorb the patient flow from Clinton.

Mr. Nixon: Maybe Charlie MacNaughton had something to do with that.

Mr. Lewis: Ninety per cent efficiency is five to 10 per cent higher than the Handbook of Hospital Administration recommends, and it is clearly not the kind of rationale on which to base a hospital closing. The Clinton closing, which I want to discuss more fully when we get into the estimates again, is a really serious violation of good health delivery.

Then there is Paris-Willett. The member who represents the community will doubtless be engaging in debate with the Minister of Health at some point during the supplementary Health estimates, Mr. Speaker, but you know, again your Ministry of Health is really quite something. Brant county is right in the midst of a long-term care study. It is chaired by a lawyer in Brantford—what's his name?

Mr. Nixon: Lefebvre.

Mr. Lewis: It is chaired by Mark Lefebvre in Brantford. They have just produced their first set of figures. It's one of the best health care studies of the county you could find, and right in the midst of it, without so much as an inkling of what was coming, the minister closed down Paris-Willett. Did the minister look at the material provided in the process? Does he realize that he has a memo from the Ministry of Health to the long-term care study group, dated Jan. 12, 1976, and another memo to the long-term care study group dated March 1, 1976; and does he know that those memos contain different figures? Does he know that those memos, prepared by his own Ministry of Health staff, contradict, directly the bed-use allocations which the long-term care study group had provided—bed by bed, chronic instance by chronic instance—and that it shows that the minister's calculations are entirely off base?

Does the minister know that he uses different population estimates in the various memos which he provided for the hospital and for the long-term care study? Does he know that he says in one of his memos that the Paris population in this last year dropped by 800 people? Is that so? Did Paris's population decline by something like 800?

Mr. Nixon: No.

Mr. Lewis: Who would have thought it?

Mr. Nixon: Serious error in the statistics in the ministry.

Mr. Lewis: Is there a serious error? I would have thought it was an error. It is not so much in my mind whether it's serious or dramatic.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You haven't left town yet.

Mr. Lewis: It is rather interesting that the minister underestimated Brantford's population sufficiently to have elicited a letter from the city protesting what the minister had done.

Mr. Nixon: Ten Tories left. They finally gave up.

Mr. Lewis: The minister underestimated Paris's population sufficiently to make one wonder about the closing down of the hospital, and yet he goes ahead and closes it. As I say, we will get into the figures later on, but it is really a matter of some interest that that is the way his outfit operates.

Then we come to Doctors Hospital. Doctors Hospital shouldn't have been closed, in our submission, for the simple matter of the ethnic and immigrant community which it served, which no other hospital can serve as well. You don't take low income, terribly vulnerable groups of people like those living in the area to which Doctors Hospital was most supportive, and close down Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Martel: Maybe the Premier can take them over to Italy next year.

Mr. Lewis: I want to point out to the minister that, again, he keeps changing his figures. He might think it is highly comical, but it is not comical to those who have to deal with it.

In his speech back in February the minister said there were some 400 surplus beds available in the city of Toronto. In the note which he sent out he uses the figure 512. Henderson says there was a deficit in his report.

Sometimes the minister says city of Toronto, sometimes he says Metro Toronto. He uses different and interchangeable figures with different definitions every time one reads him, and he does it all with bravado and panache; but none of it compensates for throwing 554 people out of work, hardly any of whom will have an opportunity to find re-employment in the hospital system; none of them.

The minister says so easily that the patients can go to the hospitals in the surrounding vicinity. Again, we were kind of interested in that. So we phoned every single hospital in the city of Toronto and spoke to the administrator, and where we could we broke it down ward by ward, based on the minister's calculation of occupancy rates.

[3:45]

Perhaps we could agree with something at the outset. When the immigrant community were asked which were the hospitals to which they would most likely go if Doctors closed down, the only three hospitals of which people were aware in the whole Kensington area were Western, St. Joe's and TGH. There was some sense, vaguely, of Sick Kids. But those were the hospitals. I think the minister

would agree with me that the hospital they would primarily be aware of is Western because it's closer and it speaks to an adjacent population.

Can I tell you something about Western? Western is running at 90 per cent occupancy now. The average beds in daily use at Western are 516 for every single ward and area of the hospital. There are six beds available before you reach 90 per cent in the obstetrical and gynecological ward, and that's it. The one hospital to which all of Doctors is most likely to be referred is running at 90 per cent occupancy now. Does that make sense to you? It makes no sense to us at all, none at all.

The next hospital, St. Joe's, would have a surplus of 70 beds on a 90 per cent occupancy rating. But those 70 beds are kind of illusory when one remembers that the ministry just reduced St. Joe's budget by \$1,229,000. What's that going to mean in terms of beds and staff?

At the Toronto General Hospital, which is already largely outside the appropriate area, there are 61 beds available at a 90 per cent occupancy rate, but the ministry just cut Toronto General by \$913,000. What's that going to mean to beds and staff?

No matter how you look at it, the 90 per cent occupancy formula itself doesn't satisfy the patient need for Doctors Hospital. I raise it, not because patients won't be cared for, because in the Minister of Health's (Mr. F. S. Miller) tough and, if I may say, fairly roughshod way, patients will obviously find their way somewhere, however excessive the additional costs may be.

What the minister of Health never took into account was a serious appraisal of the alternatives. He didn't take it into account before he closed down the hospital. He closed down Doctors Hospital and said to them: "We will do everything we can to find alternative jobs for you." That came from the Minister of Health.

I was in that hospital one month later and in the entire month not a single member of the ministry's staff had been in touch with anyone from Doctors Hospital to see about alternative job placement. Does the minister call that good faith? He walks into a hospital and says: "You are closed down April 1, or as close to it as we can achieve," then an entire month goes by and he doesn't look at the placement of staff.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Do you know why?

Mr. Lewis: I don't know why.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are waiting to see the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Mr. Lewis: Oh, they are waiting to see the Premier, doubtless to receive a reprieve from the Premier. It is just a terribly cynical way of approaching the closing of community hospitals.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege, I think as the member of this Legislature who up until this point has certainly been most vocal in opposing that closing—

Interjections:

Mr. Grossman: Just wait until you hear the point of privilege. I certainly will be carrying this forward when we do get to the Health estimates. I think it's only fair to point out to this House that specifically in my discussions with the minister I have understood that that right of appeal was indeed still open until the board of directors goes in and sees the Premier, which is shortly. Until that time, as the member for the area, right or wrong, I have said to the minister that I don't want to discuss alternatives until it becomes final, I have said to him, "Please don't discuss alternatives. Leave the hospital intact, because if the hospital is broken up by way of some of those people finding alternative jobs, then the thing is useless."

Mr. Speaker: This is becoming a speech not a point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: All right.

Mr. Riddell: Maybe I should get up now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Why not? To you I would defer willingly on such a matter as this.

I must say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the behaviour of the minister varies depending on the institution. In the case of Goderich, which also had the right of appeal, the minister was in there so fast with his personnel directors, setting out what he calls quaintly enough, "staff surplus forms." I visited the hospital on the day the minister was doing the interviews with staff surplus forms while he was still allegedly reconsidering what was going on. It just depends on where the pressure comes from and how the minister might respond.

The fact of the matter is that Doctors Hospital has been dealt with in bad faith from beginning to end. Even the business about rebuilding at a cost of \$15 million is largely misrepresentation, because the rebuilding which Doctors Hospital was after had the approval of the Ministry of Health as a new model—as a new experiment—for the delivery of family medical services within a hospital

setting. It was not a rebuilding in any sense in the classic rebuilt hospital tradition. And the minister has used that—worked out in good faith with him—as a club to beat them about the head with.

These hospital closings have no rhyme, no reason; they are costly, they are futile, they are destructive in human terms. I don't understand why the minister has pursued them. When it was raised with him in the Legislature the other day, the minister said, "Don't laugh at \$9 million. You have to start somewhere."

Mr. Speaker, that kind of thing pretty nicely sticks in the craw of a lot of members of the opposition. If we are dealing with health, I can tell you we would start somewhere else. But even if we are not dealing with health, it was quite fascinating to pick up the press reports on the weekend on the Provincial Auditor's report and to find that the German loan we had negotiated several years ago cost the people of Ontario an additional \$9 million this year.

Mr. Martel: Morty warned you.

Mr. Lewis: I couldn't help but smile to myself as I saw how the figures were coincident. Like my colleague from Sudbury East, I remember back to the days in this Legislature when the then member for High Park said to Charles MacNaughton, John White and Darcy McKeough, "It is going to cost Ontario millions to engage in this West German loan." And he was laughed at and ridiculed.

The fact of the matter is that at precisely the moment the government saves \$9 million on small community hospitals, it throws it out on a loan that never should have been negotiated in the first place and about which the government had plenty of advance warning.

Mr. Martel: They had all the answers. They are so bloody arrogant—

Mr. Lewis: It is absolute and total fiscal mismanagement in every sense. Everything that has been done in the Ministry of Health, with respect, has been done impulsively and to compensate for past transgressions. I want to tell the minister that we do not agree with his ward cutbacks or his budget staff cutbacks either, because we have not seen the justification for any of it yet in a serious and documented fashion and we will not embrace it under any circumstances until we do. I know the leader of the Liberal Party said to the minister, through the press conference, that he was sure the minister had the material and

hoped he would reveal it some day, but we haven't seen it.

I would imagine that the fellow from Owen Sound who sits over in the Liberal Party wonders how the minister can cut another \$443,000 from the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, as the minister announced a few days ago at precisely the same moment that he closed down Durham and Chesley. Now there is an artful achievement! A hospital has been running at overcapacity, the minister closes down two hospitals nearby and cuts its budget by nearly half a million.

I imagine the people in Peterborough wonder about the cutting of the Peterborough General Hospital by \$550,000 when there were 412 psychiatric admissions last year to medical and surgical beds in Peterborough, so pressed were the circumstances. And the minister cut back in Whitby and in Kingston, and the extension of the Peterborough psychiatric wing from 25 to 68 beds is not taking place. There is no rationality even in the minister's individual cutbacks—at least not that we have been able to see.

Mr. Martel: How about Parry Sound?

Mr. Lewis: So the reality is that the minister shouldn't ask us to support any of what he has done. And when he calls on my colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) and talks about what he said about one out of five beds, let me remind the minister, since he has quoted him out of context so often, what it sounds like when one quotes him in context. This is what he said on page 11 of the speech which he delivered in November in leading off the Health estimates debates:

However, let me tell you very plainly, Mr. Minister, that although you and I both agree that this type of patient does not belong in hospital, that is, chronic or convalescent patients, you cannot cut one in five beds until you provide alternative community-based services. You are taking a real risk with your heedless unplanned economizing.

That's the part of the member for Parkdale that the minister never read. So "one out of five beds," he read, but that he should not cut them until he has alternatives, that he is always willing to overlook. That of course is central to the position we have taken. If you want to rationalize something to do with beds, you have got to provide the alternatives and that is clearly the heart of the matter. There is no fundamental planning in the minister's whole health system. There is no courage to come to grips with the health delivery system generally. He has chosen to cut back on hospital beds but not to deal in a principled and single-minded fashion with the real problems within the system. The minister is not

willing, in other words, to deal with the doctors.

Well, I want to tell the minister, that we think health costs in Ontario are probably about right. I don't think we are willing to panic. I don't think they can skyrocket but the minister knows that, as a percentage of the gross provincial product, health costs in 1971 were 4.7 per cent and, as a percentage of the gross provincial product, health costs in 1975 are 4.8 per cent. That's hardly a dramatic leap, is it? Around five per cent of the gross provincial product. That's not unfair for health. The minister will know that in 1971, as a percentage of the total budget, health represented 29.7 per cent, and in 1975 estimates for health will represent 26.3 per cent—a budget percentage of 25, 26, 27 per cent; around a quarter of the expenditures for health, I don't think that's unreasonable, so long as we continue to rationalize and economize, within the system, in a way which makes sense. Those are the ways which take some courage and those are the ways which you, as a ministry, are not prepared to engage in.

We talked often in the past few days—if I may recall to the minister's mind, because I want to deal briefly with one area of cut-backs—of private labs and I want to do a calculation for him, a very simple calculation. If the private lab costs, through OHIP, have gone up 15 per cent a year as they should have at maximum from 1972, we would have saved, in this province, \$65 million. Even this year, had they gone up 15 per cent, we would have saved between \$35 million and \$40 million, this year alone. That's equivalent to all the minister's cost-cutting, inflated though it may be, right across Ontario and yet he let it happen. We continue to pay, on this side of the House, for the transgressions of his government.

I wonder if he remembers the words of Dick Potter in the Legislature on June 20, 1972? May they haunt the government for some time to come. My colleague from Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) had just engaged in questioning the then Minister of Health about the private labs and about the regulations and this is what Mr. Potter said:

As was asked here a minute or two ago, under section (f) of these regulations "prescribing classes of persons who shall not be owners of laboratories or have any interest therein," I for one do not believe that any physician, any practising physician, who is practising medicine should be involved in any connection with laboratories, any more than I think he should have anything to do with nursing homes.

This is one of the reasons we have put this in the regulations. . . . By the same token, under section (m), which was questioned, "instituting of a system for the payment, by the province, of all or any part of the annual expenditures of laboratories . . ." I think this is one method that I would like to consider [the budget method] for the private laboratories to get away from the fee-for-service basis. Under a system such as this we could get away from the suggestion that was made here earlier today of the kickback and this type of thing.

I think that the public must be made aware that health facilities and health services, as we are providing them for the citizens of Ontario, are for the citizens; that we are not providing them as a method of making a fast buck or as a convenience for either the physician or the patient; that we are providing them as a needed service and as such we are not going to stand by and see some individuals make a racket out of it or make a lot of money out of it. I expect anyone to make a decent salary and a fair profit, but I don't expect people to make a killing out of some of these things that are necessary for the rest of the citizens of Ontario.

[4:00]

June 20, 1972, to March 1975; the people of Ontario have thrown \$65 million down the drain in the interim, courtesy the government of Ontario. It has closed small community hospitals. There is something really wrong with the government. I have never understood how ineffective, incompetent, inadequate, and inefficient its members are as managers. They've planned the economy badly. They accrue enormous deficits but still pay no attention to any commitment they make to the Legislature at an time.

By working away at it, needling at it, constantly riding it, we end up finding out that Goderich and Northeastern will cost more, and the labs have saved nothing and cost a lot more. This government goes from profligacy to spendthriftery one day after the other as only the Tories can manage.

I want to say to the government, neologism aside, that I really don't think the government does itself any credit by discontinuance. There is something profoundly repugnant in the operations of the Ministry of Health that it should have closed down those four little public health labs without ever trying to rationalize them within the system for a saving, so-called, of \$400,000 while it trifled away \$65 million—\$35 million of it this year.

Where are the scruples of the Ministry of Health? Where are the regulations? When is it going to behave reasonably in a reasonable province?

As we look at the cost-cutting that could have been done, like that of the private labs, lo and behold, we discover unnecessary surgery in Ontario coming forward as yet another nightmare situation.

I'm sure the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) read the comments of Sidney Katz in the *Toronto Star* on Saturday and today, and doubtless for the next three or four days. Our hope, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the minister, is that he noticed that it is felt OHIP spends about \$124 million a year more than it need spend on unnecessary operations.

I have no horror stories for the House; I don't know of any. I must say that I cannot make all of the assessment. Obviously, none of us can, but the experts can.

Katz has approached the experts. Some have made appropriate surgical comparisons. It is obviously clear that we could be saving an enormous amount of money for health in Ontario on unnecessary surgical procedures if we were willing to do anything about this field.

But we're not, are we? It's like every other field. It means taking the doctors on. It means dealing with the medical profession. It means dealing fundamentally with the health delivery system. How much easier it is to trot, canter, or race into some little community, meet with its defenceless board of directors, and close it down. That's a lot easier than confronting the problems and excesses of the system itself because nothing ever happens when you deal with the major thing. All we get are general homilies and general promises.

On Friday morning last, if I'm correct, the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith) dealt with statistical data on unnecessary surgery and referred specifically to Dr. Eugene Vayda who practices in Hamilton and who teaches, I guess, at McMaster. He had done a five-year analysis of surgical rates in the Canadian provinces. His analysis of surgical rate comparisons, the minister will know, is a very complex and difficult one, requiring skill and expertise. Dr. Vayda's paper of the period 1968 to 1972 submitted to the American Public Health Association, 104th annual meeting on Nov. 18, 1975, is a milestone in the field of a succession of papers. I call it a milestone. It was his second study; the first was the comparisons with England and Wales. It wasn't just Dr. Vayda's paper, it was also submitted by Mary Morrison, MA, and Gary D. Anderson, PhD. The reason I mention that with some considerable pride is that Mary Morrison, MA, is now working with the New Democratic research group. She was good enough to use the expertise gathered in this paper, which she submitted with Dr. Vayda, to do

a number of comparable analyses for us on the related jurisdictional comparisons. I would like to share some of them with you.

I must say that it has been quite a learning experience for me. I didn't realize the extraordinary range of studies that have been done in this field in surgical rate comparisons. These comparisons have been related to disease incidence, to differing indications for surgery, for the organization of practice, to the degree of internal audit, to the characteristics of personnel doing surgery, to social class, and to availability of hospital beds and surgeons. In other words, there is an enormous literature and some awfully good studies, and many of them tend to show the same kind of things.

Hastings and Co., who did the study in 1970 of the Sault Ste. Marie plan on health insurance, which was published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, pointed out the extraordinary savings in the group health plan for the performance of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. It was Pearson who, in the *Lancet* magazine in 1968, compared the hospital caseloads in Liverpool, England, and in Upsala, for tonsillectomy, appendectomy, hysterectomy, and gall bladder. I am not going to try to pronounce cholecystectomy—although I didn't do badly on that particular effort.

The minister will also know that in Saskatchewan, in 1970, the range of hysterectomy operations being performed really worried that province. So they set up an audit committee at the centre composed of representatives from the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons and the government. Slowly but dramatically the rate of those hysterectomy operations has been dropping from 1970 to 1973, so that now the rates are significantly below those of Ontario.

The minister will know perhaps that in the *American Journal of Public Health* there was a special study on the steelworkers; you may know that the *Science Journal*, 1973, carried a study of variations in health delivery parameters among regions in Vermont, on tonsillectomy, appendectomy, gall bladder and hysterectomy; that a chap named Lewis, in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1969, did the same among various regions in Kansas. Then there was Dr. Vayda's major study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1973; and on England and Wales in 1968.

If you take the rate ratios between 1968 and 1972, as they compare among provinces,

or as they compare between Ontario and the United States, or between Ontario and England and Wales—not the rates, but the ratios, which are the important factors here—then you find for the Province of Ontario a fascinating number of areas of improvement. For instance, the ratio of surgery in the United States for Ontario, Ontario surgical procedures in the area of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy, are 1.36 times that of the US across the board, appendectomy 1.34; hysterectomy 1.1; gall-bladder operations 2.01.

Now take that ratio and compare it to the total operations done in the United States and in Ontario on equivalent years and assume that even if there are changes in years, the ratios remain the same. If you look at the dollars you would save through doctors' fees, and the dollars you would save on hospital days—let me show the House how it works out, because it might interest the members.

On tonsillectomies, we would save a total in doctors' fees of \$715,000 and a total in hospital days, in dollars, of \$2,755,000. In hysterectomies and appendectomies, we would save in doctors' fees, \$434,000, and in hospital days, \$2,719,000. In hysterectomies we would save in doctors' fees, \$419,000, and in dollars in hospital days, \$2,445,000. In cholecystectomies—gall bladders, that is—we would save in doctors' fees, \$3,027,000, and in hospital beds, \$17,244,000, for a total saving for the Province of Ontario of \$29,761,000 in medical fees and days saved from hospital on a comparison of the 1972 Ontario rates—actually it's the 1974 operations but the rate relationship with the States is 1971-1972. The United States is considered to have high surgical rates because of the absence of health insurance and because of the fee-for-service practice and the entrepreneurial activity and behaviour of the States.

Let me take it a step further. If you make those comparisons Ontario with England and Wales—and they standardized for both; I won't go into the details, I would like to send it to you—your savings on tonsillectomy, hysterectomy and gall bladder in this jurisdiction would be \$57,170,000 if we used operative rates here that they use in England and Wales, based on the ratios that these doctors have related.

We also did a comparison with every single province in Canada for those operations where the ratio of the performing of the operation, the number of operations performed relative to population, was lower in those provinces than it was in the Province of Ontario, and it might interest you to know the cost savings

that would occur. By comparison with British Columbia, we could save \$4,674,000; with Alberta, \$624,000; with Saskatchewan, \$129,000—but that's without realizing the extraordinary drop in their hysterectomy rates, which would mean a much greater saving for Ontario; with Manitoba, \$8 million; Quebec, \$4,698,000; New Brunswick, \$971,000; Nova Scotia, \$1,710,000. The Newfoundland comparison is probably not fair, because the ratio of surgeons to population is so much lower that that would account for a low rate of surgery. But the other comparisons, on the basis of the actual surgical rates in given procedures, are fair.

It raises the very important question: Can and should Ontario be saving significant amounts of money by an attempt to scrupulously audit and monitor excess or unnecessary operations performed in this province? I think we should and my caucus colleagues think we should. It may be that you think we should, but if you do, it means that the medical profession as a profession must be confronted head on with the reality of what is occurring. Because if we want to save several million dollars on the basis of a comparison with another province, or as much as \$29 million in a comparison with the States, or even more if we choose jurisdictions further afield, then it is absolutely vital that you confront the medical profession and that your confrontation with the medical profession doesn't consist solely of unnecessary operations but ranges over the whole field.

My colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Dukszta) had said, in his very recent presentation to you last week, and I quote:

Health care spending is controlled by doctors. Virtually every single service which the Ministry of Health budget pays for is accessible only through a doctor. Why then, to cut spending, are we only cutting hospital beds, public health labs and psychiatric services?

The question, it seems to me is unanswerable. The question is unanswerable. So we would wish to cut services by using the private labs; we would wish to cut costs by using the reduction in unnecessary operations and we provide for the minister the following:

[4:15]

A careful examination of the excess in the major teaching hospitals; a scrupulous review of the teaching hospitals and the way the money is being used rather than the smaller community hospitals. We commend to the minister, second, a whole assessment of the specialist concentration in Ontario, because specialists who emerge through tertiary care

teaching hospital facilities perpetuate the syndrome endlessly and invariably the costs are higher than they need be. That requires, again, a confrontation of all the health care deliveries which the minister has not been prepared to make.

We ask the minister to take a look at the nurse practitioner and paramedical personnel, independent of their subordination to the medical profession and particularly the surgical profession, in order to see where costs can be cut. We suggest to you home care and community clinics, which are hardly off the ground. Ontario has not experimented seriously in one-day surgery or in day care for those not requiring 24-hour care.

Ontario has not made a serious effort to control drug reactions in hospital, which eat up an enormous number of hospital days and may be as unnecessary with more scrupulous supervision as are unnecessary operations. We ask you to review the whole of the fee-for-service argument and, naturally, to effect that range of chronic and convalescent care facilities which will take the pressure off active treatment beds and lower costs.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, what we're saying is, take on the whole health delivery system. Don't just eat away at the most vulnerable edges in community hospitals and ward and bed cutbacks. Don't throw 5,000 people out of work on to the unemployment insurance rolls in the name of cost saving, because it will not wash and it makes no sense and it's positively cruel to boot.

We're saying to the minister, call the medical profession in and talk to them and deal with them. I've always felt that if that was ever done in a serious way they might help greatly in rationalizing the health care delivery system in Ontario. What we're really saying to the minister, in brief, is that he is dealing with a massive system purely by way of trivia in a fashion that is destructive and harmful. If we have a health care delivery system which needs alteration then for God's sake deal with the fundamentals of the system; deal with the profession; reduce the costs dramatically and stop throwing people out of work and closing down hospitals illegitimately.

Although the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) has taken his leave he's a man who, like the Minister of Health, tends to run to excess on certain things. This is what's interesting about the Tory party—if I can be provided an aside, and I guess I can because I'm speaking. I don't really understand why it's kind of out of control. I don't understand why it takes a

position and then drives it past the point of no return.

I just don't understand why it is not possible any longer to deal in the realm of reason rather than the realm of irrationality. And when the Tories take hold of something they tend to run to excess and health care has moved to services to people, where they are reducing services, frontally, in what can only be described as a welfare-bashing technique. They're handling it with the same arbitrariness and unilateral behaviour as health. I noticed over the weekend the Premier (Mr. Davis) was trying to explain to some young Tories that the Minister of Community and Social Services wasn't really understood. I should say the minister is obtuse and incomprehensible, and those are words used with affection.

I must say to the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), who is here handling the front row in the absence of the Premier for the moment, that I don't particularly want to extricate the Minister of Community and Social Services from the trenches where he is fighting his personal war against services to people. Some day the minister is going to be able to tell us where that 5.5 per cent figure came from—what tree he plucked it from. His revenues are going to be 15.7 per cent up in the next fiscal year. His budget is going to be 10 per cent up. The municipalities are going to get 8.1 per cent. He is providing 5.5 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Some day you are going to be interested in the facts, instead of political posturing.

Mr. Lewis: That is not fact?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will provide you with facts if you want to ask me questions.

Mr. Lewis: I will provide the minister with facts as we go along—and then he can refute them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: The minister's 5.5 per cent increase has been applied most damagingly to the most vulnerable areas. And in its own way, the single most vulnerable area, if I may say, are the Children's Aid Societies—and the minister is really quite something. He never really changes his position. He only pretends to change his position by that phenomenal embroidering of language; that discursive use of words which tries to convey something slightly different to everyone who hears—and usually does. But does he recall his statement on Feb. 16 last? He said under Children's Aid

Societies: "In this area it is anticipated that all societies can live within the guidelines." He then went on and said that it isn't understandable why the Metro Children's Aid Societies cannot live within the guidelines when others can.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Read the rest of it.

Mr. Lewis: Well, that's a fair interpretation. The minister then went on to mention section 8 of the Training Schools Act, and—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: "And that no persons," etc.

Mr. Lewis: And that no person, etc., would be damaged.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Would suffer—and they won't.

Mr. Lewis: He said that every Children's Aid Society can live within the 5.5 per cent. Then when he was under public pressure, and he spoke to the Catholic Children's Aid Society, he said that maybe he would have to provide special support for the society.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I said consistently for two months that I was seeking additional funding.

Mr. Lewis: Sure, you said that if you got some more money from section 8. And then the Toronto Star goes to you and you got a story on Saturday which says: "No Change On Ceilings: Taylor." Your picture is there too—yes, an excellent picture. It says—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not a bad one, either.

Mr. Lewis: "—James Taylor, Social Services Minister, yesterday angrily denied he has altered his stand on provincial spending ceilings for Children's Aid Societies." Is that correct? Did you angrily deny it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am never angered.

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Bounsall: Did you deny it?

An hon. member: Did you happily deny it?

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact—

Mr. Foulds: Hysterical but never angry.

Mr. Lewis: —you said it is "bloody nonsense" to suggest that you were intimidated into reducing the ceilings. "Bloody nonsense." If that is not anger, it is at least petulance—and it speaks a lot of the way you have been handling this issue.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I had you in mind at the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if the hon. member would speak through the Chair. Thank you.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I am speaking through the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is that no one can trust what the minister is doing in the area of services to people. No one can trust what he is doing in that area. The 5.5 per cent limitation is obviously going to be upheld; he may provide some few additional dollars under the Training Schools Act. We'll wait and see how his meeting with the Metro Toronto Children's Aid Society tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. works out. We will wait to hear the reports on that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There will be sensitivity and compassion.

Mr. Lewis: But it may be said, Mr. Speaker, that any minister—I wish I could pick up all those interjections so they would be enshrined in Hansard rather than lost to eternity.

Mr. Nixon: That is somebody else's responsibility.

Mr. Bullbrook: We can and you are not missing anything.

Mr. Lewis: Can you pick them up? Thank you.

Mr. Bullbrook: He should really sit back and quietly squirm.

Mr. Lewis: All right. The damage that is being done by this minister and his ministry to services to people across the province can't really be described adequately, but it continues day in and day out, and it's based on bad faith and outright political dishonesty—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: —not attributable to any one person but attributable to the character and conduct of the negotiations.

I want to read the minister something for the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society which the minister sent to them on Dec. 16, 1975, and it picks up in a discussion we were having in the Legislature at question period a couple of days ago. He said:

The report of the child welfare review committee on the 1975 estimates of the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan To-

ronto was submitted to me by W. R. McMurtry, QC on Nov. 28, 1975.

I have now had an opportunity to review the report in detail and I wish to advise you that I'm accepting the recommendations of the committee, which in monetary terms amount to \$19,431,000, and to recommend to Management Board the approval of your gross estimate to the amount of \$19,431,000.

The minister recommended it to Management Board based on Bill McMurtry's report. Then he goes on in the very next paragraph and says:

In making the decision outlined above I must advise you that we have continued concerns about the 1975 growth rate of the Metro Children's Aid Society and its effect on child welfare expenditures across the province and I have therefore directed that the guidelines for 1976 growth in child welfare are to be applied to your agency on the basis of the ministry's original recommendation to approve your 1975 estimate at \$19,006,000.

In other words, you recommend to Management Board, on the basis of a review chaired by none other than Bill McMurtry and signed by the majority, the figure of \$19,431,000 and you say that an increase will be based on \$19,006,000. Do you know what that is? That's gross bad taste. That's what it is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is what you say.

Mr. Lewis: It is utter, unrelieved irresponsibility. It is very, very depressing in some ways. I just can't imagine the way the minister operates. But clearly there is something wrong with his ministry, at its soul, in the fashion in which it is dealing with these various Children's Aid Societies.

I want to say to the minister that I met with the board and senior staff of the Metro Toronto Children's Aid Society some time last week—I can't remember the day—or the week before. When they had set out for me and my research colleagues the kind of cost-cutting they would have to experience, courtesy of you, I honestly felt like coming into the Legislature—I know this sounds peculiar—I felt like coming to see the Premier and saying: "Look, if you want your bloody majority, take it, but for God's sake stop doing what you are doing to services to people, because it makes no sense at all."

The minister is just dismantling social services all over this province, their infrastructure of preventive services, which all of us have developed over the years, including some of

his predecessors, with whom we disagreed, including the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Brunelle), with whom we disagreed. This minister is in the process of doing more damage to services to people, and particularly the Children's Aid Societies, in two or three short months than his colleagues did in the previous decade. What the devil is wrong with him anyway?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's nonsense and you know it.

Mr. Cassidy: It's not nonsense.

Mr. Lewis: Look at the consequences of what the minister is doing for the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society, to whom by the way, he is giving only a 1.3 per cent increase; they'll be lucky to get up to 5.5 from him. But suppose they did get up to 5.5, suppose he gave them that much—and we'll wait tomorrow to see if he does—do you know what it means, Mr. Speaker? It means that they'll have to eliminate five group homes with five children in each. Who can look after them? Is his ministry personally going to look after them? It means that they have to reduce their child population in care by 35 to 40 children. What's going to happen to those kids? Where do they go? What conceivable sense does that make?

[4:30]

Mr. Wildman: They have to get a job.

Mr. Lewis: It means they have to close an admission and assessment facility. They reduced the staff at the York Cottage, two court positions are gone, additional staff of 101 positions are gone. And this is a society whose admission rate for teenagers—I'm working from memory—jumped from something like 430 to 780 or thereabouts, between 1974 and 1975. We have the most excruciatingly difficult and disturbed adolescent/child population coming into care we have ever laid eyes on. This is the society the minister is going to cut back, the 5.5 per cent? That will mean a substantial increase tomorrow morning to get them up to 5.5 per cent. What is the government doing in this field? Can I read to—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are dealing with it very sensitively.

Mr. Lewis: You are dealing with it with the sensitivity of lead boots. Can I read from the Children's Aid Society of Essex the effects of the provincial financial restraint? Let me just read it.

To meet the reduced budget we must:

1. Immediately stop placement of all children in treatment institutions to whom we pay a per diem.
2. Leave these children—we placed 62 children in such institutions in 1975—in inappropriate and damaging environments.
3. Remove at least 20 children from these treatment institutions by the end of June.
4. Return these children to inappropriate and damaging environments.
5. Pray [listen to this] that 5.5 per cent restraints on other social service programmes will not result in a sudden increase in the number of children having to come into our care.

Do members know what it means for the Kingston Children's Aid Society? It means that in Kingston, they are reducing the food budget for the adolescents in the group homes by \$1 a day. Does that make sense to the minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If it doesn't make sense to you, you know it—

Mr. Lewis: I know it doesn't make sense to me.

Mr. Bounsall: Disturbed children will not be treated; they will have no place to go.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if the hon. Leader of the Opposition would direct his remarks through the Chair please?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You know you are not interested in the facts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister please refrain from interjections.

Mr. Deans: That's very stupid of him.

Mr. Lewis: The hon. minister insists on saying I am not interested in the facts.

Mr. Cassidy: This guy is preposterous.

Mr. Lewis: I am giving him the statement—I have Xeroxed it—from the Children's Aid Society of Essex.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I know what they say.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, thanks very much! You just don't give a damn!

Mr. Cassidy: You don't give a damn, do you?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you put the young children up to writing to me?

Mr. Lewis: What was that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Are you putting the young children up to writing to me?

Mr. Lewis: Am I putting young children up to writing you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Are you?

Mr. Lewis: They are writing you letters?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Are you using the youngsters of the province—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: That's absurd!

Mr. Speaker: Order, could we get back to a proper debate here?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, first I have a question and then a comment.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: Who reads the letters to you? That's the first question. The second, through the Speaker to the minister, is: What is wrong—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You had better retract that. That is worse than being simple.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, so it is.

Mr. Foulds: You are worse than being simple.

Mr. Deans: You are the equivalent of being simple.

Mr. Wildman: It's a children's plot.

Mr. Lewis: Do you object? Did it ever occur to you—

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, can I just put it this way? Did it ever occur to the minister that some of the letters he is getting from some of the kids who are writing—I have seen none of them and I know nothing about it—did it ever occur to him that some of those kids might be writing out of genuine anxiety about themselves or their own support?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I understand exploitation of young people when I see it.

Mr. Lewis: Exploitation? Letters to the minister from kids is exploitation, is it? The ministry—that's what makes me want to put these things on the record because as I am standing here, and I think everybody on the opposition side understands this, the minister is not going to give on this one. He is going

to hammer these societies into submission and damn the consequences. At least the consequences have to be known.

In the case of the Kingston Children's Aid Society it means \$1 a day reduction in the food for the kids in the group homes.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No one is going to suffer and you know it.

Mr. Lewis: They are now getting—just for information—\$2.98 a day for food. They will be down to \$1.98. It means that already one ward over 16 was refused dental treatment and a decision has been made that a child requiring orthodontic work will have to wait. It means that the camp will have to be closed. It means that the special professional foster homes will be reduced from six or seven to two or three.

Let me tell members about a case in Kingston this week that has to do with a young 14-year-old girl, pregnant and involved in drugs, who continually runs away from foster homes. She was found last week and placed in the family court temporary holding centre. There was an opening in a treatment home but it costs \$29.50 a day.

The Children's Aid Society didn't feel it could afford it and there is no place under the Children's Mental Health Centres Act, so she is to be returned to another foster home from where she will invariably run again.

Let me tell the minister about Lambton county, which wrote to him in February, 1976, and said:

We can see no way of cutting back to the arbitrary level set by your ministry without decimating our service to the community.

They are nowhere near the 5.5 per cent, but they can't come anywhere near that without decimating their service.

Once again, we would reiterate that there has been no fat to cut in the society's budget. For many years we have operated with one of the—

Mr. Bullbrook: They had a \$65,000 deficit last year.

Mr. Lewis: A \$65,000 deficit last year. Right. They said:

This was detailed in our brief to your department in the spring of 1975. Even then we were understaffed by a figure of some six workers. On top of this, we informed you at that time that Lambton county was facing a massive population

expansion due to the construction of several huge chemical plants. This in fact is now under way.

They go on and on and on as to the increase in numbers.

Our present budget is based on continuance of the current number of children in care and allows for no increase due to population explosion. This is highly unrealistic. For several years we have been developing—

I want the minister to listen to this paragraph because this speaks directly to everything they are putting.

For several years we have been developing a basic preventive programme using a combination of ministry and outside funds. Due to your cutbacks and the termination of federal government programmes, we now must eliminate this programme almost entirely for 1976. In order to reach the 105.5 per cent of the 1975 approved estimate level, there are only two cost areas which could be cut—children in care and staff. To attain the necessary further savings of \$63,000, we would have to discharge at least 31 of our current children in care for a full six-month period.

You know, they say that they will be engaged in constant contravention of the Child Welfare Act.

Does the minister know what it means for Kenora?

Kenora has what it calls its insanity list; that's how it's known in the Children's Aid Society. For Kenora to come anywhere near the minister's constraints, the "insanity list" means closing all those group homes, dismissing five staff, closing two full-time and two part-time offices, decreasing foster home payments, no staff salary increases and they are already at a caseload of 42 to one.

Does the minister know what it means to the society in Kapuskasing, in the riding of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle), which serves an area of 100,000 square miles with 13 social workers and five group home workers? Let me tell him what it means. It means a staff reduction of 6.5, dropping a planned group home for treatment of adolescents, dropping all summer camp programmes, dropping all preventive programmes.

Does the minister want me to go on?

Society after society in this province is on the ropes. They are on the ropes at 10 per cent, at 12 per cent and at 15 per cent,

because they are required by law to look after children that are sent for care. They have no opportunity. They can't do as the minister is doing, which is to break the law.

When the minister says to the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto that he will only pay 5.5 per cent more on the basis of general welfare assistance or other social allowances this year over last, he is breaking a contractual arrangement, as the lead editorial in the *Globe and Mail* pointed out to him. The Children's Aid Societies can't break a statutory obligation; they have to provide the services.

Whether it is Toronto or Ottawa—Ottawa is talking about needing to discharge 75 staff if they have to come back to 5.5 per cent and closing six special facilities with 36 beds.

Does the minister understand what he is doing? He is engendering fear and uncertainty in preventive services right across Ontario. He is acting as though there is no tomorrow. His statements are confusing and contradictory. The societies have their backs against the wall. And when the minister's restraint programme operates at the expense of children—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It doesn't.

Mr. Lewis: —then it is not only wrong, but it is unbalanced.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It doesn't—and it won't. And you know it.

Mr. Lewis: It is unbalanced.

Mr. Warner: You don't care one iota.

Mr. Lewis: And so long as any of us in this party have anything to do with preventive services in the community, we will oppose the minister every step of the way on this 5.5 per cent cutback. We will fight him here in the Legislature. We will fight him in the presence of the societies. And if we have to, and with pleasure we will fight him on the hustings over it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Now you'll start to say something.

Mr. Lewis: I await the minister's reply and acquiesce in its logic and power.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: For once you're right.

Mr. Lewis: When the minister gets carried away, boy, he gets carried away. He breaks the law. The *Globe and Mail* has indicated he is breaking the law.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's nonsense.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, it isn't nonsense. My God man, it's in an editorial in the *Globe and Mail*. Therefore, it's true!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you believe everything you read?

Mr. Lewis: The Liberals are pathological about Claire Hoy. The minister is berserk about the *Globe and Mail*. I love the *Star*. It couldn't be better. When a person like the minister is let out alone, on the loose, as it were, without parental supervision, as the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) would wish it, and begins to embrace, in other words, forgiving the rhetorical spasms, the fetish of restraint as to dependency of the Conservative Party, it is carried too far.

Now it has been carried into what one columnist, I guess it was Norm Webster, called "welfare bashing." The minister and the Minister of Correctional Services collaborated to say things about social allowance recipients which were really profoundly unfair and destructive.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If they were unfair I wouldn't say them.

Mr. Martel: Vote-getting until they get in.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, and they were even stupid. The work-for-welfare proposition which played to every hardhat sentiment in Ontario—which we understand, and there is some gain to be had from that I know—is an attempt in combination with some other Tories to recapture public support for the Conservative Party. I suppose it's fair game, and God knows we've said it too, that if adult males receiving welfare can work and there's a job available, clearly they should. There's no question about that.

Nobody over here likes welfare abuse any more than the minister does. As a matter of fact, we feel so strongly about the way the programme was manhandled, and I'm about to point that out in a moment, that we'd really like to do something about cleaning up the way in which the whole categorical aid and general welfare assistance programme works. We have a particular philosophic commitment to this area. We don't like the way it is being handled by the minister and his associates.

Mr. Warner: Who is the government?

Mr. Lewis: What the minister has done, of course, is to malign a whole group of people and he didn't really know what he was talking about.

This fascinated some of us a good deal. We turned to those colleagues of ours in research and asked them to dig up some information on general welfare recipients because it's time we stopped talking generalities and started to talk particulars. There are a number of interesting things which, I must admit to the minister, I simply wasn't aware of. I want to put some of it on the record today.

The first, of course, is that it is possible to work out and tabulate the average monthly caseload in any given year from 1970 on. For 1974 and 1975, the tabulation can be done month by month, although the 1975 figures are available only up to June. There is, in fact, a figure division in the average caseload between employable and unemployable. That is very helpful. And in 1975, for what it's worth, amongst single males there were 8,700 employables and 7,500 unemployables for a total—I'm rounding off—of about 16,200. That, incidentally, was higher than the previous two years, although just about the same as 1971 and 1972.

[4:45]

The minister will recall a number of people were transferred from permanently unemployable to physically disabled under the GAINS programme—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I gave you all those figures.

Mr. Lewis: —but, by and large, we're still below what we were in 1971 and 1972. For single females, the employable figure in 1975 is 4,000, and the unemployable is 9,350 for a total roughly of 13,300. This is slightly higher than last year on a monthly average, but not disproportionately so. For a male family head the employable were 7,700, roughly, and the unemployable were 4,600, as an average month's caseload for 1975, for a total of 12,300. This incidentally is lower than 1970, 1971, and 1972 by a long shot, and not up all that much.

For the female family head, employable—these are interesting figures—1,120; unemployable, 14,014, for a total caseload of 15,134. This is a significant jump over previous years and shows the pressures against which single-parent families, woman-led, are now working.

The big question then becomes, having divided it into employables and unemployables, courtesy of your statistical method, how do we get information on the people involved? In our research group, Beatrice Schriever—I mention her name to you because I am going to ask her to be the person who looks at the files which you offered to show us in the Legislature—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I offered to show them to you, with the cognizance of the recipient, but no one else.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, I see. Oh, a caveat; I wondered about that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I can stand up to you.

Mr. Lewis: Can Beatrice come along?—just so that she can gain experience in this?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Only with the consent of—

Mr. Lewis: We'll get back to that in a moment. The minister talks so much gobbledy gook and hokum in this House it's almost indigestible.

But one of the things that we learned was as follows—I want to quote to the minister from the memo that was prepared for me because I think they described the frustrations perfectly.

Under "Profile of Recipients" he writes:

Information, either analytical or descriptive, about GWA recipients is hard to come by. Considering the many years during which the provincial government has ultimately been responsible for welfare, the bureaucratization of the system at the local level from the applicant's point of view, and the millions of dollars spent in social assistance, there is a remarkable paucity of survey material for us to analyse, and for the government to use for policy-planning purposes. I suspect this is an outgrowth of the attitude which says, "We begrudgingly will support these people, but there is nothing much which can be done to improve the situation—i.e., improve the people—so why bother collecting information?"

I wouldn't be surprised if the government were more scrupulous in maintaining records about expenditures on road construction.

I must say that I think he has probably hit it right on the head. When we looked for some information on the profile of these people, there is very little around. However, by a piece of extraordinary luck we fastened on something important, and that is the annual survey that the minister does in March of each year—my colleague from Sudbury East would know about it, my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who has been in this field, would know about it. I didn't realize it existed, nor that the figures for 1973 were all available. And someone

in the ministry, bless him or her, gave us the figures for 1975 as well, in their tentative—well, I guess they are in their final state now.

The profile of the general welfare recipient which emerges in your March data shows that the unemployable category is almost exclusively confined to two groups: Dependent mothers with children—those who are just divorced, just separated, just deserted, are on the way to family benefits, or in the process of reconciliation, but in a very vulnerable position and therefore clearly not appropriate for the work force—and ill health. In case you are interested in the statistical breakdown on ill health, so that one sees it isn't just some kind of frippery, let me tell you about it.

Out of the 17,000 surveyed, 4,000 had mental illness, 2,800 heart and blood disease, 1,900 defined specific illnesses, 1,600 digestive system diseases, 1,600 respiratory diseases, 1,482 diseases of bones and joints, 1,478 arthritis, 1,292 accidents resulting in disability. So clearly the unemployable so defined are in fact unemployable. And what does that leave us with? That leaves us with about 35 to 38 per cent of the general welfare recipients, both on the 1973 figures and on the 1975 figures, who are employable.

When you look at the 35 to 38 per cent who are employable, men and women, you find that about one-fifth of them cannot be immediately employed for reasons of temporary illness or emotional disturbance, alcoholism, things of that kind. But that 83.2 per cent are classified by the workers reporting to your ministry under the descriptive rubric, "inability to find employment." That's the characterization. "Inability to find employment."

Now, does the minister know what "inability to find employment" means in the simplest words? There just aren't any jobs. That's what it means. Let me go further. It may mean that somebody of low skills can't correspond to a high-skilled job. It may mean that they're in the wrong geographic location. It may mean that they have inadequate educational status. It may mean any one of 101 things, but it is a genuine characterization. The jobs aren't there or the suitability for the jobs isn't there.

Despite the discursive way in which these applications are tabulated, or these surveys are tabulated, this is filled out by people in the field making appraisals of the recipient and not by the recipients themselves. Do

the members want to know something else that's positively astonishing? In the entire range of service material, there is not a single case which was brought to our attention where someone was said to be receiving welfare for reasons of sloth or abuse, or simple ne'er-do-wellism. No one. There is no category in the whole survey which applies to such a group of people.

Because the minister challenged us to speak to municipal welfare officers across the province, we called Toronto, we called Ottawa, we called London, we called Frontenac-Addington, we called St. Catharines, and we called—there was one other as I recall—Hamilton. We called six municipalities, and it might interest the minister to know that those municipalities laughed at the proposition which he is bringing before the Legislature and that he is stating publicly. Why? The proposition is that there are a number of abusers out there who, if made to work will have to work. Why do they laugh? Because of all the comments from the material we compiled indicate those people are already being refused welfare if they refuse a job. And the minister is pulling a gigantic red herring across the scene. The fact of the matter is the minister has 83 per cent of the recipients who are employable, who simply cannot find jobs for whatever reason imaginable.

(Now, can I take a look at that for a moment; because, if in fact—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All you are saying is there isn't any abuse in the system.

Mr. Lewis: I am not saying there is no abuse. I'm saying that the abusers are already weeded out without the minister's gratuitous intervention. Does the minister know why he wants to intervene? Because he wants to fasten on a negligible group of people already being kicked out of the system by the welfare administrators around the province, who could save Ontario very little money—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then there is no need to tighten up the system.

Mr. Lewis: —because he doesn't want to deal with the real job of finding work for the people who want to work. And that's what this issue is about my friend. This issue isn't welfare, this issue is jobs. That's what it is.

Now, if one takes a look—and I'll send it over to the minister because it is really a fascinating graph—and I have it visually and I'll pass it to my colleague. If you take a look at the unemployables in Ontario, Mr.

Speaker, you will see that they remain static on a graph. If you take a look at the employables, you'll see that the graph relationship corresponds remarkably to the rises in the unemployment rates. That's what we are talking about. Does the minister know what he, the great saver, is costing Ontario? If, in fact, he was to do anything about the people who want to work and can't, this is what he'd save. For single males per month, he'd save \$1,235,000 based on present welfare payments; for single females, \$568,000; for family-head males, \$2,412,000; and for female family heads, \$351,000. He would save \$4.5 million a month, if he could take all those people off welfare and provide work for them that most of them would do.

Clearly, there's no panacea. Nobody can do that spontaneously or easily. It takes some time, but that's where the energy should be directed and that's exactly where the minister won't direct it. So, in Ontario we pay \$54 million a year for unemployed employables because we cannot create jobs for them or match their skills to jobs in the existing market.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that in January, 1976, there were 273,000 people unemployed in Ontario? Do you know that there were job vacancies of 19,800 recorded in the third quarter of 1975? Does the minister see the problem which his government has created? The issue isn't welfare; the issue is work; the issue is jobs; the issue is job-creative programmes. The Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) throws them out of work and this minister abuses them. Hydro cuts back—I'm pleased in many ways that it's happened—but of the 2,000 to 3,000 people who will lose jobs there are no alternatives to go to. It's a matter of job creation.

Barry Swadron, Conservative federal candidate, could tell you, based on his remarkable report, I guess, of 1971 or 1972, which my colleague, the member for Sudbury East, used in the Legislature often, the problem is the simple creation of jobs; it's not the question of the welfare recipient. Can I quote what he said in his report, just to remind the minister, since he's a leading federal Conservative?

There is good evidence that the greater numbers of employable welfare recipients are on public assistance because they cannot get a job, not because they do not want a job. We wish to make it clear that in our opinion deliberate avoidance of work by welfare recipients is not a major problem. Lack of jobs, involuntary unemployment, is the problem.

Mr. Warner: He doesn't understand it.

Mr. Martel: He thinks because they are out of work that they don't want to work.

Mr. Lewis: What is the government doing? Does it have a housing policy to create jobs? No. Does it have an environmental programme in order to create jobs? No. The government is cutting back on services to people which create jobs, yet what is the use of that? Do you know what you have, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The strongest economy in Canada, that's what we have.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: I am beginning to enjoy this and since I'm finishing tomorrow I have a good deal more to enjoy. You have in Ontario work activity projects. These are projects designed to deal with not just the hard-core unemployed but people who want to work and have some kind of disability by way of skill or occupation or education or whatever.

Let me tell the minister about the government's activity projects in Ontario. We've been following all this through. It really makes for fascinating and incredibly indicting stuff. It's 50 per cent funded under the Canada Assistance Plan. The government usually grabs everything that has a federal cost-sharing component.

Work activity is designed to provide work acculturation to hard-core unemployed. The director in your ministry expects us to have 17 projects this coming year. [I'm not sure it's your ministry.]

Last year 561 persons were served. A follow-up of graduates at three months after leaving revealed a surprising rate of rehabilitation; 34.5 per cent were gainfully employed; 11.8 per cent were in training and 11.8 per cent were living independently. In other words, over 50 per cent re-entered the work force and the province spent a grand total of \$578,000.

There's a commentary in Ontario. In Manitoba, the province spends \$1.5 million whose equivalent here would be \$12 million and they brought people back to work in large numbers. Now, the beauty of it is that we even have in Ontario—

[5:00]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What community are you talking about? There is only one work activity programme. There are all kinds of municipalities.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, the minister has the chutzpah to talk about the municipalities. Okay, let me go to the municipalities. How nice of him to lead to my next point with such a kind of cultured fluency.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I like to help if I can.

Mr. Lewis: The municipalities are engaged in these programmes. The Metropolitan Toronto municipality had 113 work activity participants surveyed in the first six months of 1975. You know what the basis for the survey was, Mr. Speaker? Let me read the quote:

In conformity with economic benefit guidelines established for the Management Board of Cabinet, government of Ontario, the total benefit to the community in dollars was \$271,914. The total expenditure on the programme was \$69,600. The cost benefits for six months was \$202,000. The net savings, per person, was \$1,789 a person.

And that study is just out—\$1,789 a person saved from the public purse because of a work activity project, measured not by the province but by the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Which we support.

Mr. Lewis: —but the government won't give more than \$563,000 in any given year. It prefers to spend \$4.5 million a month to keep people on welfare.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is not so.

Mr. Lewis: Well, of course it is so.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is not so and you know it.

Mr. Deans: You like to have people on welfare.

Mr. Lewis: I am giving you the exact fact. You like to have social welfare recipients. You haven't the faintest idea how to get them back to work.

Mr. Deans: You developed the programmes that locked them in.

Mr. Martel: You get headlines.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, you do get headlines for it.

Mr. Martel: You get headlines and that is the whole thing.

Mr. Lewis: I will admit that.

Mr. Martel: You gain headlines.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You do because of your distortions.

Mr. Martel: You destroy people but anything for power.

Mr. Lewis: I won't go into it any further except—

Mr. Cassidy: You are really unbelievable, aren't you?

Mr. Lewis: —except to say to you, as the minister, through the Chair, and maybe I had better turn my attention to the Chair since I will probably proceed a little more quickly that way, is simply this. The New Democratic Party as a party, Mr. Speaker, has no more use for, and would countenance even less sympathetically, illegitimate and unnecessary abuse of social allowances. We are committed to the social allowance programmes but we know that by virtue of the administration of welfare in municipalities across the province that those abuses are necessarily low now. What must be turned to is a job-creating programme which gets the other 80 per cent of the employables off the rolls, into the work force, earning money, paying taxes, providing a cost benefit for Ontario and stop the endless flow of welfare funds unnecessarily to which the minister, and him alone, is addicted. That's all I'm saying.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to pull together therefore the fundamental points that the entire restraint package is by no means a response—and if anybody wants to take a stretch or smoke or anything else, please go ahead, because I'll be here for a while. After all, we have been away for almost three months; I've got a lot of catching up to do, Mr. Speaker.

The entire restraint package is not a response to inflation. It's time we set that mythology to rest. The entire restraint programme is a response to debt—that is what it is—to the accumulated debt of this government and it is therefore frantic, reckless and self-serving. If you take a look at the economic indices from 1965 to 1975 you will find that from 1965 to 1970 the normal indicators increased only marginally, though extraordinary leaps in debt and in budget and in expenditures occurred in, if I may say it, the William Davis years and the comparison with Smith of the old tax committee is something to see. The government's response is cutbacks in areas which are damaging to people, uncreative and often illusory. Its response is inflation and unemployment.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You keep pushing us to spend more money.

Mr. Foulds: Go back to your cage, Mr. Taylor.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What do you want to do, increase the debt?

Mr. Lewis: Worse still, even though we've showed the government where we can save money in health, even though we've showed it where it can create jobs and save money in welfare services, still, it has, or the Treasurer has, the incorrigible brass to raise taxes—the property tax, primarily, perhaps others as well—by up to 20 per cent, in what can only be described as a desperate clutch for political survival.

As I said at the outset, I've now seen some figures which make me understand that political survival is not around the corner for the Tory party. They are in more trouble than I ever thought they were.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe that.

Mr. Lewis: Believe me, I believe it. I am one of the greatest pessimists politically that the minister has ever come across.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe what you are saying.

Mr. Lewis: The question is, will the government pull off this amalgam of property tax increases on the one hand and absurd and self-defeating expenditures on the other and a lot of unhappy human consequences as well? I doubt it. There is still profound mistrust and skepticism in the Conservative Party across Ontario. Its theme may be attractive but the government is not. It's as simple as that.

These are really matters which are more appropriate to the budget debate and I'm leaving them to my colleague to enter into in the budget debate. But we feel, over the next few weeks, that we can continue to document alternate areas of restraint, previous mismanagement, sensible cost benefit savings and a much improved tax mix.

One of the other things we've had a chance to do over the last few months is an assessment and an analysis of every single tax in Ontario, tax by tax. When the budget comes we think we are going to be able to show the government, as a responsible opposition, the kinds of tax mix in Ontario which doesn't have to touch income tax or sales tax or OHIP premiums or any of the other things the government has been raising in the past, but can deal in both sectors which will restore

equity to the tax system—like resource taxation, corporate tax, the plugging of certain loopholes in exemptions we've provided, capital gains—a scrupulous appraisal, tax by tax.

In other words I must say, Mr. Speaker, speaking personally just between the two of us, that what I'm becoming increasingly comfortable about—and that's why I'm glad the session is back in session—is our capacity to make a useful critique of the government's policy, to point out its weaknesses, to continue to provide the alternatives and to do so in a way which embraces a pretty efficient style of governing or managing Ontario's economy and also a creative use of alternate tax revenue. So that the legitimate increases for social service expenditures or public transit or police, when you are dealing with the vexing problem of municipalities, as I said will probably be highlighted in the budget.

When you're dealing with those things, they need no longer hang us up. Ontario has within it, if it deals with it honourably, a capacity to budget itself in a way which makes sense and to appeal to alternate sources in a way which makes sense. The more work we do and the more material we put together, the more confident I am that we're going to be able to go to the people of this province whenever that happens—this year or next or the year after—with a programme and an alternative which is really quite substantial and need not in any way be defensive.

The restraint programme, we feel, is wrong in its choice of priorities and crude in its implementation. There is enough in all I've outlined—and I admit I've taken time—we think, to defeat a government. But there is in fact, much, much more, because there is another whole field which I shall deal with very briefly since I understand and can see that I've gone on at length and time is running out.

Those people over there have failed to respond to the issues which were raised in the campaign of 1975. I want to remind them that not only will we take them on on their grounds, but we're going to take them on on our grounds as well. I want them to know that. We are going to re-establish our grounds in no uncertain terms and I want to give you a flavour of what is meant—my colleagues, in their own gentle way, saying, "the sooner the better."

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You lose on your own ground.

Mr. Lewis: The first area—I am just trying to introduce a note of caution among the enthusiasts, Mr. Speaker.

The first area, and I want to come back because there are only two I am going to discuss as exemplifications of this government's total delinquency in the last few months since September and it appears not to have learned any lesson. The first area is agriculture.

I have never seen a man more vexed or paranoid or distressed or concerned than the Premier about that 26 acres an hour figure. If I had known that it would give him so much discomfort, I would never have used it. I would never have used it. I would have said 25, 27, almost anything else, but certainly not the figure which has him—

Hon. W. Newman: Anything else but the right figures, right?

Mr. Lewis: Oh, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is here; well I am definitely going on into the evening then.

Mr. Samis: You arouse us over here, Bill.

Mr. Lewis: The Premier and the minister have extreme irritation about the impact of that figure. They wanted to dispute it directly but they didn't know how to go about it; they didn't know how to dispute it. So they came at it in two different ways.

First they said: "What we are really talking about is productivity on existing improved land. What you don't understand, you New Democrats, is that productivity is increasing so fast that it's really nothing to worry about." That is the first avenue of attack; the Premier used that on the great debate we had together.

The second avenue of the attack was: "Why, you scoundrels you. The 26 acres an hour may be going out of production but it is not going out as concrete. It just lies there fallow and yearning to be ploughed and one day we will restore it."

Mr. Wildman: If you can get around to some of this land.

Mr. Lewis: "We will restore it so don't pretend it is really a loss."

Hon. W. Newman: You have been up to Guelph for a week. You have been up there a week talking to our people, now you must know—

Mr. Lewis: My people; I haven't talked to your people!

Hon. W. Newman: Your research people have been up there. You must know the true facts so why don't you look at them squarely?

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean our research people have been up there? Can you be a little more specific in your allegations?

Hon. W. Newman: Come on, you know the true facts, so don't take advantage of me.

Mr. Lewis: I'll get to where our research people have been in just a moment if you will just hold—

Mr. Wildman: Hold your horses.

Mr. Lewis: —hold your horses for a second.

What the government requires, however, is policy not argument. Every time it turns around the position of the Tories is dealt another blow because it really doesn't have logic or persuasion or arguments on its side.

The most recent blow, as my colleague from York South never tires of pointing out, was handed the government by the Ontario agrologists who have put out "Food, Land: Preservation or Starvation?"—and it actually emerged after the election campaign. That's pretty high-powered stuff. The group of agrologists includes Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food people; they have tremendous representation.

Hon. W. Newman: I am a member too.

Mr. Lewis: The minister is a member too? That kind of tears it, Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances I cannot be sure of the figures I am about to read. Nonetheless, I want to quote to you from pages 13 and 14 of the agrologists' booklet dealing with Ontario land and food needs:

The area of improved farm land in the province has declined by 2.5 million acres in the past 30 years. Even more striking is the fact that almost half of this decline, 1.2 million acres, took place in the last five years of the period 1966 to 1971.

This means that an average of some 200,000 acres of improved farmland per year went out of food production during that period and the trend continues.

Earlier it was estimated for our Canadian standards that [listen to this, Mr. Minister] even with an increase in productivity of 70 per cent over the next 25 years, we would require an average of one acre per person to feed our population. This would mean a requirement of 12

million acres for food production to feed the Ontario population by 2000 A.D. There were only 10.9 million acres of improved land in 1971 and in the ensuing four years this has probably been reduced to a little more than 10 million acres at the present time.

They accept our interpretation of the improved farm land going out of production.
[5:15]

Hon. W. Newman: Let's make sure the facts are right.

Mr Wildman: The rest is going up in poplar bush.

Mr. Lewis: Our facts are always right. It merely depends who witnesses them. At this point in time I would like to interpret them. They correspond exactly to what the agrolists have been saying in their studies. Their point is a powerful one.

It is essential to restore two million acres of crop land which has been going out of production and it must be done by the year 2000. The ministry people, and the governments, are scurrying around frantically trying to repute the 26 acres. The minister has a UDI report which says 13 acres. The ministry is looking at it now and has some field workers looking at possible land appraisals. There have been a couple of aerial surveys of interest to the minister.

Hon. W. Newman: Have there?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, there have. I have never seen so much frantic scrambling to fix on an acreage figure which doesn't suit the opposition.

[Let me give three examples we recently happened upon which speak to the case we have been making. They were interesting to me and I think they probably will be of interest to the minister because it is his ministry and I know he is concerned. I have had an opportunity, probably for the first time in my political life, to start spending time at the Ontario Agricultural College, and particularly at the soil science centre.

Hon. W. Newman: Great, maybe you will learn something.

Mr. Lewis: As matter of fact, maybe I will learn something. I am about to reveal some of the things I have learned.

Mr. Bain: The Leader of the Opposition is willing to learn, the minister is not.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, I spent a couple of hours touring and a number of

hours in discussion. Our own research group made return visits and pulled material together.

It's interesting to me that a similar kind of intense study visit has not been carried out by cabinet ministers before. I would heartily recommend it; the soil research group are an incredible fund of information. They do all of the best stuff in the province. They have Agriculture Canada there as well.

When we were there we wandered up to the third floor where Agriculture Canada was doing its latest survey; lo and behold, we stumbled on a new soil analysis for the Townsend site at Haldimand-Norfolk. I was really fascinated. The ministry has had the soil analysis for some little time. What the analysis showed, and this is instructive, was that the Canada Land Inventory, at full valuation in Ontario, was simply not worth very much. In the notes on agriculture produced in centennial year—and which were reproduced in November of 1975—Ed McIntosh points out in an article called "The Role of Physical Resources in Rural Land Use Planning," and I quote:

It is not impossible, for example, to make decisions concerning 100 to 200-acre parcels of land from the Canadian land inventory maps. These maps have been generally published to the scale of one to 250,000 and do not show individual parcels of land less than about 600 acres in size.

I must admit I hadn't realized how out of kilter the Canada Land Inventory maps were, because the land inventory maps for Haldimand-Norfolk done in 1928 showed there was only seven per cent class 1 agricultural land in the Townsend site. The new soil testing, 1974-1975, showed 37 per cent of the land for the Townsend site is class 1 agricultural land.

I want to tell you that the people at the Ontario Agricultural College are heart broken about what is happening in Haldimand-Norfolk, because it now looks as though we will lose 50,000 acres directly to the economic expansion and industrial corridor which we have unleashed. The vast proportion of it is absolutely first rate class 1 and class 2 agricultural land; and the class 1 land is on a basis and in proportions and percentages we never realized.

Mr. Laughren: Can you justify that?

Mr. Lewis: They have produced a map suggesting certain counties or regions of southern Ontario are urgently in need of re-surveying. They have Kent, Elgin, Norfolk, Haldimand, Welland, Metropolitan Toronto

area and Durham so designated. They don't have the money. They've got two pedologists on staff. They'll have it all done, at present rate, by 1987.

They also told us while we were there that there had been a study by the Soil Institute in Ottawa of 8,000 acres of Gloucester and Nepean townships, which acreage encompassed both part of Carlsbad Springs and part of the private development. When they did the recent soil testing they found that the Carlsbad Springs project, government-owned, is all low-class land, likely unfit for agricultural use. They found that the private land is 35 per cent class 1, class 2 agricultural land, and that's the land the government has designated for urban and suburban expansion. Again they were just confounded by the absurdity of the government's position.

They've done something else at the Soil Sciences Centre in Guelph, a more fascinating place I've not spent time at. They took a Ministry of Transportation and Communications map—really a TEIGA map—for 1964, for the Golden Horseshoe area. They superimposed upon it a 1974 TEIGA growth map, and they overlaid on that the Canada Land Inventory soil map.

They found—let me give you the exact figures, I think I can remember them—they found that in the period of 10 years they had lost 94,500 acres of land in the Golden Horseshoe alone—that's between 1964 and 1974—94 per cent of which was class 1 to class 3 land.

Can you believe it?

And then, because those maps don't deal with strip development, they realized they should probably double the figure, because in fact it doesn't even include areas like Malton in the survey.

So in fact, based on the new soil testing in Haldimand-Norfolk, the new soil testing in Ottawa and the transposition of the Canada land inventory maps, which are not refined sufficiently and don't show as much as they should, on the whole Golden Horseshoe area, we are losing agricultural land in this province at a breathtaking rate. What it also shows is that it's not just good, improved crop land going out of production, it shows that some of it is in fact going under concrete, to be irreparably lost.

They've done some other things which I will save for another time on Markham, Pickering and Oakville; a comparison of land values, speculative control, some of the implications for other counties, which show similarly jarring trends. When we take to-

gether all that the Canada Land Inventory, Agriculture Canada and the pedologists have done, and look at the various research papers, then one has to come back to what the agrol-ogists say right at the beginning of their study. I read it and I agree with it:

That the government of Ontario, within the next year, pass legislation designating class 1, 2, 3 and special crop land as food land or land for agricultural production, and reserving such land for present or future production of food. The institute recognizes some occasions may arise where use of some food lands for other purposes can be justified; however, it recommends that other potential users be required to prove their need cannot be met by use of other land; and further, that where at all feasible, they be required to use the poorer classes of food land.

I repeat it because it is a position to which this party gives complete adherence; and if the day ever came when we could do anything about it this is the position that would be taken: That the government of Ontario, within the next year, pass legislation designating class 1, 2, 3 and special crop land as food land, and reserving it for present or future production of food.

Hon. W. Newman: You are saying you would freeze all?

Mr. Lewis: You used the word, perish the thought.

Hon. W. Newman: You said you would freeze it.

Mr. Lewis: Because this agricultural land business, this has a very important impact on Ontario and on the farmers.

Hon. W. Newman: You bet it does; and you're playing around with the figures too.

Mr. Lewis: Never mind; I bet it does too. If the minister does that, in conjunction with a farm income stabilization plan; and let us say with an agricultural land bank in Ontario which allows farmers to sell at the point at which they want to retire—they want to make a reasonable income, their retirement income—and then lease it back in much the fashion that ARDA has been doing for years; in other words principles that are perfectly consonant with Ontario growth but which preserve agricultural land.

We say to the minister, through the Speaker, he had his chance in the election of September, 1975, to come to grips with agricultural land. He flubbed it then, he has flubbed

it now, and we will confront him in the next round on the same issue until he does something about it.

Hon. W. Newman: I will look forward to that.

Mr. Moffatt: Was it 115 votes last time?

Mr. Lewis: That leads me in a natural way to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller).

Mr. Martel: Back to Frank.

Mr. Lewis: There is a certain logic in all of that which the minister sees even if others are unable to discern it, right?

Mr. Eakins: You are a favourite, Frank.

Mr. Lewis: One of the other matters which was raised during the election campaign in 1975 and never had sufficient attention paid to it was the whole question of occupational and industrial health and the working environment. I thought we might have made some impact; I see we haven't.

The minister talks about political motivation when he deals with some of his responses to the media; I want to talk about some of the realities. I was really surprised and disconcerted when I realized that United Asbestos at Matachewan simply seemed to be a repeat of all the follies of the past and, therefore, to the minister through the Speaker, I simply don't understand it.

Rajhans is the best man the minister has on staff—the man who made the tests—and his report was virtually ignored. The question has to be asked: Why? Rajhans' report was not posted. The question has to be asked: Why? There was no recheck of the readings, despite the fact that five months lapsed and Rajhans asked for it. The question has to be asked: Why?

There is still no clear authority line among Health and the other ministries. The question has to be asked: Why? There was no serious cleanup in that Matachewan plant until March 4—or the weekend before March 4—when, in order to proceed with new tests on the Thursday, the cleanup took place between midnight Friday and midnight Monday.

I don't understand how these various ministries are behaving. More accurately, I don't understand why the Ministry of Health is prepared to put up with or to tolerate the Ministry of Natural Resources in its perverse and often criminal behaviour about the health and safety of workers.

I want to tell the minister, through the Speaker, that United Asbestos Co. doesn't have a good reputation as a company. When

he released that file to the media, not only was there a lot of fascinating material in it about the state of the plant of United Asbestos at Matachewan, there was also, let it be said, fascinating material from the Ministry of the Environment showing that somehow the asbestos fibres in the air had carried six miles in the wind to descend on the temporary work camp of the employees.

I am sending to the minister, across the floor of the House, three pictures taken at approximately the time that Rajhans visited United Asbestos; they were given to my colleague from Sudbury East. The minister is not going to believe these pictures but they show the asbestos fibres pouring out of the conveyor belt, supposedly wetted for the tailings down below. They are just pouring out like some kind of gale, travelling downstream to where the temporary work camp was located. I would like him to see these pictures for himself because he will find it hard to believe them.

[5:30]

Just one second. I also want to send across to him pictures from the Northern Daily News of March 3, 1976—showing the conditions inside the plant after the issue broke—which the workers themselves took when they visited that plant. I just can't believe it. It is impossible to believe that such working conditions would exist; that you have asbestos physically piled up around the pilings in the plant, covering the bottoms of ladders, littered everywhere on the floor—and I gather the reproduction of these photos is hardly good enough to show what was really true of the originals.

So in the one instance you had it pouring out into the air, in the other instance you have it inside the plant; and we are told somehow that it is not dangerous. I'll come to that in a moment. Let me send the pictures over to the minister to take a good look at. He's over there in the corner.

Mr. Martel: That's where he belongs.

Mr. Foulds: Reeling from the blows.

Mr. Lewis: No, the minister doesn't reel from blows. He invites them and loves them. He adores blows, in whatever form.

Mr. Martel: Even snowballs.

Mr. Lewis: I suggest he see the film "Swept Away"; it will give him a full sense of the extremities of masochism, political or otherwise.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that the hazards of asbestos are better and better known, and

I don't understand how all of this is happening.

Last Friday morning I appeared on a panel with Dr. Fitch of the occupational health branch, Ministry of Health. I guess he is the assistant to the director now, is he?

I want to tell you, I was really quite disconcerted by that experience. Dr. Fitch said two things which really threw me a little. The first was that when they did X-rays and tests of workers they liked to give the information to the physicians because the workers might be disturbed by it or might not know how to handle it. It's that old medical elitism, and a lot of workers really find it offensive that the minister and the ministry and others should make assumptions about their health and be so blessed patronizing that the results can't be shared.

Dr. Fitch said something else that threw me; and that was that they don't post all the test results, particularly if some of them don't look too good or they are not sure of their quality. They like to retest and take them again. That is to say that things are posted selectively, in a way which becomes almost self serving even in the best hands.

Dr. Fitch is a very able man, he's obviously a master of his field; but the attitudes concern me. They particularly concern me when I hear that Dr. Ralph Robertson, who was at the Ontario Federation of Labour Conference on occupational health over this weekend and gave most of his lecture on—do you know what he gave most of his lecture on?—you won't believe which epidemiological study and disease he chose to analyse for the trade unionists who were there—scurvy. This minister is the best advised minister on scurvy in Canada. Dr. Ralph Robertson, who is head of his advisory occupational health institute, gave a lecture on scurvy to people who came trying to learn about environmental health.

I want to tell the minister, through the Speaker, I want to tell him, through the Chair—admittedly he said it was a long time ago, that it was a problem some time ago, he hadn't quite brought himself up to date—I want to tell the minister that his ministry has a big job on its hands, because he's got to deal with Natural Resources, and Natural Resources deals with no man.

That's the problem. So let me tell the minister, as briefly as I can, the saga of the Reeves Mine, because it speaks directly to United Asbestos.

United Asbestos opened in the fall. The Reeves Mine closed down in the spring. You

would think, by God, you would think there would be some control on United Asbestos after knowing what happened in the Reeves Mine.

Reeves ran for eight years. You remember that, Mr. Speaker. It opened in June of 1968 and was in full production by December, 1968. Monthly dust and fibre readings were carried out by a company ventilation engineer from January, 1969, to January, 1973. There is no explanation why they stopped at that time, although I am sure you recall that the plant itself closed down from about December, 1973, to October, 1974, for some major alteration of machinery and equipment and then kept going until April of 1975.

We couldn't get the readings. That aggravates me. I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, it aggravates me. We asked for them in the House; no one had them. I remember my colleague from Nickel Belt asking about a particular reading which he judged to be very high. The minister said yes, he thought the readings he had seen were in that range but he didn't have access to the material. I can remember trying to get my hands on the material and not being able to.

Then there came to us, during the course of the election campaign, the survey that was done in November, 1974, of the Reeves mine which showed the highest reading ever recorded in an asbestos mine in North America. Thank the Lord it was closed down in April, 1975.

Then when it's all over and it's closed down, Mr. Leo Bernier suddenly said: "Oh yes, we have the readings."

I didn't know we had the readings until I phoned Denver, Colorado, and spoke to the vice-president in charge of health and safety for Johns-Manville. I said I want those readings.

As a matter of fact I was pretty offensive about it. I was presumptuous in a way which doesn't appeal to me. I said to him there was a minority government in Ontario now. We'd had a shakeup in the relationship of the parties and I thought it would be very useful for Johns-Manville and everybody else if they started dealing squarely with the members of the Legislature and stopped dealing in duplicity and secretiveness behind the scenes.

He said: "Don't ask me. Those readings were taken every single month since 1968 and they're with the Ministry of Natural Resources." I said: "You've got to be kidding." He said: "No, they're with the Ministry of Natural Resources."

So Leo Bernier was asked about it in the House; and suddenly, just like the 18 years of readings at Elliot Lake, they are exhumed from the bowels of the Ministry of Natural Resources; and Linda Jolley again goes through this episodic study of hers, of dust results and fibre counts, which she seems to encounter from time to time.

I can't, in the period available, summarize everything, but I can do it best by going back to our good friend Rajhans.

On April 21, 1969, he toured that Reeves mine and he wrote a tough report what had to be done. He didn't go back until August 15, 1972. Let me tell you what Rajhans' report said on that date. This is from the Bernier file:

In general, the dust conditions are much worse than found on the previous occasion. [This was three years later.]

The housekeeping throughout the mill and crusher buildings was considered to be extremely poor, especially the fourth floor of the mill building where the dust on the floor was ankle deep.

None of the vacuum cleaner arrangements were working and this, perhaps, was the main cause of the poor housekeeping. I was amazed to see the amount of dry sweeping still being carried out in the mill building. In my last report, dated April 21, 1969, a comment had been made on the poor practice of dry sweeping. It appears that the company had paid no attention to my recommendation.

It was pointed out to me that the employees engaged in dry sweeping wore respirators and hence dry sweeping should not affect them. It should, however, be realized that no respirators, including the approved types, are 100 per cent efficient. In fact, most of them are only 50 to 60 per cent efficient for fibrous dust. The dust concentration could get extremely high and any respirator would be ineffective in highly concentrated dust clouds.

A comparison of the threshold limit value at two fibres per cc with the sampling results showed that all the results are higher than the TLV, with one result as high as 11 times the threshold limit value.

He talked about the samples taken in the crusher building being high. He talked about the exhaust system being broken down. He talked about the amount of dust accumulated under the belt conveyors. He talked about the exhausted air still recirculated in the mill building. He said, almost pointedly: "It

has to be understood by them that asbestos is far more hazardous than silica because silica does not induce neoplasms"—cancer.

His conclusion was:

No improvement in the dust condition has been made since my last visit in 1969. In fact, the conditions have become worse. There appears to be no concern among the company's officials about the deteriorating condition. This was pretty obvious from the poor maintenance of the exhaust system. It is my feeling that if the conditions are allowed to continue it would not be too long before a case of asbestos disease would develop. All the recommendations of my previous report, dated April 21, 1969, still apply.

I read it bitterly, because the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier), whether intentionally or unintentionally, has said time and again that things get better after start-up. You've heard him, Mr. Speaker; he said things get better after start-up, and that is a nonsensical statement if ever I heard one. People more unkind would call it an outright fabrication.

Things get worse in an asbestos mining and milling operation. In order to prove it to you on the basis of the Reeves Mines, let me point out to you, just taking readings in an average month, that in May of 1969, at start-up, the fibre counts in the Reeves mine were two fibres per cubic centimetre; in May of 1970 they had jumped to seven fibres per cubic centimetre; in May of 1971 to 8.3 fibres per cubic centimetre; in May of 1972 to 12.4 fibres per cubic centimetre; and November of 1974 to 14.7 fibres per cubic centimetre.

Those are averages, most of them in years when the threshold limit value was five fibres or two fibres. It was two fibres from August, 1972 on.

I want to ask a very simple question: What is the moral responsibility on the minister's government when the men who work at the Reeves mine were doing so under conditions everybody knew to be hazardous to human health, on the basis of figures in the ministry's possession? What happened? Where is the moral responsibility when those men contract asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma? And at the levels of exposure, 50 per cent of them are going to, in one form or another.

Every single study we have demonstrates it. I can't even begin to read to you some of the sampling.

I am going to send this to the minister, because Linda has set it out month by month, sample by sample. It's really worth noting that in 1970 readings in that plant were 27.5 fibres, 30 fibres, 44 fibres, 24, 40, 29, 41, 51, 46, 35, 43, 68, 60, 36, 27, 30. In 1972, they were 21, 46, 84, 34. In the first months of the new threshold limit value in June of 1972, 31 of the readings, or 91.1 per cent, were above the permissible level. Whose responsibility is it?

When I went to see Selikoff in New York, he said to me: "Ask them about criminal negligence. Sue them. Do something." How do you handle something like that? He said: "If you had a vat of sulphuric acid in a chemical plant marked 'dangerous' and you took off the danger sign and you replaced it with a sign which said 'wash here', and someone washed, would it be criminal negligence?"

"Of course it would be criminal negligence. And when people work in those conditions, with the full knowledge of what is at stake and the full complicity of the Ministry of Natural Resources, whose responsibility is it for what is going to happen about six or seven or eight years from now?"

Mr. Ferrier: What kind of people are you over there?

Mr. Lewis: I don't understand all of that. And I'll tell you what else all of this conveys to me, because I want to put it to the minister. It speaks strongly to the question of United Asbestos of Matachewan now. I wish I could document it.

There was a struggle. There was an undignified fight, from the early 1970s through to the closing of that plant in the spring of 1975, I say to the minister, through the Chair, there was an undignified fight between his occupational health branch and the Ministry of Natural Resources. They abuse each other in the correspondence, and the Ministry of Natural Resources refuses to pay attention to what the occupational health branch says.

When Rajhans informed the company that the threshold limit value was to come down to two fibres per cubic centimetre, nobody paid any attention. The company disputed it, and incredibly enough, the Ministry of Natural Resources disputed it. Though I hate to say so, Mr. Peter McCrodan, who is even now director of mines engineering, is the man whose record on this score is least enviable because he resisted it throughout, forever

reporting to Mr. Jewett, he of Rio Algom, now executive director, division of mines.

Interjection.

[5:45]

Mr. Lewis: The Health ministry couldn't get through to them; nobody would listen. I have the letter; I have the extract. Finally on Feb. 4, 1975, Dr. Tidey of your ministry wrote to Peter McCrodan in a kind of query—he was really put out—and he said,

Results of air sampling shall be compared with a threshold limit value of two fibres based on a count of fibres greater than five microns in length, and not with five fibres as the schedule suggests. We have adopted a TLV of the two fibres for some time now. The reasons have been explained in one of the reports referred to above. Rajhans' report back in 1972 explained why it had to be two. The limit was also adopted in 1972.

He goes on to say other things. He said:

In August, 1972, Mr. Rajhans revisited these mines for air sampling and ventilation survey. He showed all the results were above the threshold limit value. In view of the above facts I find the statement that you've made about the way it is measured [about five fibres per cubic centimeter] very interesting because of the fact that it took the company and your branch so long to come to this agreement.

"The company and your branch." If you would believe it, as late as Feb. 11, 1975, McCrodan was still writing to Jewett in a memo, "Management admitted that dust levels were above the threshold limit value of five fibres per cubic centimetre" when he knew that the threshold limit value had been two fibres per cubic centimetre for three years.

Finally, no less a person than the minister had to intervene. I have a letter the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) sent to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). It is a very formal letter and I don't blame him because I don't know how in the hell one gets through to those people.

Dear Mr. Bernier:

The occupational health protection branch of my ministry has been using a standard for asbestos in air of two fibres per cubic centimetre, greater than five microns in length. This has been in effect since 1972. [The letter to the hon. Minister of Natural Resources is dated Feb. 28, 1975.] Recent discussions within the branch have led, etc. . .

The above values have been mentioned in various reports and memoranda that have been passed to the mines division of your ministry in the past year.

Finally when the Minister of Health, in effect, said to his colleague, "You damn well comply," the Ministry of Natural Resources did something.

In the process, I remind him of the dust readings—for which occupational health was not responsible—for which the Ministry of Natural Resources was responsible. I remind him of the consequences he knows will occur and I plead with him to find the 800 to 1,000 workers who went through that mine and mill, exhume the nominal roles, track them down, begin to give them periodic X-rays and lung function tests and monitor them carefully, and watch the wives and children because they at least have to have a break.

Even if he reduces the malignancy pattern or asbestosis by 10 per cent, five per cent, one case, that's worth doing. Somebody has to keep after those men. Not a simple little survey to which they are invited but a scrupulous almost fanatic drive to locate them and deal with them medically because it is a combination of government ministries, with all the respect in the world, which is directly responsible for what's happened.

Mr. Ferrier: What kind of people are they over there?

Mr. Lewis: I can say to him therefore, about United Asbestos in Matachewan, don't be reassured by low fibre counts. Contrary to what the Minister of Natural Resources said, the fibre counts are low at the outset but they rise dramatically over time—terribly dramatically over time in an asbestos mining and milling operation.

We are also learning that a level of two is not adequate; the occupational health branch now recommends one fibre per cc. The scientists say 1/100 fibre per cc because they're learning that fibres shorter than five microns in length appear to lead to malignancies in the same fashion.

They are also learning that the dust count, heavy early on in a new mine and mill can be as damaging; and the dust counts, quite apart from the fibre counts, at Matachewan are obviously very high, judging from Rajhan's report and judging from the pictures the minister has in front of him.

I simply appeal to the minister, yet again, to overcome one of the most sordid sagas of indifference and negligence which this government has to its discredit. I think it has

been documented and that the material is there. I don't see why the minister, of all people, should have to put up with it for another minute. The minister has said he has an agreement or accord with the ministries of Health and Natural Resources and Labour. I plead with the minister and with Labour to sit on them. I don't know about natural resources, don't trust them. Nothing has been done since the middle 1950s in uranium or asbestos which hasn't compromised the lives and health of working people. Something has to be done about it.

Mr. Speaker, that was a subject which also followed from the 1975 campaign and which we will continue to pursue until it is removed as an area for debate. If it is removed as an area for debate, I will concede to it so happily you will be surprised at the speed with which it occurs.

If the colleague from Natural Resources really cleans up those operations and gives protection to the men in all of these hazardous environments, the Minister will never get a cavil from the New Democratic Party. We will be with the minister every step of the way. But, as long as the policies of the government endanger them we will be on the minister's back every day during this budget discussion.

There were a number of other issues in 1975 with which I don't want to deal, but my excellent and friendly colleagues will during the Throne Speech debate. There have been no initiatives in housing; there's been no decentralizing in a way which makes small communities feel better about Queen's Park. I am tired of speaking to the mayor of Smiths Falls one day, and the mayor of Sarnia the next, as they describe to me, often lucidly and persuasively, the bureaucracy and impenetrability of this monolith that calls itself a government. There is no feeling in northern or eastern Ontario, other than new tax exemptions for exploration, that the government is serious about doing anything for those communities.

The government has joined the federal government on wage and price guidelines but there has not been a single price rollback since Pierre Trudeau's Thanksgiving speech. The government has never intervened to protect the consumers of Ontario from price increases, whether it's automobile insurance, home insurance, the cost of lumber, or a number of other items which we will be introducing into the Legislature in the next number of weeks.

They are all, Mr. Speaker, unlimited grounds on which to oppose this government.

I will therefore, in approximately four minutes time, be moving an amendment of non-confidence. But, before I do, and very briefly, let me reflect on the question of an election which such an amendment implies and which I think must be faced.

Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party feels entirely philosophic about the question of an election; neither anxious to have one, nor at all hassled if we do. We will not engage, as I stated, in any unnecessary confrontation. We simply have deep differences of opinion with this government. We have not been able to persuade the government. It is therefore important for us to provide a sense of opposition and a sense of our alternatives. Some day that will be resolved in the election place. When it comes, it will come in its own good time. I think the government remains profoundly unpopular. It still represents only a minority view in Ontario.

I felt very confident speaking today. I have spoken too long, but I felt very confident speaking today because I think the current restraint programme is generally viewed as wrong in Ontario, even though the object may be viewed as right. I think the government's failure to deal with some other fields, which many of us dramatize time and time again, is seen as a failure by Ontario.

I have reason to believe today, as I did not last week, that the fortunes of the Conservative Party are on the decline, and that the fortunes of the New Democratic Party are a little better. In fact, I now understand a bit more readily why the Premier's profile has been quite as low as it has although presumably it will be rejuvenated on Wednesday.

We believe, as we look at this government being fashioned that the government should be more measured, more planned, more consultative, that you have to have, in Ontario, less upheaval, less provocation, less compensation, but somehow the government has forgotten, particularly where it concerns the smaller communities of this province, that they are reasonable communities and that the government is behaving unreasonably and that people intuit that. It is almost a process of osmosis. Everybody understands that the Tories went off the rails and they have not yet got themselves back on the rails and it is because of the arbitrariness, the sheer arbitrariness of it all. This government will never match Pierre Trudeau for cosmic insolence when it comes to the democratic process but they do pretty well as amateurs on their own

and that sense is everywhere woven into the body politic.

I also want to say to the government that we are not terribly worried about polarization in Ontario. If it wants to try it, it is welcome to it but we don't think it will work. We don't think it will work any better than we thought it would work when the Premier tried it before a Stanfield dinner and it bombed even amongst the faithful. If it is on to fight, on bashing the NDP, be our guests. We have a very strong feeling that there is enough vulnerability in this government, enough areas that we can point to and criticize and provide alternatives to, solutions for, enough alternatives to restraint on the one hand and additional revenues on the other, enough issues which are central to the life of Ontario that we can take it on. About all that we feel reasonably competent, not provocative but ready to deal with the issues one by one as they emerge in the Legislature and simply take the consequences, and, in that spirit, because of the matter of conviction, we must oppose what the government is doing and reform what it has not done.

Mr. Lewis moved that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor now before the Legislature be amended by adding thereto the following words:

But this Legislature regrets the inability of this government to meet its responsibility for necessary programmes as a result of the deterioration of the fiscal capacity of the province during successive Progressive Conservative governments;

And further, this Legislature regrets the failure of the government to provide, in the Speech from the Throne, any significant proposals to deal with the pressing problems of: (a) occupational health and the lack of adequate safeguards for the health and safety of workers; (b) need to preserve agricultural land; (c) move for a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity throughout the province and, in particular, to northern and eastern Ontario; (d) need for job creation to offset rising unemployment; (e) inadequate housing supply and rising mortgage interest rates;

And this Legislature, moreover, regrets the mismanagement of the government's restraint programme leading to: (a) the failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services especially as exemplified by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories; (b) the failure to respond adequately to financial needs for vital social services par-

ticularly as exemplified by the inadequate funding arrangements offered to Children's Aid Societies;

And further still, this Legislature is opposed to the endless burdening of Ontario taxpayers, exemplified both by the excessive increase in municipal property taxes, which will result directly from this government's policy, and by the additional concessions to the mining industry specifically set out in the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor.

Therefore, the government has lost the confidence of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I don't usually get that applause when I rise. Is it agreed to dispense with the reading of the full motion? Thank you.

Would the hon. member for Hamilton West care to move the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. S. Smith moved the adjournment of the debate.

Clerk of the House: The 20th order, House in committee of supply.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, March 15, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(continued)

On vote 2903:

Mr. Chairman: When we last discussed these estimates, I believe the hon. member for Welland had the floor.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I guess it's one of the penalties of not timing your remarks to conclude at the adjournment time that you must restart part way through the speech and make it rather disconnected. However, perhaps it is an advantage that you get the opportunity to repeat some of the things that you have said before. However, I had nearly concluded my remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I hope to do so very shortly.

On Friday I had pointed out, in speaking to the estimates on OHIP, that it was my considered opinion, and I think I can say the considered opinion of those of us who sit in this part of the House, that the dominant motives in the cutback programme, which were demonstrated better than anything else by the cutback in the public labs, were twofold on the part of the government.

One, it was posturing on restraint and, number two, it was an attempt—and I think a deliberate attempt—to destroy efficient public institutions for which the government of this province holds no brief. In support of those statements, I submitted some evidence to point out it was impossible to get detailed information from the ministry in support of closing of the public labs; that what was supplied was inconsistent and grossly inaccurate. I pointed out in the case of the closing of the public lab in St. Catharines, which operates on a total annual cost in this year of \$106,000, that they say they could save \$56,000 by closing that lab. That was a quote in a letter from the minister.

That means they intend to provide those services—you intend to provide those services, Mr. Minister—for the sum of \$50,000. I pointed out that the courier costs were

going to be \$14,000 alone and that the tests which would be farmed out to the private labs or perhaps elsewhere to be paid by OHIP would amount to another \$26,000. That is \$40,000 of the \$50,000 cost for these tests under the new system that is already spent before 90 per cent of the tests, or 75 per cent of the work load were provided for.

In other words, it leaves \$10,000 in the budget to do 75 per cent of the work load and 90 per cent of the tests. Even then we didn't account for the cost of moving the people who were employees in the lab to various parts of Ontario.

Of course, it is preposterous that this kind of saving can be made. It's preposterous that any saving could be made in the closing of the public lab in St. Catharines. I think, the other day we documented that. It is, in fact, going to cost substantially more to the citizens of the province to have the tests provided in the future than it has in the past because of the closing down of the public lab.

I didn't mention the human dimension in the closing down of that lab. Of course, it is a small lab, but there is a very real human dimension. There were seven employees in that lab. Of those, four have elected to go elsewhere in the province. One is going to Hamilton; one is going to Thunder Bay—as a matter of fact, she is already there and, with all due respect to my colleague from Thunder Bay, she is terribly dissatisfied and thinking of quitting already and returning to the Niagara region. Of course, if you live in the Niagara region for some period of time you would realize how difficult it was to get used to living in any other place in the province, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chairman: That may be subject to some question.

Mr. Swart: —another one has gone to Kingston; another one of the employees is being transferred to Toronto.

And I say to you that the human dimension, apart from economics—and I talk mostly about the economics because that is supposed to be what the people on the other

side understand, I don't think they really understand the human dimension. I don't think in the environment that they are in they know what it is to have close relatives out of work or threatened with being out of work. I say to you that is every bit as serious as the economic implications, and the economic implications are sad.

There has been of course, as we know, a tremendous increase in payments by OHIP to the private labs—and that is going to get greater with the closing down of these public labs—and they have been ripping off the public right and left. Perhaps that terminology is not correct; they are probably just ripping off from the right. It's not the left, in this case, but they have been ripping off the public. While I suggest that it all adds up to posturing about restraint when you can't prove—and I think my leader documented this very well this afternoon—that it is not really a saving. The net result is going to be greater cost to the people of this province. And at the same time, we are destroying some very efficient and needed public institutions.

I say to you, Mr. Minister, far from operating the ministry and the government on an efficient, businesslike operation, there is fiscal mismanagement to a colossal degree. I have almost come to the conclusion that the group on that side couldn't even run a good used car lot.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can; I have already proved it.

Mr. Swart: They stock the cars that operate the poorest and cost the most. Maybe, as you say, Mr. Minister, you are a good used car salesman, because I suppose a good used car salesman is the kind of a person who can sell the poorest product for the highest price. I think maybe you'd be successful in that one; use a little body cement, slap on a bit of paint and wax it—lots of wax, that helps when you try to sell a product—and try to sell it off as a good cut-back vehicle. I suggest to you that it is a pile of junk and the rust spots are already showing through.

Let me tell you, finally, it will never get off the lot; and if it doesn't get off the lot and it is not going to do what you thought it was going to do, it is not going to carry you through the next election.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. R. S. Smith).

Hon. F. S. Miller: Am I not allowed to answer all that, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You know, I am rather flattered with the attention I am getting from the opposition these days.

Mr. Nixon: Getting several billion dollars too.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I understand there are 20 more speakers waiting to tell me what a great guy I am.

An hon. member: That's just tonight.

Mr. Nixon: But there's not a soul on your side, Frank, not one.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, that's true. It has always been my observation that the opposition lets a person who is making a mistake bury himself. It would seem that the attention I am getting indicates some apprehension on your part that perhaps the opposite is true and that the people of this province want us to save their tax dollars by better management of those resources that are left to us to run.

Mr. Swart: We don't want to bury you—just your party.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We'll keep on finding the ways, and in fact all the ways haven't been tapped yet. There is no indication they aren't going to be. I would point out that there have been some inconsistencies in the relationship when you talk about the lab at St. Catharines. The information I have says 90.4 per cent of the total number of specimens—not DBS units but specimens—and there is a difference; units and specimens are not the same thing. In the total workload 90.4 per cent of the work is, in fact, environmental bacteriology or serology. The relative percentages in fact are 53.4 per cent for bacteriology with 37 per cent of total specimens environmental bacteriology, leaving 9.4 per cent the only possible part that could be done anywhere but at a government operated and owned laboratory.

Now, of that 9.4 per cent, not all of it, if any of it, necessarily moves into the private labs. In fact, we are taking measures to see that whatever percentage we can will move to those institutions already funded by public money and which have spare capacity.

Mr. Swart: Is that 9.4 per cent, may I ask?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can give you the complete breakdown: 5,366 specimens were bacteriology; three specimens were mycology; 126 were parasitology; 21,195 in the months of April to March—this is about a period of a year.

Mr. Swart: Do you have the workload and the number of tests?

Hon. F. S. Miller: And 30,572 were serology, for a total of 57,626.

Mr. Renwick: How many patients?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The great bulk of this has nothing to do with the patient load. Certainly serology results from tests done when doctors suspect venereal disease and send them on for testing. These are not done by anyone else. We have a corner on the market so, in fact, we transfer them to another location. The budget of the lab is not \$106,000 as you said. It is \$128,900.

The present budget of the lab is \$128,900 and it would have gone up probably 10 or 11 per cent this year. The savings of the five staff at \$11,000 per staff member is an extremely low figure to allow for a salary saving. I think if one checked the salaries of the staff members, four of whom have been transferred to openings elsewhere, it would indicate they are earning probably more than that, plus the fact we pay a considerable package in addition to the basic salary.

The \$11,000 that was paid in rent to the hospital, while it is a transfer to another government agency, would not be made up in their budget and therefore, in fact, it is a saving. It is a saving because there is that much less money flowing to that hospital in the coming year.

Now, you must have some information about the courier service I don't have. The tenders weren't even opened the day you mentioned. They were opened that day. Although I haven't see the tender results, I am informed the first one opened was \$12,000, not \$14,000—the lowest as you quoted.

Not only that, a great percentage of the material flows to it by existing services as you know. For example, specimens; of the 47 users of one of our labs, 41 are already using courier service. When one attempts to take the statistics apart some other facts must be kept in mind.

The destruction of viable institutions is utter rot. We are not trying to destroy viable institutions just to prove we can win an election. They were carefully and painfully thought out and done because we felt we had to and done in spite of what your leader said this afternoon because the alternatives were in place, not in spite of the alternatives being in place.

Now, in reference to the human dimension—year after year I hear the speakers from your party talk as if only you have a corner on the human dimensions of this world. That is not so. It is just utter rot again.

Mr. Swart: You just don't understand that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do understand it. I do understand unemployment. Listen, I understand unemployment very well from a personal basis. I understand it from a family basis.

Mr. Ferrier: Knowing your background, I don't know how you can take the guff that Jim Taylor gives out.

[8:15]

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm going to limit my comments to my ministry, okay? I have enough trouble in that area.

Mr. Foulds: The people in Ontario have enough trouble with your ministry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, and they'd have a lot more if you were running it. Mr. Chairman, I was told to ignore interjections; I shall.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a few remarks to make on this vote. In regard specifically, again, to laboratory closures, as well to the whole area of the use of laboratories across the province. I think there has to be a rationalization of the laboratory services that are being provided. I don't think you can only look at the two areas that have been mentioned in this House so far; and that's the question of the private laboratories, and also the public laboratories that are situated in the hospitals, where most of the expenditure is. Of course, there has been no mention of that whatsoever. I believe OHIP payments made in that area are perhaps much greater than those made in the area of private laboratories. Of course the cost of the provincial laboratories is much less again.

Mr. Renwick: Have you any figures on that?

Mr. R. S. Smith: The hospitals in my area—

Mr. Renwick: I said did you have any figures?

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, I'm not saying I have. But if you go to a hospital where there's a laboratory—where it's above 150 beds—the payments in that hospital are well over \$1 million to the lab.

Mr. Renwick: I wanted to know whether you had any facts, that was all.

Mr. Nixon: Whose side are you on? Aren't you supporting the little man; the small community?

Mr. R. S. Smith: He's supporting the pathologists, whom I'm just going to talk about. They sometimes make \$150,000 to \$175,000 a year.

Mr. Nixon: He supports the corporation lawyers.

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Mr. Renwick: That is what this debate is about, the facts.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I guess that is why you are not taking part.

Mr. Renwick: Neither are you.

Mr. Nixon: You want that laboratory closed in North Bay.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Is that right?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: I just asked for some facts.

Mr. Nixon: He is interrupting, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Nipissing has the floor, I thought.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The hon. member for Riverdale is a little upset, I don't know why.

Mr. Chairman: Just ignore the hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Nixon: He is very difficult to ignore when he asks for facts.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The minister will provide him with the facts; that the payments are much greater to the labs in the hospitals than they are to the private labs. Anybody could see that without even looking; even you could see it, if you looked.

The fact is that among the pathologists who run the labs in the hospitals across this province there's no equality at all. There are some on salaries who are making as low as \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year. Now I don't consider that a low amount, but there are others who have different types of arrangements with the hospital laboratories and who are making as high as \$150,000 to \$160,000 per year.

Mr. Reed: That is factual.

Mr. R. S. Smith: And that is factual, if the member for Riverdale doesn't buy it.

Mr. Nixon: Surpassed only by certain corporation lawyers.

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you name some names?

Mr. Nixon: They are all listed in the monthly returns. They are there for you to see if you read, for those who have eyes.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What I'm saying is that if you're looking at one you've got to look at them all. There's no question there is a situation in the private laboratories that has to be investigated; but I also say that you have to look at what's happening in the hospital laboratories. We have to get to the point in those laboratories where the people who are running them, those people who have some type of a hold on that laboratory, are paid equally across this province and are put on salary. I believe that that's the only equitable way that situation can be cleared up.

It's very odd to me, as a lay person, that one pathologist who is running a lab in an area is on salary for \$35,000 or \$40,000; and another is on a percentage of the OHIP payments to that lab and sometimes making in excess, at some locations, of over \$150,000.

I believe that area has to be looked at, as well as the private labs, because I think there are differentials there which are costly to this government, as are the difficulties which have been brought forward in regard to the private labs.

Of course, there are the other labs, the public provincial labs which have been closed in this province. Perhaps the member for Riverdale is supporting the minister on these, I don't know, but if he'd listen to his leader to his right I'm sure he wouldn't.

Mr. Renwick: We don't want our case destroyed—

Mr. Eakins: Put your name on the list.

Mr. Renwick: —by the arguments put forward by members of the Liberal Party in support of their stand. We'd like to have your support, but we'd like to—

Mr. Chairman: Will the member for Riverdale come to order, please?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes, will you do something with him? He's out of hand, really.

Mr. Nixon: It certainly is difficult to have a coherent debate.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I would just like to quote from the minister—perhaps I'll go back to Dec. 18 when I had a phone call from the minister to tell me that the lab in North Bay would be closed and that decision would be announced on the following day, the day after the House was to adjourn. The minister gave me no reason other than the fact that it was to save money. I asked him a number of questions in regard to the lab but there was no real answer forthcoming.

On Jan. 19 I spoke to him again in the House. At that time there was still no answer forthcoming so I went to see—he set up a meeting for me with his assistant deputy minister at that time, so that I could obtain some of the facts in regard to the closure of that lab.

I went over to see the assistant deputy minister and he provided me with some facts in regard to what the savings would be—what the total cost was and this type of thing—which had not been made available to the people concerned with the laboratory itself—the employees—nor had it been made available to the people in the general area who were going to be affected by the closure of the lab.

The assistant deputy minister said that the total cost of operation of the lab was \$254,000 and to close the lab there would be a saving of \$208,000. He indicated to me at that time that the environmental bacteriology that was being done would be done in Orillia. He also indicated to me that the other laboratory work, which represented 44.8 per cent—is that factual enough for the member for Riverdale?—would be done partially in Sudbury and partially in Toronto. That left 3.6 per cent, for hematology, which was to be done in the lab of the North Bay Civic Hospital.

That was the position and those were the facts—the only facts—that I could obtain from the ministry, except the breakdown on a percentage basis of where the work came from that went into that lab. Those facts are not important at this point; however, the total volume was 50 per cent environmental bacteriology and 50 per cent serology and other types of chemical analysis which couldn't be done in the same type of process as is used for environmental bacteriology.

What I learned on that day was that the saving would be \$208,000 on a total cost of operation of \$254,000, and on these facts the lab was to be closed. At a later date the minister made a statement. He said the decision to close the North Bay public health laboratory was reached only after thorough studies had been made. I don't know what

these thorough studies were but the facts he now comes forward with, in his statement about a month after I had met with the assistant deputy minister, are altogether different.

Mr. Miller says we are going to save \$167,000 instead of \$208,000. This indicates a discrepancy of at least 25 per cent between the assistant deputy minister's figures and his figures. These were supposed to be things that were all done prior to the announcement that he was going to close the labs. It indicates to me that there had been no figure arrived at when the announcement was made, that in fact there was no thorough study done whatsoever. He must have just picked the four labs out of the air, because obviously the facts conflict depending on who you talk to within the ministry.

Mr. Miller also said, in the same statement, that the work load had diminished by eight point some per cent. That is true, but in the interim during which the work load diminished in that lab, they had opened a subsidiary lab in Sudbury. This had taken a good percentage of that work load, and if they had not opened that subsidiary lab there would have been an increase in the work load.

In his statement he said that integrating laboratory services between St. Joseph's Hospital and the Civic Hospital was going to provide an alternative and that 34 per cent of the work which was coming to Toronto would then be going to that hospital lab. When this statement was made, and up until last Monday at least, there had been no arrangement made between this ministry and the Civic Hospital as to whether that work would be done there or not. So there couldn't be any value put on what that 34 per cent of the work was going to cost, because there had been no arrangements made between the hospital and the provincial laboratory services.

The \$167,000 he has come up with was not based on any factual information, because there had been no agreements made, almost anywhere along the line, to provide the services.

It becomes apparent that saying "after thorough study" was a really misleading statement. Thorough studies still haven't been done, because now I understand that environmental bacteriology is not going to be done in Orillia at all. It is going to be sent to the lab in Sudbury.

Those 10 people or so who are employed in North Bay have all obtained other employment, except for one. Some of them have

been moved to increase the complement of other labs in the area. Two people have been moved to Orillia. One of them is the director; that won't increase the complement but the other person will, as I understand it. One of them has been moved to Sudbury; and there will be another person added to the staff of that lab, so there are two more people there. One of them has been moved to Hamilton. One of them has been moved to Thunder Bay to increase the complement of that lab.

So we are talking about four people who are going to increase complements of other labs. Yet the minister has just finished saying that \$11,000 does not nearly cover the costs of a person working within the laboratory services, if I understood him correctly. Now there are four there. One moved out of the province; one moved out of the laboratory service; one was moved to the psychiatric hospital next door; and there was one without a job.

There has also been an announcement that the mobile lab will be brought into the area for a five-month period this year, with two full time employees. So there again we have a cost that I am sure will exceed \$35,000 to \$40,000 when you consider the equipment that is being used, as well as the two salaries that have to be maintained for that period of time.

So it's very difficult to find out how the minister has arrived at his saving of \$167,000 and his assistant deputy has arrived at an amount of \$208,000. Now, to put those two figures together is really impossible and shows just how much thorough study was done prior to Dec. 18, when these figures were made available, on Jan. 19 and again in late February and early March when your full statement came out in regard to all the lab and hospital closures. Within that one-month period they dropped \$40,000 someplace. I just can't figure that out.

[8:30]

Beyond that, though, there is the whole question of the service to the area. I'm sure that the laboratory service that's going to be brought in on a temporary basis this summer will provide what is required for the lakes and rivers in the area insofar as water sampling is concerned, and the many areas that are unorganized and have no water supply other than that taken out of the ground must use these facilities from time to time in order to check on their drinking water.

I'm sure that service will be fine for that five-month period. But it also leaves another seven-month period where there will be no service that will be as quick as, and perhaps

no more efficient than, the service that is now provided in the area.

I do not know what the costs are for the courier service that is to be developed, as well as the other types of transportation that are to be used in order to get these samples to the labs in Sudbury, Orillia and some up to Timmins. In fact, no one knows what kind of an arrangement has been made with the local hospital in connection with that 34 per cent of the work—nobody knows where it's going, either to Toronto or to the local hospital, and what kind of a cost figure can be placed on that.

Since the minister and those within his department came out with different figures long after Dec. 19, when the original announcement was made, it becomes apparent that there was really no study done concerning the decision. Also there was no consultation whatsoever with the local people involved or with the staff at that lab.

For the first month there was nobody on the scene to deal with the staff and to explain to them what was happening. It was not until well after Jan. 17 or Jan. 18 that anybody appeared to explain to the staff what would happen. In fact, when they did appear, they were told that if they did obtain employment in a laboratory service someplace else in the province, they wouldn't even be provided with the cost of moving and so on. And this is what Dr. Willoughby informed them. The week following that, of course, they had somebody from the—I'm sorry, I just can't remember the part of the ministry that looks after that type of thing—they were up there and they explained to them how they would be moved if, in fact, there was employment elsewhere.

But there was never a list provided, until two months after, of what jobs would be available in other laboratories or in other sectors of the ministry. So these people were left to hang in the air for a period of two months. Eventually there were six who did obtain employment within the government, not particularly within the laboratory staff.

I'd just like to make the point that, first of all, the whole matter could have been done with fewer problems at the local level if, in fact, there had been consultation beforehand and if, in fact, there had been some type of study done as to what would happen with the work that was to be done and what the cost would be.

To this day I don't believe there are any hard and fast figures available to show what the actual cost and the actual savings will be. On this basis, the people in my area

feel they have no alternative but to oppose the removal of the lab until they have at least been provided with a set of figures that add up and they are given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the ministry based on those figures. So I would ask the minister if, in fact, he does have a final set of figures on which the costs can be placed; and if he does have that final set of figures if we are in a position now where the people in the area can discuss it with the ministry, and the laboratory staff can also be given the opportunity to show where the need in the community still exists in so far as the lab itself servicing the area is concerned?

Beyond that, there are a number of organizations—and the minister alluded to one in his statement on Friday in regard to some of the testing that is being done in the schools, a programme that was started some three years ago—which have put private financing into that testing and do not feel that it has been totally explained to them, other than what you said on Friday last, that in fact the processes that will take place will be sufficiently fast to give the results that are required.

Perhaps with these remarks I would close, except to ask the minister, when he is considering laboratories, that he look at all three kinds of laboratories and not just two, because I think the savings that could be brought about within the hospital laboratories would be much more than what he is going to save by closing four provincial laboratories. I know that this ministry and this government have not wanted to interfere with that very sacrosanct place that the pathologists might have across this province, or might not have. I believe it is time we looked at that and we looked at it very closely; and that they were placed on some kind of a schedule of salary that is commensurate with the work they do.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll be very brief, Mr. Chairman. Hospitals don't get a fee-for-service for lab services. They get a budget.

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, but the pathologists do.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The pathologists do, providing they don't have a contract with the hospital for salary or for some other method. The hospital doesn't have to pay them the amount of money that it gets from OHIP for their salary if it wishes to pay them a lower amount. On the other side, some hospitals have paid more. They have paid a salary that exceeded the gross professional component of the pathologist's fees because it was difficult to get pathologists on a salary basis

in the past. That problem is easing as time goes on.

One of the reasons for the expansion of the private lab sector, the sector that has received so much criticism of late, has been the ceiling on the budget for hospital lab services. Hospitals—and one was quoted to me today and it will be on the press tonight I am sure—have had a tendency to sublet work into private labs if they were feeling budgetary strains within the hospital in general.

I don't like that. I can understand why they do it. It has not been illegal or immoral. It has been an easy way to save certain moneys within their budget and transfer them to my budget in another division. It is not easy to plug that, but that is one of the loopholes we intend to try to plug within the next few months.

The criticism I've got quite often from people is that we have made no attempts to help the staff become relocated, and yet both yourself and the previous speaker have documented that our displaced employees at these labs have been helped to find open positions in other labs where they existed, and there was a small complement change in some of the labs to compensate for the amalgamation of services.

As for the last thing, we think very highly of the programme run by the Kidney Foundation in North Bay. In fact, as you may know, between November of last year and February of this year students from three schools were tested; 1,036 of them between the ages of 12 and 15. Six per cent of them showed test results that indicated a need for a doctor to follow up with them. We believe the programme should be continued if the local people want it to be, and there is absolutely no reason in the world why it wouldn't be as effective now as it was when the lab was in North Bay.

Witness the fact that many other communities could do the same thing, although to begin with they wouldn't have had a local lab. We simply say the programme was not of an urgent nature in terms of getting results within minutes or hours of the tests being done. The speed with which the response was made had nothing to do with the value of the programme. We commend the programme and hope it carries on.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I would like to say to the minister that he hasn't really touched on my main remarks. I don't really think a thorough study was done prior to Dec. 18; and if it was done, why could your ministry not pro-

vide at that point definite cost savings, and why has there been a differential in the cost saving from month to month as I have made inquiries? Obviously there wasn't a thorough study or you could have given those statements.

Why, at this point, are you now saying there was a thorough study done when you are still looking around to find places to get some of this work done? Obviously there have been no arrangements made with the local hospital, unless they have been made within the last week, which was well after the time of your statement?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I obviously can't from personal experience, tell the member whether or not arrangements were made with the local hospital.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You said there was.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, just a second; I said I can't say from personal experience because I didn't talk to them. I can only tell you I was told they were. I was told this would happen and you say it hasn't. I am quite willing to have our facts checked out to see which of us is correct. I simply have to depend upon people giving me information at times. I haven't had any reason to doubt the correctness of the gentleman who told me that.

As for the change in the dollars, the dollars we showed in my original estimate and the dollars we showed in my press release are both the same. If Gary, in working it up with you in his office, trying to show you an illustration, had some variation in it, I would wonder if he made some error talking to you that day as compared with the figures he gave us. He spent some time with you. I don't think he tried to rush through it.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think he tried sincerely to offer that information. I met with a delegation from North Bay in Sudbury, as I am sure you know. I understand representatives of the ministry returned to North Bay, we sent people up to talk to a public meeting on the matter, did we not? Well we said we were available if we were asked and I was told that Mr. Chatfield in fact visited North Bay to do it.

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, he has been asked but he has not come.

Hon. F. S. Miller: He had made arrangements to go on a specific date, that much I know.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Well he hasn't been there.

I just have one more question, Mr. Chairman. The minister made a statement in Sudbury that there would be an additional 45 jobs at the psychiatric hospital in North Bay. He was using this to soften the blow of the closing of the labs. These jobs at the psychiatric hospital were supposed to be created because of the movement to North Bay of patients from Northeastern or the one up in the Porcupine. But of course this never did come about.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh, oh, oh!

Mr. R. S. Smith: The movement of the patients came about but the creation of the jobs never did come about.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, he's wrong and I will get the data for him, although I may not have it tonight. You are wrong.

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Chairman, one bright note that seemed to be sounded in the midst of the crisis that we went through in our community after the announced closing of Northeastern was the fact that at least the lab would be left. The minister had given us a commitment that new facilities would be made available for the provincial lab in the city of Timmins and we had put up quite a case before him and his ministry. I believe that those new facilities are under way and probably in eight or nine months' time the lab in Timmins will be in decent facilities and the staff will have a reasonable working environment in which to carry out their work. [8:45]

I am wondering if the minister feels that there are economies to be realized in the lab field in an area such as my own, the district of Cochrane, by amalgamating some of the services under perhaps one or more of the general hospitals. I know there is a private lab, MDS, operating out of the 101 Mall in Timmins, which serves some of the doctors, while other doctors use the lab at St. Mary's Hospital. I believe the lab in St. Mary's Hospital also serves some of the surrounding doctors but not all, whereas the private lab serves some of the doctors from other places. It seems to me that there is duplication of services and facilities there.

I have heard statements made that the most expensive type of service that the public gets is through these private labs, and I wonder how speedily the study is really progressing that I understand is supposed to be under way

at the district health council of the labs in the area. I think you could very well have the whole situation of the lab services for the district studied by that health council and some pretty definite recommendations made.

I would like to know why you permit duplication of services if, in fact, there is duplication of services between a private lab and those in the hospitals. Do you not have any say about private labs springing up in an area to carry out their services? You have got pretty close control over nursing home beds, chronic care beds and that type of thing, and it would seem to me, when there is a public outlay of money to the labs, that you could have just as strong a say there.

I wonder if you have thought of having the health council go into this matter in some depth as part of the study it was looking at and whether it would be possible to remove some of the duplication of services and, if necessary, expand the public health lab that is there to get the new facility. I think that maybe this is the kind of approach you could take.

If you are going to close some of the public labs and get the kind of resentment in the communities that there has been in those four communities, why can't you close some of the private labs by refusing to provide OHIP money for them?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, savings by amalgamation of laboratory facilities certainly are very real. This does not limit itself to any specific type. We are just as anxious to amalgamate laboratory services between hospitals where duplication exists as we are between the private and public sectors. I haven't heard of the Health Council's wish to make this study but I'm sure it's certainly one we would encourage if it wanted to look at the duplication of services.

Duplication, though, by another name, is competition. Under some circumstances that's good; under some it isn't good. If, in effect, there's a limited market, then the competition is good. The one problem I have is that where we have already bought and paid for publicly-owned laboratory facilities I feel they should be utilized to the fullest rather than have them run at a low percentage of capacity and still farm business out to the private sector.

We do have complete control over the licensing of private labs. Very few have received licences since they were required to have them in 1972.

Not only do we license them for location but for the type of tests. One of the things we will probably do in the next few months is start restricting some of the existing licences when there is fair capacity in a publicly-owned facility for that type of test.

Mr. Makarchuk: You should have been doing that two years ago.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact remains, though, that your party and ours will disagree upon what the lowest net cost is starting from scratch. In other words, if in a community today we had to create more laboratory facilities to meet the demand—a legitimate demand—I would suggest to you that they will be done more cheaply by the private labs than they will by the public labs—not what I pay for them right now but in terms of the net cost per test done.

Let's not confuse that with what I'm paying, because I think valid arguments can be proposed that an LMS unit which is not related to the volume of tests done on one location can, in fact, become very profitable as volume goes up.

Woods Gordon, I understand, did a lung test study for us in Hamilton. Their conclusions were that there was little if any difference between the two sectors, although there were so many variables they really qualified their answers very carefully in saying that the private labs were or were not cheaper, or more expensive, than the public labs operating in the Hamilton area alone. They also recommended that I not try to transpose a decision based on a study in Hamilton to any other part of the province because of the lack of validity in so doing. So, in effect, that conclusion has been left unmade.

The one thing I can say to you is if, in fact, the private sector's true costs for running a lab are lower than the public sector's, it's the first time private enterprise has not beaten government in terms of cost.

Mr. Makarchuk: Come off it.

Mr. Ferrier: If I could just pursue that for a minute: You talk about the private labs being able to do it cheaper. I think you're talking about efficiency. Surely when there's no profit involved and the right kind of management and administration is being given, it stands to reason that it could be done a good deal more cheaply in the public sector?

Mr. Duksza: Not only could be but it is cheaper.

Mr. Ferrier: The computer work for this government is done under the Ministry of Government Services, but it is handled in such a way that it's competitive and even lower than the private sector. If it can be done in computer work why can it not be done in some of the other areas? Why can't you get the same productivity? That says something for your management ability over there on that side of the House.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The one big difference between our party and your party is we recognize that the moment government tries to run things they aren't run efficiently. Your party keeps on believing that the public sector can always be run more efficiently.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, can you hit that gavel for me?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Duksza: Mr. Chairman, he is being very provocative.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think we're into the kind of argument that will forever separate your side of the House from my side. British Coal, British Steel, British Airways, British Rail all were formed on that basis. Every one of them has the lowest productivity of anything in the European Common Market.

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They were based on the assumption profit was something taken from people.

Mr. Martel: You Tories kept giving it back.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will tell you, when government takes over it is an added cost to the people.

Mr. Martel: The Tories kept giving it back. Don't distort the facts. You kept giving it back every time. The Tories gave it back. The Tories gave it away.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: The difference between our party and their party is the fact that if we put—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Is he speaking? Is he the next speaker?

Mr. Chairman: There is nobody from the Liberal Party who wants to participate.

An hon. member: They gave it up.

Mr. Riddell: We are waiting for the next vote.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What a pleasure.

Mr. Ferrier: That's a change, isn't it?

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Chairman, one of the things we would like to get across to the minister—

Mr. Nixon: If you think listening to Makarchuk is a pleasure you need help.

Mr. Makarchuk: —is that if we were running the government, or if we were running the labs or some of these things, we would put people in charge of those institutions who believed in the institutions.

What the ministry has is institutions that are public and people in charge who do not believe in the public enterprise. It is very easy to go around and say it doesn't function, particularly if you have a hand in screwing it up.

Mr. Martel: Right on, right on.

Mr. Makarchuk: In getting into the debate I am reminded of an ad that used to run on TV, generally just before the national news, extolling the virtues of the post office. Somebody sent tests to a lab somewhere in the distance. Eventually some reply arrived and of course a frantic person came screaming out of the door, "It's okay, it's okay!"

We know the virtues of the post office. After the ministry goes into the lab business I have a feeling the same situation is going to exist in Ontario.

I was at the meeting at Woodstock, Mr. Chairman. There were a lot of people out there. Somehow they came out on their own and they were people who lived in Woodstock. They have a stake in the community. They are not dumb people. They are not ignorant people. They are people who know what is going on in that community.

They are people who are members of the municipalities; they are people from the hospitals; they are people representing the defined groups—the educational groups and so on—in the community. These are the sort of people who make Ontario run. Each and every one of them got up and said what the minister was doing was wrong.

Obviously, when we come down to it, Mr. Chairman, it's a fact that this ministry, the

computers and minions at Queen's Park know exactly what's going on and what's happening with the lab in Woodstock. The people in Woodstock obviously don't know anything.

Let me tell you, Mr. Minister, you are dead wrong. That's something the people in Woodstock and a lot of other places in Ontario are not going to forget. One of the lessons the minister should have learned in the last election was that it is important to listen to the people of Ontario. They have something to tell and the ministry should listen to them. Obviously, the lesson did not sink in. The ministry has gone ahead without taking into consideration any of the local wishes of the people and proceeded to chop and cut without any reason.

Let me suggest something to you, Mr. Minister. At this time there are some unusual operations going on in the private labs; hopefully the minister is going to investigate some of things that have been brought out in this House. Hopefully there will be some changes made.

Until such time, Mr. Minister, I would suggest the public labs be left alone because, as was pointed out earlier here by the leader of our party, there are a lot of savings that can be made. The ministry may have to do a lot of relocations and may have to bring about changes in the private labs operation of the province.

Until the minister has resolved this problem, investigated the expenditures, do not touch the public labs. We can stand here and argue back and forth about the figures; you have your figures and I have my figures. You are no expert on it and neither am I, but I have seen the figures that were provided by the people who work with these labs. I have seen the figures of the people who operate these labs and their figures do not agree with your figures. In fact, in the Woodstock operation they say the extra cost to the ministry will be something like \$127,000. It would cost more if the lab were closed and some of the work farmed out to London and private labs, the drivers hired—which you are advertising for, incidentally, in your papers—and to buy the cars, buy the insurance, pay for the gas, run these things, run them by bus or anything else.

[9:00]

Mr. Martel: No wonder it's more costly.

Mr. Makarchuk: And you expect to save money that way. I really can't understand it and the people out there can't understand it. The message I want to leave with you is the

fact that there are a lot of people in the community who I think know something about what is going on there. It was unfortunate that the member for the area at that time was unable to attend, but I'm sure he's got the message since then. What they're trying to tell you now is, for gosh sakes, you are making a mistake and this time, with everything else happening in regard to the private labs, you could leave those labs open.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Obviously the speaker has not paid any attention to the fact that the great bulk of the work in those labs is not done in the private labs under any circumstances, and had to be transferred to other government labs.

Mr. Chairman: Shall item 1 carry? The member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Burr: Mr. Chairman, realizing that there are time restraints on these supplementary health estimates, a typical Tory restraint resulting from typical Tory lack of planning, I shall be as brief as I can. We should have been called back here two or three weeks ago so that both the supplementary estimates and the Throne debate could have had the adequate discussion they deserve.

If the hospital and social service cutbacks are not part of Tory strategy to pander to the redneck Conservatives out there amongst the voters, and if our Minister of Health has simply been told to make a \$40 million or \$50 million OHIP saving as his share of reducing the anticipated debt, then the issue we are debating in these estimates is simply whether the minister's method is the best method.

My colleague from High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziembra) has already indicated that there could be a saving of some \$40 million or \$50 million if the elaborate tests that have become routinely ordered by some physicians were controlled or, in government jargon, restrained. In 1971 OHIP paid less than \$18 million to the private labs. By 1975 it was over \$66 million, and the projection for 1976 seems to be in the order of \$88 million.

Mr. Chairman, I say to the minister make your \$40 million saving by controlling the indiscriminate and unrestrained acquiescence by many doctors in prescribing unnecessarily numerous medical lab tests. A better auditing system is obviously required. Apparently significant savings could result from a better system.

But the great weakness in OHIP has been, ever since its inception, the open-ended

nature of the government's arrangement with the Ontario Medical Association.

I have spoken more than once on this subject during the Health estimates in past years. Should the minister care to look up one of these occasions, I refer him to the year 1974, Oct. 31, page 4740. The minister's usual reply to my suggestion has been that it has been considered and rejected. So I was encouraged on Friday morning to hear the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) come up with the same proposal that I had been making for several years. And I was interested in the minister's usual, quite inadequate reasons for rejecting a closed-ended arrangement.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You have undergone a change.

Mr. Burr: Oh, I hadn't noticed. For the last time, Mr. Chairman, I am going to attempt to persuade the minister to adopt a closed-ended system for OHIP as far as each kind of medical service is concerned. My recommendation is based not on some abstract theory but on actual practice and experience, not in some remote corner of the earth but right here in Ontario. This closed-ended system existed for many years and worked successfully in Windsor and Essex county, probably for 15 or 20 years, before OHIP was established. It was run by the doctors of the Windsor and Essex county area. I think eventually it even extended into Kent county. Briefly and simply, the system worked as follows—and I have never been able to get the minister to listen to this carefully so I was hoping on this final appeal that he would really bear down and think about it for the first time.

This is the system simply stated and briefly stated: Monthly fees were contributed and collected from subscribers throughout the area, mostly through employee groups and by payroll deduction. At the end of each month, administration costs were deducted and the balance was divided among the participating doctors, of whom I think there were 98 per cent in the Windsor area, on a pro rated basis according to the value of the services for which each doctor sent in bills.

If administration expenses amounted to 10 per cent then the remaining 90 per cent of the premium was divided among the doctors. If the number of services was above average in any particular month, then each doctor presenting a bill for a \$5 service might get only \$4.80 or \$4.85. If the number of services billed was below average, each doctor would receive the full amount allowed by the fee schedule and the surplus was put into a reserve fund.

When the system ended, incidentally, there was a reserve fund of about \$1 million which was divided among the participating doctors. This system never went into the red. By its very nature, it couldn't go into the red because the system never over-spent. It served the public by guaranteeing whatever medical services were required. It served the doctors by ensuring that 100 per cent of their bills were collectable instead of only 50 per cent as had been the case with most physicians for generations.

There is no reason this system could not be adapted to the medical part of OHIP. There is one advantage of course that Windsor Medical had and that is in the fact that the participating physicians were sufficiently few in number to allow every member to be known to at least one member of the doctors' managing committee. In Windsor, I understand that one doctor always sent in an excessive number of bills and he was routinely paid for half of them. He never complained and the committee never commented.

The group was small enough to deal with and discipline its members on a personal and informal basis. OHIP, on the other hand, because of its magnitude, becomes impersonal requiring spot-checking, supervisory personnel, and computer devices, all of which adds to the expense and the overhead. Through an open-ended system, the ministry can form fairly accurate projections of the coming year's expenditures but this is a projection based on all the numerous disincentives to economize that have been outlined already in this House.

There have been no restraints in the OHIP medical system and there will be no restraints in 1976. The ministry should eliminate from OHIP all the incentives to provide unnecessary uses of doctors' services whether for surgery or for weekly or monthly routine check-ups. The ministry might allot a specific sum each month, to be shared by whatever groups are appropriate, either geographically or perhaps according to specialized interests. For example, the surgeons, the anaesthetists, the general practitioners, the chiropractors, the obstetricians—this is purely a suggested variation—might be regarded as groups and allotted a monthly amount to share. It might be better to decentralize so that Windsor Medical would essentially be revived, the only difference being that the collection of money would remain provincial, the payment to participating doctors would be administered locally.

Replicas of Windsor Medical could be organized in all the other regions or dis-

tricts or counties as deemed appropriate. Incidentally, Mr. Chairman, another possibility for closing the open-endedness of medical fees might be to use the same restraint that has always been used for the chiropractors. Chiropractic services can be given to a patient only up to an annual maximum amount of \$100 and \$25 for x-ray services. The chiropractors have been restrained, in this sense, ever since they were admitted to OHIP.

If general practitioners, for example, were restricted to a \$100 a year fee for certain kinds of patients—those who visit regularly for reassurance, the hypochondriac perhaps—the minister might find that the number of visits scheduled by some doctors would drop surprisingly.

This system that I have mentioned would probably help to solve the minister's problem about the apparently excessive number of certain surgical operations. In local areas, peer pressure, to use an educational term, would become a factor. If a certain surgeon was performing three times as many tonsillectomies as his local colleagues, questions would certainly be asked that are not now being asked. If the local surgeons were sharing a limited, finite, closed-ended monthly allowance or salary from OHIP, the performing of questionable operations by some surgeons would be more easily detected and would in all likelihood be restrained. At the present time, if one doctor is doing far too many operations, visits, tests, or what have you, the other doctors aren't particularly concerned; first, because they don't know about it, and, secondly, it's because it's the provincial taxpayer who is being ripped off.

When you have a local system, however, where everyone is acquainted, if one doctor got out of line and if the salary allowance of the whole group was being ripped off then, as I said, the peer pressure would certainly be there and this would help the minister, I'm sure, get restraint enforced locally.

Although it is probably not an alternative method of saving as much as \$40 million or \$50 million, I should like to suggest that the fees for hospital visiting of patients be revised. If a doctor has to drive several miles to visit one patient in his home and if he spends an hour of his time doing so he certainly earns whatever the fee schedule allows. If, however, another doctor visits a dozen patients all in the same hospital and spends only an hour doing so he does not deserve to be paid 12 times as much as the first doctor. Couldn't fees for hospital visiting be put on some other basis, perhaps on an hourly basis? This

is a matter, of course, that would require consultation with the OMA, but it is a part of the present fee schedule that is suspect in the eyes of a great many members of the public.

Let me conclude by summarizing: First, make the required \$40 million or \$50 million saving by controlling or restraining the amount of testing performed by the private labs. Second, establish a ceiling on the amount of money allotted by OHIP to the various health services provided by the various groups of practitioners. The \$40- or \$50-million saving could easily be achieved in this way. Instead of doing this, of course, the minister is going to cancel the benefits of the \$40 million or \$50 million saved by disemploying, to coin a verb, 5,000 hospital staff members by giving the doctors an estimated \$56.7 million increase.

[9:15]

This is only an estimated amount because he has an open-ended system of paying doctors, a system totally lacking in restraint, in fact, a system that discourages restraint. This estimated \$56.7 million may end up at the end of the calendar year as \$70-million.

Finally, point three: For reasons that are obvious and compelling to all those affected, don't close the 10 small hospitals, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, in spite of the perhaps provocative and almost acerbic comments to begin with, the rest of the hon. member's talk was thoughtful as it almost always is from this particular member, and very constructive I must say. I don't really disagree with the objectives you've stated in your comments at all. In fact, I think you will find that the Maxwell Henderson report said that open-ended programmes in government should be closed whenever possible. OHIP is an open-ended programme. We recognize the difficulties of closing it. You have to realize, of course, that we are looking at ways and means and the suggestions you made relating to the Windsor area would be valid if, in fact, all the funds were raised in easily identified ways as they used to be on a premium basis. They are not now, as you know. Perhaps one-fifth to one-sixth or something thereabouts are.

If I were just philosophizing and dreaming as to how one eventually would have district health councils function, they would take over some of the duties you are talking about once they passed their first X years of getting used to planning. They may well solve, in the long run, some of the very things you are talking about.

Dr. Mustard in his report suggested some of the ways you are talking about of closing the open-endedness of the system. For example, they are open-ended to a degree because people can move in without restrictions. The problem with the chiropractic analogy to medicine is, of course, that we really need our medical aid in large dollars under crisis conditions. Chiropractic has seldom had that overtone to it. We simply have said that a life has seldom been saved by chiropractic. I am sure some chiropractors would argue with that. It is more often a treatment seldom required in, let's say, high dollar values for any one person.

Mr. Burr: Well, that is why I compared it to this weekly or monthly checkup.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. I don't mean to give you the impression that we aren't prepared to look at ways of closing the open-endedness of OHIP, we are. I have to be satisfied that they will work. Capitation is one of them. The systems of capitation that are being experimented with in some of our health service organizations will have finite budgets for the physician per person served and in effect that is a closed system. They do have, unlike the British system I am told, a charge-back if the patient goes elsewhere for service.

That is, I think, a vital freedom of a patient. The patient should have the right to get service elsewhere if they are not satisfied with the treatment of the doctor to whom they have been attached for book-keeping purposes, albeit a choice made by them in many instances. Not always, but in many instances.

I don't want to give you the idea that I am not looking at closed systems. I simply say first we'll evolve into them. Secondly, they are not as fool-proof as they appear to be at first glance. We will be carrying out pretty intensive examinations of the validity of the other than total fee-for-service system over the next two, three, four, five years, whatever time it takes. All the while, more and more doctors are electing, when they enter practice, to go some other route. This is fine. I don't feel that any one system has the corner on the market.

It may well be that the system we evolve in time will bear little resemblance to the one currently in practice. I suspect we have to learn more about what motivates people, what gives good quality of service and at the same time controls costs, than we currently know.

Item 1 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2, general hospitals and related activities.

Mr. di Santo: Mr. Chairman, perhaps it's redundant at this point to speak again about the closing of hospitals, in particular Doctors Hospital, after the superb speech given by the leader of my party this afternoon. He has illustrated the aspects of the decision made by the Minister of Health in closing the hospitals, how irrational it is and how destructive the consequences are for the small communities across Ontario and for a special consideration in Toronto, the immigrant groups which are hurt by the closing of Doctors Hospital.

(But I think that it is my duty to re-emphasize the position already expressed by the leader of my party and by several members in the past week. We are concerned about the closing of hospitals in general and I'm concerned about the closing of Doctors Hospital. I don't think only the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) has to be concerned for the closing of Doctors Hospital, because this hospital is not his private preserve. As a representative of a riding with a large ethnic community, at this point I think that I have to express the feelings which have been conveyed to me by many people who live in Downsview, many people who have been served by the Doctors Hospital and who are preoccupied by its closing.

The government restraint in health services is part of a political game, orchestrated by the government with the purpose of creating a psychological climate of uncertainty and fear among the public which will allow the government to emerge as the one able to remedy the present situation.

The fact is that the Conservative government of Ontario is the only one responsible for the colossal mismanagement of the economy and its finances as it has been expressed by the leader of my party this afternoon. This is even more true if we consider that the savings announced by the government with the closing of hospitals are not real as it has been proved by the leader of my party again.

The Minister of Health himself, last Thursday, in reference to the closing of Doctors Hospital, said that: "The cost associated with the closure will minimize total savings." In perspective, this proves now how inaccurate the figure of \$50 million pre-announced by the minister on Dec. 19, 1975, was.

As a result of closing hospitals and reducing their size by up to 3,000 beds, the gov-

ernment will save money, if any, only through laying off 5,000 employees. That shows how much you are concerned about unemployment, Mr. Minister. But this is not a real saving. I think on the contrary the government decision, while aggravating the already serious situation by creating more unemployment, will add a heavier burden on the community in social terms and in human terms.

I think, though, it is hard for the government to conceive different ways and means to fight the present economic crisis. They cannot even conceive, in their stone age approach, the potential of growth of our economy and the possibilities of broadening the potential of our economic system so that more jobs can be created and no one would be sacrificed and penalized. The government, through the reduction of transfer payments to the municipalities, cutbacks of social services and closing of hospitals, is attacking the weakest and the most defenceless groups in our society because they know that from these groups they will get the least resistance. They are concerned with the powerful groups in our province, whether they be the mining companies or the doctors.

The Health Minister knows that the doctors' incomes increased by 124 per cent between 1962 and 1972—the highest in the province. The minister knows that even the subversive Ontario Economic Council recognizes, in his recent report, that the fee for service system is unworkable and represents one of the most uncontrolled cost increasing factors in the health care system.

The minister knows the ripoff by the private labs. The minister knows the incredible amount of money wasted in unnecessary surgery as, again, has been illustrated by the leader of my party this afternoon. The minister knows also that wage costs represent 80 per cent of hospital operating costs, as it has been stated as recently as March 11 in a memorandum of the Hospital Council of Metro Toronto. But he does not touch the doctors. He does not touch the private labs because, as the free enterprise wants, they have to make profit. He does not scrutinize the amount of money involved in unnecessary surgery. He deprives communities of their health services and fires personnel, both medical and non-medical, because this is the easiest way to operate in this free enterprise province.

The closing of Doctors Hospital proves, to an even greater extent, what I am saying. The justification for the closing, as well as the other health cuts, is cost saving and the

criterion is to have a ratio of four beds for 1,000 people. It is legitimate to ask why the Minister of Health closed Doctors Hospital among those to be closed in Toronto, and not other hospitals, like Mount Sinai for instance.

Doctors Hospital is one of the most efficient in Metro Toronto since the occupancy rate is 84 per cent compared with 78 per cent in other Metro hospitals. The length of stay at Doctors Hospital is 7.7 compared to 9.8 days for other hospitals. The cost per patient is \$98 compared to \$205 in 1975.

Since 1969, the province has spent \$1 million in improvements plus \$350,000 in the last three months for a new air-conditioning system. But that is not all. What statistics cannot show is the social value of this unique health care centre and the importance it has for those who mostly use it, namely immigrants. Three-quarters of the general practitioners, one quarter of the specialists, the majority of the nurses and maintenance staff are immigrants. This hospital, with a unique philosophy and concept of treatment and care, has gathered together a multi-cultural staff able to speak all the languages of the patients. Of 225 doctors, 150 speak three or more languages. That does not bother the Conservative government and the Minister of Health, since ethnic groups have never been a priority for them. The government does not care about the fate of the ethnic population of Toronto and their problems once deprived of the unique opportunity to be treated in a health centre such as Doctors Hospital.

[9:30]

The government of Ontario has never cared much about ethnic groups. We know the paternalistic approach you have taken in the past years. We remember Heritage Ontario and the parade of self-styled ethnic leaders, the power brokers you have used in order to exercise your power—leaders with no following as the last Sept. 18 election demonstrated.

The Conservative government and the Minister of Health are not concerned with the fate of the doctors and the staff of Doctors Hospital, the 600 employees. They know that most of them will not find an opportunity to practice in another hospital. They know that 18 interns will lose their year of training. They know that many will be unemployed. But they are an easy prey to be sacrificed.

Doctors Hospital was approaching a model of a community health centre; a model pro-

posed and supported by the New Democratic Party, a model accepted in the past 20 years by the Ministry of Health.

Twelve thousand, four hundred patients have been cared for in hospital emergency and outpatient departments in Doctors Hospital, usually seen principally by interns and only supervised by the general practitioners and specialists. Now the minister is reneging his own policy and aggravating the large immigrant community without offering any alternative.

These are the reasons we are concerned. We are fighting for Doctors Hospital, not because we want votes. We know that the ethnic communities of Ontario will never support your government because you have done nothing for them. Because they know that whenever you cut down with your axe you hurt them, as is proved not only in this episode of Doctors Hospital but as has been proved by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) when he has reduced transfer payments to municipalities and the boards of education. The very first programme which has been cut by the Toronto Board of Education is English as a second language; and what is more ironic, from now on the children of immigrants and immigrant children cannot have English as a second language as they have been saying in Ontario for more than two years. This means that those children who speak their mother tongue at home will never have an opportunity to learn English, which means you are condemning large groups of people, only for the fact that they are immigrants, to be second class citizens because they won't make real contact with other pupils within the school system.

Mr. Chairman: Are you speaking to the principle of the general hospital item?

Mr. di Santo: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was mentioning this aspect of the policy of the Conservative government because it is consistent with what the government is doing in closing Doctors Hospital.

As I said before, we ask you to reconsider the destiny of Doctors Hospital because you are hitting very hard a constituency which seems to be defenceless. But we will fight because we know—and you should know, actually, Mr. Minister—that your decision is perceived by the ethnic groups as discriminatory and, perhaps with some exaggeration, with some racist connotations.

I hope that with the appeal that Doctors Hospital will make to the Premier (Mr. Davis), you will consider the specific nature of this particular group in this city of Toronto and

you will change your decision. As far as we are concerned, we will keep fighting against your decision because it is unjust, because it is irrational and because it is discriminatory.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, it is quite fair for any member here to attack me on my calculations or my choices. I don't really appreciate an attack based upon the ethnic situation. This is not a question of taking an action because it was an ethnic group. I'm sure you and many people like you who came to Canada were welcomed here.

I'm sure that 52 per cent, I'm told, of the people emigrating to Canada—the thousands we welcomed, the thousands who have enriched our country in many, many ways—still come to Toronto and still find an opportunity in this country which far exceeds that which they left behind. They'll find that this city and this province allows them to do the things they didn't have the right to do at home—to get an education; to have welfare schemes that are far better than they ever knew in their past; to have things like free drugs long before they're qualified for federal pensions—and you know that.

Ontario made this available to people who couldn't qualify for federal pensions. We tried quite sincerely to bring some of these things to people who wouldn't have had the time to live in our country long enough to get federal old age pensions. GAINS is given to these people too.

I feel very badly when a person like you, who is a very important interpreter to this community of what goes on in our government; a person who has won the right to sit here and represent not only Canadians but those people who are new to Canada, feels so badly about the country he has chosen to come to that he attacks us in that way. I find it discouraging because our decision was not, in any sense at all, based upon that.

The whole downtown city of Toronto health care scheme, in one way or another, serves the ethnic community and I believe it serves it very well. It's going to keep on doing that. Hospitals like Toronto General, Mount Sinai, Western, Central, St. Michael's and St. Joseph's, you name them, not only have very high percentages of people who come to Canada from abroad on their staff but offer services to the people who have come to Canada as their patients.

I'm proud of those services. There will be no differentiation by this government on that basis. I'm sorry to see you have to stoop that low.

Mr. McClellan: That's a lot of nonsense; downtown Toronto is invisible to you.

Mr. Lewis: He didn't say you closed it because it was ethnic.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: For so many years you had John Yaremko tramping around this province playing the ethnic community like some kind of instrument and now you suddenly worry about the whole matter.

Mr. Grossman: That was playing it and what we just heard wasn't playing it?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Downsview has the floor.

Mr. Lewis: Such solicitude.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. di Santo: Mr. Chairman, what I tried to get across to the minister is the fact that Doctors Hospital is a unique institution in the city which serves almost exclusively ethnic populations. I know the patients will be transferred to other hospitals, but will they find the same kind of services, the same kind of interpreters, the same kind of nurses? Will the doctors be accommodated in other hospitals, because as you know, as of today, there are no vacancies for them? This is the problem.

At the Doctors Hospital, as I said before, most of the doctors are of ethnic origin. I think that's something you should take into account, because when the patients go to Doctors Hospital they find an atmosphere in which they feel comfortable. Of course they will be accommodated in another hospital, but what you miss is the fact that you are destroying something that is now serving a population and with which that population is satisfied.

Mr. McKessock: I'm not going to holler and shout at you tonight. I'm not even going to throw any snowballs. I'm happy to represent the Durham hospital, which I'm sure is going to get special consideration when all the facts are out and be kept open. Myself and the Liberal Party certainly agree with saving money in the Health budget, and in the rural areas we are quite willing to take our share of budget cuts, such as 2.3 per cent of the hospital budget across Ontario, to save the projected \$40 million.

I believe in good government and I do not like the way the present government is using the rural community. I decided to try to get

into government so I could have a chance, with advice from my constituents, to make some input on the decision-making in our area. The Minister of Health called me the night before he came to Durham and told me what he was going to do the next day.

Mr. Riddell: The usual procedure.

Mr. McKessock: To me that's not having a chance. The people in government cannot make such important decisions for us without first consulting with us. I spent three-quarters of an hour talking with the minister in his office on the Tuesday following the Friday announcement of the closing in Durham.

He's kind of a nice fellow, even though he isn't listening to me, and he seems like a reasonable guy. If he had contacted us three months ago and said: "This is what we have in mind for Durham; what complications will it bring to your area?" we could have worked it out better.

The minister told me the day he was in Durham that they tried talking it over with people in some localities but it didn't work. I said to him that in a democratic society you must consult with the people involved whether you think it works or not.

I would like to make it clear to the members of the Legislature the conditions that exist in the Durham hospital situation which clearly point to the injustices being implemented there.

The weather and road conditions in the winter do not allow normal travel between towns. Durham hospital has an 88.7 per cent occupancy. Durham hospital in 1975 supplied 2,439 meals-on-wheels from its kitchen to senior citizens in the town. There are ambulance services attached to the hospital, with volunteer drivers. A doctors' clinic is next door to the hospital. It's on a main highway from Owen Sound and each week doctors from Owen Sound do dental surgery and other surgery in the Durham hospital because no beds are available in Owen Sound. With the close to \$500,000 cut in Owen Sound's budget this past week it is going to be imperative that the Durham hospital remain open.

[9:45]

Durham hospital was new in 1962, with a new addition in 1972. Average length of stay in the hospital is only 7.8 days. The Durham hospital is one of the few accredited hospitals in the area. Durham hospital is in a tourist area and the hospital services many tourists both summer and winter.

Community efforts resulted in contributions of up to \$4,000 a year toward the hospital. Examples are the hospital auxiliary, junior hospital aids and the community fair. In addition estates also leave money to furnish rooms in the community hospital.

The Durham hospital handled 4,662 emergency cases in 1975. We want something better from the Minister of Health than a statement saying they are going to close our hospital and save \$550,000; that is not good enough. We want the facts and figures as to why Durham is closing.

We would like him to try and answer these questions. Are we not efficient? Are we keeping the patients too long? Is the cost per day too high? Marie Cooper, the Durham hospital administrator, has all the figures. She could have helped the minister make this decision.

I thought the Davis government would have learned its lesson last September, but it hasn't changed a bit. There is still no involvement with the people. In a democratic society, they have no right to make decisions for us, behind a desk in Toronto, without first having full consultation and input from the community and area involved.

I am not mentioning just to be critical the fact that the Health Minister has a new \$7 million hospital going up in his riding. Maybe he needs it. That's his area, we will let him decide. Or the fact that the ministry has just set aside 14 acres in Toronto for a new 700-bed hospital. That is in Toronto's area, we will let them decide; just as long as he will let us help decide what we need in Durham.

It is a well known fact that the hospitality and bedside manner you receive in a small community hospital cannot be equalled in any other. Friends and neighbours can drop in and see you, which helps brighten your day and speed your recovery.

After spending some time with the Minister of Health, I am convinced that the Conservative government is not interested in decentralizing large cities, but rather in making them larger. They are not interested in the rural communities growing. The minister said to me: "What makes you think that Durham will grow? There are no highways going up there."

An hon. member: They are going into Muskoka.

Mr. McKessock: I was glad to hear him admit that the bits of asphalt that pushed their way up into our area are not called highways—but the Minister of Transportation

and Communications (Mr. Snow) calls them really good highways. I said to him that our tourist industry will build up the highways some day, if nothing else. For this reason, we would like at least to hold our own for the time being. But if you keep kicking the props out from under us, we will deteriorate instead of growing.

Mr. Lewis: He has just about closed the town down; not much left.

Mr. McKessock: There are some alternatives to produce savings; there are a few things that should be changed. If a nursing home patient stays in a hospital it costs them nothing; if they stay in a nursing home it costs them \$6.15 a day. This encourages the patient to try and stay in the hospital. This must be changed.

Leo Kell, a dairy farmer who lives in Melancthon township, has given me the idea that our OHIP cards should be similar to credit cards. They should be put through a machine in the doctor's office before the doctor can receive payment. I think this is a very good idea. Some of the doctors have been caught making bills up when they didn't have the patients. This would put a stop to this and save money.

There are many alternative ways to save money and the Minister of Health does not have to set up a commission to study it. He only has to move into each riding that has had a hospital closing announcement and he can get the answers. I think he is overlooking dollars to pick up pennies in Durham.

I would like just to mention something likely to happen if the hospital closes. Regional government will move in, because local governments will become discouraged. Business will drop in the town. Approximately \$600,000 worth of wages will be taken away in Durham. I was talking to one businessman in Durham who was thinking of expanding. He is now changing his mind and thinks maybe he is too big.

Over 50 per cent of the people in town are senior citizens who are living in nursing homes, senior citizen apartments and private homes. There are plans for a new \$2.5 million home for the aged complex to be built in Durham this year. This ratio of old to young should be considered. How would these people get to a hospital or doctor if the doctors leave, which they eventually will? Now it is quite easy and inexpensive with a town taxi available. Taxes will rise for the people left if the hospital goes and removes 55 people from the town.

If Durham hospital is closed the 4,600 emergency cases that were treated there last year will have to be treated somewhere else. Some of them, no doubt, will not make it to another hospital. There is a great difference between closing a hospital in a rural area compared with a closure in a city where there is another one readily available with good road conditions.

Durham hospital saved the Ministry of Health \$181,983 in the last five years by running their hospital this much below the allotted budget. I would like to know how many other hospitals run at below-budget allotments and by how much.

The hon. minister has suggested that if we could come up with similar savings in the area he would consider leaving the hospital open. Why do we have to come up with alternatives? The Minister of Health has made the alternatives for the other 230 hospitals.

I guess the alternative should be further hospital budget cuts of one half of one per cent right across Ontario, which is very little for each hospital and which would give the same \$10 million saving you are looking for. If everybody accepts then everybody would have to learn to save. The way that it is proposed, if you shut us down we learn nothing, and the hospital beds that aren't cut will continue to run wild with the spendings.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Very quickly, I have two or three quick comments. Eighty per cent of the bed cuts in dollars were in cities, not in rural Ontario.

Credit cards are being considered and have been for some time. There are a number of other problems involved.

Three, across-the-board cuts have generally been acknowledged as unfair to those hospitals that have growth situations. There is no use trying to rationalize the system by across-the-board cuts when, in fact, some areas need more because they are growing.

Mr. Riddell: Frank, there is a big difference between bed cuts and closing of hospitals.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The last thing I would point out concerns your comment on something you and I said in my office. Sure I said those very words. I never have had a habit of denying when I say something to somebody. There are other things I've said and there are other things that people have said to me. I have always felt that when I was talking privately to a member I could count on him not quoting me in the House and vice versa. There are some people in this room I could embarrass profoundly with the things

they said to me privately in my office about their own particular constituency matters. I think that is a matter to keep in mind.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Chairman, I don't feel I said anything that would embarrass the minister.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You started questioning the growth of your area and my comments about roads, that kind of thing.

Mr. Riddell: You are very sensitive, Frank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well you are one of the ones who must remember some of the things you have said.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can't answer them.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if it is in order that I ask the minister a few questions before I proceed with my remarks?

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that in 1971 a role study for Doctors Hospital was done by the consulting firm of Peat Marwick and that it spelled out the change that the hospital was going to undergo. Can the minister tell me who commissioned that study; and to whom did Peat Marwick present the study? Were you in basic disagreement with the change of Doctors Hospital and who was the author of that study? If I may have the answers to those questions, Mr. Chairman, then I will proceed, if it is in order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can't answer them.

Mr. Grande: Yes, there was a study in 1971, but I will come to that later.

Mr. Chairman, I want to protest as strongly as I possibly can the closing of Doctors Hospital. I know, and 80,000 people in Metropolitan Toronto know, that the Minister of Health is wrong on this issue. I refuse to get involved in the game of name-calling, even though such names as "The Executioner" and "The Angel of Death" perhaps suit the minister well.

Hon. F. S. Miller: What did you just do? What did you just do?

Mr. Grande: I have no snowballs hidden in my desk and I have no solidified hydrogen sulphide to throw in your direction. I only have some facts and some evidence, which I hope will prove to the minister that closing Doctors Hospital is not only sheer folly but complete madness.

The decision was not arrived at after careful planning but out of political expediency. Efficiency was not the criterion used to arrive

at the decision to close the Doctors Hospital. The minister admitted that the other day, on Wednesday. He said, "Of course the Doctors Hospital is an efficient institution."

Before I focus on the Doctors Hospital, let me assure the Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, and the Liberal Party, that I and my party are not interested in playing the political game of making a case as to why a particular hospital should be closed or should remain open and agree with the closings of all the rest.

The New Democratic Party has taken a stand, as enunciated by my leader today, against all the closings of the community hospitals and the public laboratories. We know that the closings in Paris, Virgil, Kemptville, Bobcaygeon, Durham, Copper Cliff, Clinton and Toronto, are wrong. The people in those communities have paid dearly for those services, and now they are told that those services must be cut off.

The Minister of Health on March 10, in response to one of the questions from behind his back, said he had two reasons that determined the closing of Doctors Hospital. You said—and I quote:

Its size; it happened to be lower than the total number of beds we required. Somewhere in the order of 400 within the city had to be closed: it had 319.

Aside from the fact that those particular remarks were off the cuff, I understand the incoherency. The second reason was:

The fact that it [the Doctors Hospital] had made proposals to me . . . saying it needed to be rebuilt at a cost of \$15 million.

The minister avoids mentioning that Doctors Hospital was closed down because of inefficiency. He knows that he cannot win that argument.

Mr. Grossman: That was a good question that day.

Mr. Grande: Let me give you some facts on the efficiency of Doctors Hospital—and this is not information that only I have; I think everybody has this information. For the year ended Dec. 31, 1974, the cost per patient-day at the Doctors Hospital was \$86. At an average similar hospital, doing the same type of work, the cost was \$92, and at Mount Sinai the cost was \$165. I am not making these comparisons, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that Mount Sinai ought to close leaving Doctors Hospital open. I hope that I have made that point clear at the beginning.

[10:00]

The cost-per-patient at Doctors Hospital was \$664. At an average similar hospital it was \$760, and at Mount Sinai, \$1,619. The

average length of stay at Doctors was 7.7 days, at an average similar hospital, 8.4 days, and at Mount Sinai, 9.8 days. The proven costs, therefore, for the whole year's operation at Doctors Hospital would be \$8,406,240, at an average similar hospital, \$9,621,000, and at Mount Sinai, \$20,496,540.

As of June, 1975, the Ontario Hospital Association has some very interesting figures, which say that the cost per patient-day at Mount Sinai is \$171.57, while at the Doctors it was \$102.30, and the cost per patient at Mount Sinai was \$1,697.25 and at Doctors it was \$780.17. Doctors Hospital in 1975, consistently came under budget. As a matter of fact, the figure, in 1975, they say is approximately \$160,000.

These facts prove beyond any doubt that Doctors Hospital is the most efficient institution when compared with any other hospital of its size doing a similar type of work. The Doctors, if allowed to continue its operation, would save the province money immediately and will continue to save the province money in the future.

Another very important factor which the Health Minister has not taken into account, is the fact that Doctors Hospital serves as a major community health resource centre. The staff of that hospital speaks at least 34 different languages, and that can respond to the needs of the patients who go to that hospital.

Provincial hospitals do not have it in their budget and do not provide salaries for medical translators, so all hospitals depend on regular staff to act on call as interpreters. At Doctors, with a high ratio of new Canadians among the professional and technical staff, the immigrant patient can be made to feel more secure about what is going to happen to him. The patient will be able to understand the difference between a benign tumor and a cancer, between corrective surgery and the amputation of a limb. The bilingual staff can go over the details of proposed treatment in the patient's native language, so that the patient really receives the best possible care available.

Now, a note here about the multicultural atmosphere in Doctors Hospital. I have been one who has been very active within the educational system to try to make those institutions represent the needs of a particular community in which that institution lies. That, to me, is going toward the development of the multicultural society, whether the people on the other side of this House believe in the multicultural society or not. I suspect that all they are doing is paying lip service to it like their federal counterparts in Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman, no one can really understand why the Minister of Health has decided to descend upon the Doctors Hospital and single out that institution in all of Metro, and I hope that the minister is going to be giving us the details which allowed him to make that decision.

One particular day in this House he said: "Don't worry, there are not going to be any cutbacks, any changes in the monster hospitals." To stay for a few more minutes on the fact that the Doctors Hospital represented, truly, the multicultural society that we have in the city of Toronto, what happens when a patient does not understand what his doctor or his nurse do or say to him?; The shouting match begins. This shouting technique is tried, and the rationale behind it is that if you scream a little louder somehow the immigrant will understand you, if he happens to be speaking a little English or no English. When this does not work, untrained nursing aides and clerical workers are called in and they often—not because they want to—do not translate exactly what the doctor or the nurse said. The reason for that is because they do not have the technical vocabulary, not only in the English language but in their own language, with which to make that translation effective.

Mr. Chairman, who suffers in all of this? It's got to be no one else but the patients, because the patients do not get the proper care that they require and that they expect from an institution.

One very important point that the ministry has not taken up—as a matter of fact, I really don't think that the minister or the ministry understands it—is that hospitals are sources of primary medical care. My colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) has talked about this particular point. He has talked about it incessantly. He has been speaking about it for years. The Doctors Hospital is typical of a community hospital in that it sees as many patients on an outpatient basis as it does inpatients; thus the hospital's doctors, through the clinics, act very much as the source of primary medical care to people in the neighbourhood. In closing Doctors Hospital the ministry is cutting people in their neighbourhood off from the major source of their primary medical care. Who suffers, Mr. Chairman? The patients.

Another point which I would like to make, and it needs to be made, is that if and when Doctors Hospital is boarded up, where are the 210 doctors of the hospital going to have privileges? The minister is trying to assure us: "Don't worry, the doctors will get privileges in other hospitals. The nurses will also get

positions in other hospitals." What is going to happen, I suspect, is that the doctors will continue to take care of their patients when they are not seriously ill. They will continue to see them in their clinics, but when these patients require hospitalization then what has to happen is that the doctor has to turn over the particular patient to a complete stranger, to a doctor with whom the patient has no relationship whatsoever. The closing of Doctors Hospital will mean sending a largely ethnic population into hospital care at unfamiliar institutions because many of the people—and the leader of my party mentioned this today—in the particular area where the Doctors Hospital is situated do not know these great big monsters. They are not sent to these great big monsters by their doctors. Once again, the people who suffer are the patients who need the care.

The minister would have us believe that if Doctors Hospital had 500 beds instead of 319, all of them would be filled. We know that this would probably be true. The doctors are interested in bringing patients into hospital and performing operations. The more operations they perform, the more money they earn. The more patients they have in the hospital, the more visits they can make to these patients in one day and thus bill OHIP for a lot more.

Does the minister realize that this attempt to curb the greed of the medical profession and his attempts to change the patterns or establish patterns in attitudes of doctors are hurting the patient? The patient will not be able to get into some of these other institutions which he claims can fill the vacuum.

The patients will not be able to get into these other institutions, at least not the patients who require medical work to be done. It is the patient who has to wait not two or three weeks only in order to get into hospital but he has to wait a period of one or two months perhaps. Why is it that in all this futile exercise the minister has been indulging himself while the patients must suffer?

There is another group of people which is hurting and suffering as a result of the minister's futile exercise. I am referring to the hospital workers and the nurses. The minister somehow shows no concern whatsoever for those particular workers. All he is concerned with is to be seen out there in the public as making tough decisions. All he is concerned with is that his health budget increase is maintained at 10 per cent or 11 per cent. If people are hurt in the process—well, that's rough justice.

The minister is not concerned about the 554 employees of Doctors Hospital, especially at this particular time when we have 6.1 per cent unemployment in the Province of Ontario. All he is doing is throwing more people on the unemployment rolls.

Of course, if they cannot find jobs, and the likelihood is that they will not be finding jobs, these people will be going on unemployment insurance, thereby getting money from the federal coffers. The province doesn't have to worry about that.

He is not concerned that these people will not be able to find work in other hospitals; he is not concerned that these people will not be able to find work—period—in any other place. He is not concerned about the fact that as the Ontario Hospital Association shows, hospital jobs in Ontario are hard to come by these days.

I would like to return briefly to two reasons for closing Doctors Hospital. The very first reason is that the minister said, "I looked around in the city of Toronto and Metro Toronto. I needed to close over 300 beds and there it is." Doctors Hospital is a ready-made place for the minister to close.

He had no other concern whatsoever. He made no other concessions whatsoever. All he was interested in doing was closing the beds. And all the other factors that he should have considered—I believe he did not.

[10:15]

Really, that particular reason I call political expediency. He says, "There is a hospital. It has more than the number of beds I require to close. All right, let's close it." The Premier (Mr. Davis) said of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and the leader of the third party (Mr. S. Smith) that they were zooming in like vultures and if they were ready to call an election on this issue, to go right ahead. Well, I suspect it was the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) who zoomed in like a vulture on the Doctors Hospital and decided that it must close.

The second reason that the Doctors Hospital got the axe, the minister said, was because this particular institution was going to be rebuilt in the next two years, with extensive work going to be done. He thereby gave the public the idea that somehow this particular hospital was a shambles: The ceilings were ready to crack; the patients were not safe in that hospital. Mr. Chairman, that is not the case, because I understand and I have been given assurances—and the Toronto Star published a little article last Saturday, which was headed, "Hospital is too good to

die, doctors claim," and they suggest that the Doctors Hospital can continue in its present condition for at least another 10 to 15 years.

I want to talk a little bit about this second point, because I did a little digging and I got hold of a couple of letters which showed exactly why the Doctors Hospital was going to be changing from the present structure into a community health service.

I asked the minister, at the beginning of my comments, whether he had any information about the role study that was done in 1971. The minister replied in the negative. I understand that Peat, Marwick, the consulting firm, was commissioned in 1971—I don't know exactly, and I wanted to find out from the minister, whether it was the minister who commissioned this consulting firm or whether it was the Doctors Hospital that commissioned this firm to do this particular role study related to the changeover. As I said, it was back in 1971. The person responsible, the author of this particular book, was none other than the present Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Backley.

Mr. Lewis: I wish I had known that. Backley wrote the report?

Mr. Grande: Right.

Mr. Lewis: Boy, oh, boy, are you surrounded by crackerjacks. I understand he is an able fellow. He certainly changes his mind.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, when the present deputy minister wrote that report in 1971 he was not then with the ministry, and I don't want to suggest that there is any kind of bad faith in all this process.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Go ahead and do it anyway.

Mr. Grande: No, I really don't. I have no inclination whatsoever to do that. All I am pointing out is the fact that he did write that particular role study. He was the author of that changeover. I have two letters which I want to put on the record, Mr. Chairman. One is a letter written by the Minister of Health to none other than the Hon. Allan Grossman, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, on Dec. 20, 1974. This is what the letter states:

Dear Allan:

Re: Doctors Hospital, Toronto.

The Ministry of Health is prepared in the near future to authorize Doctors Hospital to proceed to plan a new 200-bed hospital

on the present site, designed with a strong emphasis on the ambulatory and outpatient care.

Mr. Lewis: That's what I was talking about this afternoon.

Mr. Grande: It goes on:

However, at this time it is not possible to offer a firm construction date. I understand the role study for Doctors Hospital, carried out in 1971 by Peat, Marwick, could, with minor updating in light of the reduced number of beds we now contemplate and demographic changes, be used for the hospital as a basis for future planning.

I would suggest, therefore, on the clear understanding there would be no determination as to the year in which we might look forward to the construction of the new facility, but early in 1975 Doctors Hospital approached the minister to request permission to proceed with planning.

Yours sincerely, Frank S. Miller.

Again, on Aug. 11, 1975, the Hon. Allan Grossman, wrote to Mr. Frank Herbert, president, board of directors, Doctors Hospital. It says:

Dear Mr. Herbert:

I was delighted in discussion with the Honourable Frank Miller, Minister of Health, to be advised that approval has been given for Doctors Hospital to proceed to develop a master plan.

Mr. Lewis: I don't believe it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I never denied it.

Mr. Lewis: Aug. 1, 1975, and you closed it down in February, 1976. The whole ministry is involved with that whole thing.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Oakwood will continue.

Mr. Mackenzie: That's private enterprise efficiency.

Mr. Grande: It continues:

Subsequent to our discussion I was provided with a copy of a letter from William Bain, Director, Institutional Planning Branch, Ministry of Health, to Stan Johnston which outlines in some detail steps to be taken.

I particularly noted in Mr. Bain's letter, that while you are requested to reduce by 50 the number of active treatment beds, it is appreciated that it may not be feasible

until such time as the self-care unit and day surgery unit are in full operation. This, of course, has been a matter which I have brought to Mr. Miller's attention some time ago.

I join with you, the board of governors and your administrator, in the anticipation of the fulfilment of a long-awaited dream, the development of Doctors Hospital as outlined in the master programme prepared by Kates, Peat, Marwick in 1971.

With kind regards, Allan Grossman, Minister.

Mr. Lewis: Boy oh boy, no wonder he retired.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, again I am not going to suggest that all of these—the role study done by the now deputy minister, the encouragement which Doctors Hospital received from the Hon. Allan Grossman in the years 1973, 1974 and proceeded into 1975—were any reason whatsoever in the decision to close down Doctors Hospital. All I am saying is that certainly this encouragement that the Doctors Hospital received from this particular ministry at this particular time emerges as one of the major reasons why Doctors Hospital is being closed. It seems to me ironical, to say the least, all the encouragement that it received. As a matter of fact, I know that the Doctors Hospital had proceeded in December of last year, knowing full well that this changeover was going to take place, to go down into the United States and hire an administrator, and as a matter of fact, as of January, 1976, the administrator took office at Doctors Hospital.

I am not going to make any interpretation of all these things. I want to leave them here and all I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is that if Doctors Hospital is going to be closing it certainly must be interpreted that the Ministry of Health has encouraged it to move in that direction of doom. I think that the ministry and the ministers who were responsible for this kind of development ought to take responsibility for that.

So to summarize, the Doctors Hospital will remain one of the most efficient institutions, at least in Metro Toronto, if not in the whole province. The Doctors Hospital reflected the multicultural needs of that particular community. Therefore, if the ministry, or if the government, thinks that this particular factor is important, and is not simply paying lip-service through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and through the umpteen different kinds of reports that they write on this particular issue, then I think that they'd better

look twice before they dismantle what happens, at present, to be a multicultural institution at its best.

If the minister would please try to get that information, I would like to get a copy of that 1971 role study, and there are also a few more questions which I really would love to know the answers to, if the ministry has any answers to them:

One, if and when the hospital closes, where will the patients go? Two, how many interpreters are there in St. Joseph's and in Western and Toronto General? Three, what is the minister doing about the interns of Doctors Hospital? Is he intending to make sure that they don't lose their year? Four, what is the ministry going to be doing about the doctors at the Doctors Hospital and about the nurses? And the last one is: Where will the 1,800 babies be delivered?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, there are only about three minutes remaining, and I would like to put it to the minister, having to do with the situation in Paris at the Willett Hospital, that he has had the position from our chairman of the board, the mayor and others, put very strongly and clearly. From my point of view I want simply to say to him in this forum that I do believe it would be a serious mistake if, in fact, that facility were boarded up.

Now, his instructions are that the Willett Hospital will be closed as of April 1 or as soon after as possible. The minister knows that there are proper and clear alternatives to that, that fit into the constraints that he is applying as far as the reduction of costs are concerned. I sat with the minister in a meeting of, I believe, the Brantford General Hospital board in which it was clearly pointed out to him the need for chronic facilities in the Brantford-Brant community.

In the question period a couple of days ago the minister said the Willett Hospital board does not want the hospital continued as a chronic facility. He is correct in that statement. Because they, very properly, believe that if the Willett becomes only a chronic hospital in fact, we have no hospital at all.

I would suggest to the minister, however, that if this is the only alternative available then obviously we want the facility kept functioning. And I would urge as well that at least some out-patient facilities continue to be associated with the hospital.

The minister knows the arguments, of course, about the fact that the hospital was

built originally with local funds. He knows the argument that all of the expansions and extensions in that hospital and those nearby were approved and certified by his predecessors. He is surely aware that the taxpayers in Paris are still paying off a debenture for the last expansion of the Willett Hospital. I believe it amounts to over \$40,000.

I simply put it to him, with all of the strength that I can command, that to close up the facility and board it up so that it is of no further function to the community would be a serious and irreparable mistake. It's not a question of heart. I suggest it is a question of clear and simple judgement.

The minister is going to be making a final decision in this connection in the very near future, perhaps in the next few hours. I would simply put to him, in the strongest opinion I can express, a call for a continuation of the Willett facility, if necessary just as a chronic facility, hopefully with out-patient responsibilities as well. I hope he is going to be able to say to the chairman of the board, and the mayor, and the other representatives of the community, that he is giving that some further consideration.

I wish there were an opportunity, and perhaps there will be when we return to this item sometime later in the week, to continue the discussion. With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I move the adjournment of this debate.

Hon. F. S. Miller moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House I would like to act in the place of the House leader and point out that tomorrow afternoon the debate on the Speech from the Throne will be carried on by the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith). Following that, the supplementary estimates for the Health Ministry will continue in committee of supply.

Hon. F. S. Miller moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Maeck: Mr. Speaker, may I take this occasion to introduce to the House 32 public school students—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The practice of introducing groups from schools and so on has been changed, I would just point out to the hon. member in all fairness. Thank you.

KATHY KREINER

Hon. Mr. Davis: With the consent of the House I would like to introduce a very distinguished young guest to the House today, Mr. Speaker—a young lady from Timmins, Ont., who brought great distinction to her community and to the province when she won a gold medal for Canada at the Olympics in Innsbruck. I'm sure all of the members here would like to join me in extending our congratulations to Kathy Kreiner, not only for what she accomplished but also our best wishes for her continued success in that rather arduous sport of skiing.

Kathy is on her way back from Aspen where she's competing in the World Cup and on her way to Mont Ste. Anne this Thursday, I believe. I think the members of this House would like to join me in wishing her well in those events. Kathy is situate in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, along with her mother and father, two brothers, one sister and there are two members of the family who couldn't join them here today, but they're all present who could be here and we're just delighted to have them and pay this tribute to her.

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming Kathy Kreiner and her family here, and to say how tremendously proud we all are in Timmins and, indeed, in the Province of Ontario and in Canada for this wonderful achievement that Kathy has made in winning the gold medal in the giant slalom at the Olympics in Innsbruck. We are extremely proud of her dedication and her discipline to skiing and for this wonderful victory, and we hope that she will go on to win many more victories and bring great

honour to us in Canada and in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member on a point of privilege.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, in the weekend press in Toronto, among other things there are two items I think should be corrected. The writer states that "Sargent detests Davis and Davis detests Sargent."

Mr. Nixon: Which one is correct and which one is wrong?

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Fifty per cent isn't bad.

Mr. Sargent: I don't think anyone detests the Premier of the province, but I do detest his policies to make hospitals the guinea pig for provincial spending.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sargent: Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the writer states I, Sargent, approached the Premier in the hall and offered to resign my seat for a new \$10 million hospital. It's not a fact. The member for Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) challenged the Premier to give me a hospital in return for my resignation. Now that he's closing our hospital on April 1, the offer still stands.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, in reply to that point of privilege, I don't always read the weekend press that thoroughly but I did read parts of that interesting article about the hon. member. I'm delighted to hear him today that he didn't say to the reporter that he detests the Premier of this province. I can only say to the hon. member that, really, he has not evoked that sort of passion within me, either in terms of my likes or dislikes. In that I had never talked to that particular reporter, I really don't know how he could assume

whether I liked the hon. member or disliked the hon. member.

I want to make that abundantly clear that I had nothing to do with the contents of that article. I would also make it clear, so the reporter will know, the hon. member did not approach me in the hall to offer his resignation of his seat. If he had done so, the temptation might have been very great. But to keep the record quite straight, the hon. member is right. He never did any such thing.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

MENTAL RETARDATION CENTRES

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Can the minister indicate to the House exactly how much money is budgeted in the fiscal year, 1976-1977 for the mental retardation resource centre at Goderich and the centre at Northeastern—or, to put it a different way, can the minister indicate whether the figures which came from his ministry are in fact reliable?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In reverse order, the figures that come from my ministry usually are reliable. However, in terms of the 1976-1977 budget commitment, I would assume that when those estimates are ready, then those figures will be there. Until then, I can't at the moment say what the amount will be.

Mr. Lewis: But I take it, by way of supplementary, that the minister is therefore not in a position to deny the figures from his ministry which have so far been tabled?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I may be in a position to refute the member's figures if he is inviting me to do that, but I may say that I haven't undertaken that as yet.

Mr. Ferrier: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the minister can inform us as to whether the budget for 1976-1977 for the Northeastern Mental Health Centre will be sufficient to allow that centre to operate at full capacity for that year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Of course, the hon. member makes mention of operating a centre at full capacity. I would like to inform the member that that centre is a resource centre, which is not a schedule I or schedule II facility. It's not a question of residential care. Of course, there will be some there. It's a centre which will provide diagnostic and other services and outreach programmes for the community. Insofar as those programmes are involved, they will take place in accordance

with the wishes of the district working groups. I have sat down with the district working groups in the Timmins area and that programme, of course, will unfold. It's a different type of programme which involves, I may say, diagnostic services as well as other assessment services. But it's a different type of facility than a straight residential care facility. So that one really can't talk in terms of capacity if one is trying to compare this centre with a psychiatric hospital because, of course, they are altogether two different types of facilities.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: Could the minister advise us, given the fact that the mental retardation district working group in the Goderich area has rejected his plans for an MR facility in Goderich, and these groups are supposedly consulted and involved in the planning, is he prepared to make a statement concerning the role of these groups and the role of the OAMR? Has there been any change in his ministry's policy toward the MR working group?

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: None whatsoever. As a matter of fact, I sat down on two separate occasions with the district working group in Goderich. The initial suggestion to the district working group was that a resource centre would be established there. My ministry thought that it could take advantage of the existing physical plant to develop a resource centre. The district working group thought that in the light of the other facilities available in the area that that would not be the best idea. Accordingly, I met with them and told them that we would not establish a resource centre, therefore, at Goderich.

However, I subsequently met with them and outlined a proposal I had formulated in internal meetings with my ministry staff on the concerns expressed by me and others that it was necessary to take the pressure off some of our schedule I facilities.

As you know, we have great numbers of residents in such places as Orillia and Smiths Falls. We're anxious to draw down, if at all possible, the numbers in those institutions; to provide them with better accommodation and to transfer residents closer to their families. For that reason we thought that we could utilize the existing plant in Goderich for a schedule I facility.

I outlined that to the district working groups and my perception of that meeting was very good in that they understood fully what we were trying to do and expressed

agreement in terms of the fact that we would be assisting persons who were presently in institutional care and that we would be bettering their lot. It wasn't a question of deviating from our philosophy, of course, of de-institutionalization and normalization. I had a very good feeling from the district working group and we have not changed our philosophy in terms of those groups.

MORTGAGE INTEREST SUBSIDIES

Mr. Lewis: Could I ask the Premier a question? With mortgage interest rates on the rise—the pressure is pushing them now beyond 12 per cent—is the Premier prepared to reconsider the undertaking made just prior to the end of the last election campaign—which has since been discarded—to subsidize somehow or provide some kind of tax credit for the interest rate situation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: As I recall the situation in the latter part of August or early part of September, we were quite concerned about the construction industry and the impact that mortgage interest rates would have on the industry. It was, as I recall the statement, basically to stimulate the industry further at that time. I think it is fair to say that we are still concerned about the industry although when one looks at the figures and the numbers of starts it appears to be in much better shape than it was just a few months ago.

I make no bones about it. I can't see how the decision to increase the prime rate, with the effect it will have on mortgage rates, can be described as being anything but inflationary. I become a little bit discouraged on occasion with the decisions of the federal government which appears to be attempting to deal with inflation through some aspects of its policy and yet obviously encourages this sort of situation to take place.

In fairness, also, it has introduced a programme as far as new home buyers are concerned which does offset a portion of the mortgage interest problem. I have always felt that this is an area which government should consider but I would be less than honest with the Leader of the Opposition if I gave any encouragement because I think any programme of this kind would really have to encompass more than first home buyers or new homes. We get into the question of refinancing mortgages—second and even third mortgages in some instances.

I think that while the idea still has some attraction—I don't minimize it—with the con-

straints and the priorities we have established it would be misleading to the Leader of the Opposition to suggest that this might be reactivated at this present time. This does not alter my own point of view as to the decision to have the interest rates go up. I think it's inflationary. I'm no economist but I don't know how it can be construed in any other sense.

Mr. Bullbrook: It's too bad you signed the agreement with them. Why do you like signing agreements with them all the time if you don't agree with their policy? You're right. Their policy is wrong. Why do you sign agreements with them? You go to bed with them all the time.

Mr. Yakabuski: Don't blame us.

Mr. Bullbrook: Blame you? You are the ones who signed the agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary, if I may: Since the policy initially was the Premier's, based on the need to fill the gap which the federal Liberals would not fill, and the Premier has conceded now that it isn't closed.

Can I ask the Premier what one does in Ontario generally, or in the Metro Toronto market, for example, where the average price transaction in February was \$61,215, which requires carrying costs of something like \$630 a month after down payment and means that only 8.2 per cent of the families in this part of the province can afford such a house purchase? What does the government do on behalf of the other 91.8 per cent of the families who would wish to make such a purchase? Doesn't the Premier think it demands intervention or protection of some kind?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would say with respect that I don't think a mortgage interest subsidy of, say, one or 1½ per cent would resolve—

Mr. Lewis: It's up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it was a differential between say, 10¼ per cent and 12¼ per cent.

Mr. Lewis: That's two per cent now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it could be two per cent, and that could fluctuate within the next six months or in the next six days. Who knows?

Mr. Deans: We thought maybe you meant it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say with respect, Mr. Speaker, that that form of tax credit, where there was a suggested limit, would not alter the question that the hon. Leader of the Opposition raises. I question whether it would have any significant effect.

Mr. Singer: Why did you bring it up in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the hon. member wants to ask a supplementary, I would be delighted to answer it when he gets on his feet and asks the question. I am trying to explain to the Leader of the Opposition that I don't think that particular programme would alter the figures that exist here in Metropolitan Toronto.

I would say, again with respect, that I think there has been, to some degree at least, a stabilization in the house market. And while one looks at Metropolitan Toronto—and I don't minimize the extent of the market here in Toronto—

Mr. Lewis: It's gone up 30 per cent in one year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: It's gone up 30 per cent in one year in Metro.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, sure, and it has gone up in Vancouver and in a number of other communities. It is also possible to buy houses at much lower prices than that not too far distant from Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Cassidy: Not true.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I happen to know of a few. And while I can't say that is a solution in itself, I think the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has undertaken a number of programmes, basically the OHAP programme, that are beginning to have some results.

We all know what is also part of the answer, and that is to have more registered lots available to increase the competition within the marketplace. The hon. Leader of the Opposition can ask, "Why don't you do more about that?" I can only say we are making a very genuine attempt and, I think, having some degree of success.

Mr. Singer: Sure, Ottawa—

Hon. Mr. Davis: And before the member for Wilson Heights interjects, that great party that is so much in support of autonomy for the local municipalities should know that one of the inhibiting factors in the registration of plans of subdivision has been the attitude of a number of municipalities in and around Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Singer: Who drafts the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: And while members of that party would say to us use the heavy hand and force the municipalities—

Mr. Singer: You write the legislation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —for heaven's sake, at least once in their life they should be consistent in the approach they are taking.

Mr. Singer: You write the legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What's more, you know it is true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Are you ready?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We are ready.

Mr. Lewis: So are we. That makes two of us.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: If the Premier is now standing here telling this House that his programme for subsidization of interest rates won't work, why did he bring it up in the first place and why did he lay it on the people of this province as an election promise?

Mr. Lewis: Well, it was 10 days before the 18th.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not standing up in this House and saying that an interest subsidy programme would not be without some benefit.

Mr. S. Smith: Without substantial benefit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am saying to the hon. member for London Centre, who is the self-acknowledged economic expert on that side of the House, that he should know the facts of life. He should even know them in and around London, where he is reasonably familiar with the development industry. The fact remains—and it is simply this—that the cost of housing in the London area does not relate to whether or not there is a mortgage interest subsidy.

Mr. S. Smith: Why did you offer it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we offered it very simply to give stimulus to the industry.

Mr. S. Smith: To win the election.

Mr. Bullbrook: We know what you were trying to stimulate.

Mr. Singer: You were trying to stimulate votes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to give the federal government some degree of credit, because they have undertaken a partial programme with respect to interest subsidy.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: No, I think we have spent enough time on this one. There can be further questions later.

Mr. Good: It didn't do a good job. You still lost 22 seats.

PRIVATE LABORATORIES

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Attorney, as my colleague affectionately calls him, I take it that the Attorney General has the police investigation reports of Abko labs in his possession. Without revealing matters which relate to charges, because I know that's a separate fact, can we indicate to the Legislature whether there is any request in that report for a public inquiry, and whether there are any comments on the other private laboratory networks?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have met with my senior law officer who has been directing the investigation and the senior officer in charge of the investigation as recently as this morning. First of all, I should indicate that the investigation has not been completed. I would think that any decision in relation to the laying of criminal charges will be made most probably within the next week.

Insofar as reports that have been made in relation to the investigation are concerned, I simply do not recall all the contents of those reports. In any event, I would think it would be premature and improper of me to make any further comments at this time in relation to this investigation because criminal charges may well be laid.

But I honestly don't know the answer to that question at this moment. It's a very involved investigation and I'd be quite prepared to talk to the hon. Leader of the Opposition privately in relation to some of the details and the problems related to the investigation, but I'm very reluctant or very cautious about saying anything that may in any way prejudice a fair trial or impede the completion of the investigation.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: much as I'd like to chat with the Attorney General in a public forum, let me ask him by way of supplementary again: Leaving aside the charges, leaving aside the police investigation, do the reports which he has received and have his discussions with the law officers of the Crown led to either a specific request in the report for a public inquiry or comments on the need for an inquiry?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: To the best of my knowledge they do not in either of those two cases. Again I don't have the report with me. I've read them fairly recently; I do not recall any specific or general suggestion in relation to a recommendation as to a public inquiry.

Mr. Singer: Further to the minister's answer to the Leader of the Opposition, wouldn't the Attorney General believe that in view of the grave concern and the great number of people involved and the great number of dollars involved, that the public interest would be best served by the ordering of a public inquiry conducted in the appropriate manner?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: At this stage I'm certainly not of the view that the public interest would be best served by a public inquiry.

ANAESTHETIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Can the minister explain why and upon whose advice the decision was made to include regulations with regard to the installation and maintenance of anaesthetic systems in hospitals under the Ontario Building Code, which is as you know enforced by local municipalities, rather than under the Public Hospitals Act, which would be under the Ministry of Health and which would be much better able to enforce something as difficult and as complex as that particular aspect of the code?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I must say that I'm not aware of the fact that no

consultation took place with the Ministry of Health. I'm prepared to look into the circumstances under which the particular regulations were put in. But there was two years of consultation before those regulations were proclaimed and as far as I know that consultation took place with every interested party in the province.

Mr. S. Smith: In view of tragic occurrences in the Sudbury hospital, where I believe 23 deaths occurred as the result of the wrong installation of anaesthetic equipment, and in view of the fact that such deaths have also occurred elsewhere in North America rather frequently, is the minister convinced the regulations, especially some of the smaller municipalities for which this probably would be impossible, and would he be prepared to tell the House of the results of his inquiries into the matter and perhaps to consider changing this to something that has provincial regulation?

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First of all, the Ontario Building Code is a provincial regulation and we have entrusted the municipal building inspectors to enforce it. We are quite aware there are limitations on their capabilities and we have had some inquiries, particularly from smaller municipalities, as the hon. member suggests, and we are prepared to undertake a training programme or to work with them to ensure that their qualifications are raised. We recognize the difficulties in administering a code of such technical difficulty in the smaller municipalities and we are looking into the possibility of upgrading the training of municipal building inspectors.

Mr. S. Smith: The minister is going to have a training programme for them basically.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Mr. S. Smith: In the absence of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes), perhaps I could direct a question to the Premier. Is our information correct that certain employees for the rent review programme are being hired by and paid by Drake Personnel or possibly Office Overload?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think actually that minister would not be responsible for that programme in any event. In that the appropriate minister is here, perhaps the leader of the Liberal Party might direct the question to him.

Mr. Deans: Maybe I can help him.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is redirected. Is the hon. minister here?

Mr. S. Smith: May I redirect the question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. minister aware of the question? I believe he is.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, the support staff for all the rent review offices are being hired through Drake Personnel which were given a contract after a number of bids were asked for by, I believe, Management Board. Drake Personnel were given that on a short-term contract.

Mr. Peterson: You don't have enough personnel officers?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Their hiring has now been completed—and those are the support staff, not the rent review officers. The rent review officers are being hired through the personnel office of my ministry and the Ministry of Housing jointly.

Mr. S. Smith: Could the minister explain why the hiring is not being done by the Civil Service Commission and, secondly, how much is being paid to Drake Personnel for this service and, thirdly, whether these employees are classified as civil servants and appear on the total civil service complement?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The answer to the first part of the question is simply that it was a crash hiring programme and it would have required a great deal of government resources in order to do the hiring all across the province in order to have the programme in place. It was felt desirable that before it was transferred to my ministry that it be done by Drake Personnel who had the resources to do it. I can't advise the hon. member the exact amount that was paid to Drake Personnel, but I can obtain that information. They are not civil servants, they are on a short-term contract.

Mr. Shore: Seventy thousand employees.

Mr. Deans: Why was the hiring not done through Canada Manpower and then there would have been no payment made to any personnel operation? Canada Manpower is set up throughout the Province of Ontario for the very purpose of screening and determining the suitability of applicants and there are any number of people already on the rolls of the unemployed who would like that opportunity to find work.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked, I believe.

Mr. Bullbrook: The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson) could have got those people in Sarnia in 10 minutes.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could answer the question. I don't know why Canada Manpower wasn't asked—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Don't you think you should find out?

Mr. Lewis: They can't find jobs around the province.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The decision had been taken when the programme was transferred to my ministry and it simply carried on. Perhaps the hon. member would like to ask the Minister of Housing who is involved in making that decision, when he is available.

Mr. Deans: Don't you think it should have been?

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the minister could tell us why Drake Personnel is paying these employees and not the government of Ontario and how much of each dollar that Drake pays over it takes as its commission?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I can't answer the second part of the question.

Ms. Gigantes: Thirty per cent.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Certainly it is far better in our view rather than to raise expectations of permanent employment among these people that they be paid by someone else. They are not on the government payroll and they are not part of the permanent establishment.

Mr. Singer: You let the Drake people take a rake-off by inserting a middleman.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: They will not have jobs when the programme ends.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the member for Hamilton West have any further questions? The hon. Attorney General has the answer to a question asked previously.

Mr. Deans: That's a very bad policy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. Attorney General.

Mr. Deans: You spend millions of dollars opening and setting up agencies.

Mr. Speaker: Order from the hon. member for Wentworth.

PLEA BARGAINING

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) asked me the other day to table any memoranda circulated to Crown attorneys in relation to plea discussions. The only two memoranda of which we are aware of are the memorandum by the then Attorney General, Dalton Bales, dated June 30, 1972, and a follow-up memorandum dated Feb. 26, 1976, which was circulated at my request. I would like to table these memoranda at this time.

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

Mr. Swart: My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Labour: In view of the federal cabinet's decision on the papermill workers' settlement in the Irving case and in recognition of the fact that there may be some areas in which the settlement in Ontario exceeds that, is the minister prepared to recommend the support of her cabinet to the Anti-Inflation Board for ratification of the settlement in Ontario?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the decision which is to be made by the Anti-Inflation Board and any appeal to it, in this instance is made with the private sector. The responsibility for support of the agreement should lie with the employers and the employees in that situation.

Mr. Swart: A supplementary—I think perhaps the minister misunderstood my question which was asking the cabinet to support the settlement in Ontario. By way of supplementary, may I ask if she is then prepared, if I take her answer at face value, to see a settlement for the papermill workers in Ontario below that settlement which has been approved in BC?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There has been a traditional relationship between the wages paid and the agreements arrived at in Ontario and British Columbia which, I believe, has been taken into account by the Anti-Inflation Board. I believe that the contracts which have been agreed to in the Province of Ontario have special provisions for modifications thereof should a higher settlement be agreed to by the Anti-Inflation Board in terms of those settlements east of the Manitoba border.

HOSPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, through you to the Minister of Health: In view of the minister's recent statements of an expenditure increase for services of 10 per cent and an expenditure increase for salaries of eight per cent, could he enlighten this House as to what the significance of that statement would be and if it would affect any further hospitals which haven't already been placed in a closing position?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I was beginning to wonder if I had escaped the question period and I attributed it to the suit which makes me look like the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

Mr. S. Smith: That's an insult both ways.

Mr. Reid: It looks like one of his old suits.

Mr. Warner: Are you going to start closing the schools now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are waiting for the answer.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, each year it has been traditional for the hospitals to get a letter of that type setting out what the general expansion in the base budgets would be. We have simply sent to them the amounts we will fund for growth in the two important parts of their budgets—supplies and services, and labour. We have told them that if settlements they make exceed the limits we have imposed, they will not get any more money. Therefore, they should either negotiate within those limits or be prepared to curtail services in order to do so.

Mr. Shore: For clarification—if the settlements were made in 1975 or some point in time, for higher than eight per cent, what effect could that have on your suggested proposal to them?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think you will find that in some instances allowances have been made for pre-negotiated settlements. I think this is the kind of thing each hospital has discussed with us on an individual basis.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Minister of Labour: Has the Province of Ontario taken advantage of the community employment strategy proposed by the federal Manpower and Immigration Department and has the minister considered Hamilton-Wentworth as an implementation centre?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the answers to those questions are yes and yes.

AUTO LICENSING AGENCIES

Mr. Reid: I have a question for the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow): Is the Premier aware of the programme, Fifth Estate, on CBC some two week ago, which outlined some of the abuses of the licence issuers in the Province of Ontario? Is the Premier aware of the criticisms in the auditor's report of last year of the financial handlings of that ministry, of the \$165 millions? Has the minister or Premier given and direction to have this whole sordid mess cleaned up and assure the public of the province that the fees collected are, in fact, getting into the public coffers?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member perhaps might ask the minister more directly when he is here; which I expect he will be tomorrow. I can't say that I did watch that particular television programme. I don't find as much time as I would like to watch television, so I didn't see it. I can't comment on the programme at all.

Mr. Sargent: Did you see "The Insurance Man from Ingersoll"?

Hon. Mr. Davis: But, particularly, I understand it was a non-violent programme, so there would have been nothing offensive about it, I'm sure—much. I'd be delighted though to alert the minister to the question and have him be ready to reply tomorrow.

Mr. Reid: By way of supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker. Is the Premier not concerned that \$165 million of the people's money is being mishandled in the province? And doesn't he think he has a responsibility to ensure, in view of the fact that 90 per cent of the returns from licence issuers have been incorrect in the past number of years, some responsible direction in this regard? Since your minister—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether I heard the hon. member correctly. How much money is he talking about?

Mr. Reid: About \$165 million.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That he is saying was mishandled? I don't think that's what the report said.

REIMBURSEMENTS TO TRAVELLERS

Mr. Philip: A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: What arrangements have been made under the Travel Industry Act, 1974, to reimburse the passengers who paid for the Blue Vista tour that was scheduled to leave Jan. 23 for Jamaica?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, if they've dealt with a registered travel agent or a registered tour operator in Ontario, and if they have put their claims in to the registrar of travel services, those claims are being processed—and, presumably, will be dealt with by the compensation board which has been established for that purpose.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Has anyone to date received reimbursement who was scheduled to be on that tour?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, many people have received reimbursements directly from the agents or others. At the moment all of the claims are being compiled by the registrar simply because the terms of the trust agreement are that no claims can be paid until they're all in—and not all of them are in. But many consumers have been reimbursed, yes.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary.

Mr. Philip: Is the ministry planning on taking any legal action against any travel wholesaler, agent or sales person as a result of this?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: There is no evidence that would lead us to believe that any such action would bear any fruit. I know of no offences at the moment.

VOLUNTARY FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of the fact that the Throne Speech stated that there would be legislation coming forth to allow for a voluntary farm income stabilization plan, could we have a date when we can expect this legislation to be presented?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to say, but certainly it will be as soon as possible—because I want to leave it on the order paper for a while so members will have a chance to look at it.

Mr. McKessock: Supplementary: The last Throne Speech indicated we would also have a plan to this effect and that it would be in place before the seeds went in the ground—

this was last year. Would the minister give us this same promise?

Hon. W. Newman: From the member's fair part of the country it might be a while before the seeds get in the ground, but in other parts of the province the seeds will be in the ground very shortly.

Mr. Reid: Election stakes first.

Hon. W. Newman: No, I intend to bring it in very soon.

Mr. Reid: The election stakes will be in the ground before government policies.

Mr. Conway: Has the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) been sowing his oats?

HIRING PRACTICES AT CARLETON

Mr. Martel: To the Minister of Colleges and Universities: Based on Professor Mathews' report with respect to the hiring practices at Carleton, is it the minister's intention now to move ahead with any of the recommendations in the select committee report based on colleges and universities?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You aren't listening to Robin Mathews again, are you?

Mr. Martel: Could the minister indicate what action his ministry intends to undertake in implementing those recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I will in the very near future. I am tempted to say "in the fullness of time," but I know that that isn't good enough. I said "this spring," and I can assure the member that I will do so this spring if it's three or four weeks—I think I need that much more time—but it will be then.

[2:45]

NEW FUELS

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy. Has the minister or his officials looked into the dramatic new form of dry-powdered fuel called magnesium hydride that provides energy equivalent to paying six cents for a gallon of gasoline?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I personally have not, but I will check with the staff who are involved in ongoing work with such things. Perhaps it might also be known to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, who have under way a programme involving the testing of 10 alternative fueling devices for cars.

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: Will the minister then contact the Billings Energy Research Corp. in Provo, Utah, for additional information?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't know if the hon. member has a franchise or what, but perhaps if he already has the information he could send it to me and it would save me having to write.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING ON FOOD

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food regarding the three-year study at the University of Guelph concerning the detrimental effect of fluorescent lighting on various foods displayed for sale in stores, especially milk and butter: What is the ministry doing to require light-protective packaging for these foods?

Hon. W. Newman: The packaging of the foods does not come under the jurisdiction of my ministry, but certainly we have done considerable work in the field, as you well know, and have made a report public. But we have done nothing specific as far as packaging is concerned.

Mr. Burr: Supplementary: What is the good of the study unless the minister is going to get some results?

Mr. Deans: That's a good question.

Mr. Burr: Whose responsibility is it? Is it the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman)?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I will just comment on that report that did come out. It's a fairly extensive report on fluorescent light and how it can affect food, depending on how long it is left there; that would have some bearing on it. Certainly we don't see any major health problem there. I don't want to speak for the other ministries—the member could ask them about it—but I don't see any major problem there.

TREATMENT OF WORKERS AT HYDRO PLANT

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Energy: What plans has the minister to investigate both the charges of 350 pipefitters employed by the Lummus Co. in the Hydro water plant at Douglas Point with regard to the charge that they are being treated like "white niggers" by the advisory

staff, all Americans, and the documented stories I have that millions of dollars of waste is being perpetrated by the Lummus Co. under the protection of Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think that last statement has to be just about one of the most irresponsible statements I have ever heard that member make, and usually he is hard to beat, even by himself.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, it is in the press, it is well known.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have answered numerous questions over the last 14 months from that particular hon. member on that particular project with regard to that particular company, and if he ever has information to substantiate any of these allegations I wish he would supply it to me.

Mr. Sargent: You will get it after the House.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: In 14 months he has never been able to do it. Now, with regard to his specific question. He alleges that all of the supervisory staff are Americans. I want to tell him that there are 223 supervisory staff at that particular site. The company in question advertised extensively in Canada. Supervisory staff are hired on the basis of their ability in relation to that kind of a nuclear project. Eighteen of 223 are Americans.

If he wants to get into the particulars of the labour situation on that site, if he would like I will read him—

Mr. Sargent: So you know all about it. You have got it all there.

Mr. Shore: How come you are so prepared?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sargent: Are the Canadians all wrong? Are they all wrong?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Don't you want the answer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question which has been asked is being answered.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member did not tip me off beforehand that he was going to ask this question.

An hon. member: He's just well prepared.

Mr. Good: Somebody did.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I just believe in being prepared for such things. If the hon. member

would like a summary of what is involved with the current labour dispute to which he refers I would be glad to read it now, or I can send it to him, whichever he prefers.

Mr. Sargent: Send it to me.

Mr. Grossman: Better read it to him.

ALLEGATIONS OF PATRONAGE

Mr. Samis: A question to the Minister of Health if I can get his attention.

Mr. Warner: He is the one who wanted questions.

Mr. Samis: Is the minister aware of allegations in the press in eastern Ontario of patronage regarding the awarding of a nursing home licence in Dundas county? Would he be prepared to table all the relevant documents in the House?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any allegations of patronage but I'm certainly aware of the nursing home in question, and the fact that a Dr. Parisien in the city of Cornwall feels he should have won, and the fact that we gave it to a Mr. Augwire in another community who already had an allowance, I think, of 40 beds in addition to his basic licence. They were both among the numerous people submitting proposals. It was chosen in a perfectly fair way and it's above reproach.

Mr. Samis: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The question was, would the minister be prepared to table those documents?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I need to table those documents. I think the choice was perfectly well made.

Mr. Cassidy: Over there, you should make a struggle.

Mr. Lewis: If it is above reproach, why not table the material?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CONSUMERS AND THE BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT

Mr. Good: A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Why does the ministry not assist consumers in their disputes—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the question.

Mr. Good:—under the Business Corporations Act—I believe it is section 55—regarding verbal misrepresentation, instead of telling them to go to the small claims court and have a judge decide? Why doesn't the ministry assist them by telling the businesses involved what their obligations are under that section of the Business Corporations Act?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is referring to the Business Practices Act. I would like to have some specifics about cases where our ministry has not advised merchants of their liabilities under that Act. Certainly, the courts are there to adjudicate and our ministry is not to act as a court. We will take action under the Act if I could have some specifics.

Mr. Good: A supplementary: Would the minister then investigate the charges or allegations made by Barbara Klish yesterday on CBC radio—she's a consumer affairs expert—who said your ministry simply told the people to go to the small claims court to get their grievances settled rather than going to the businesses and telling them what their obligations are under that section of the Business Practices Act? Phone Barbara Klish at the CBC.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I certainly will make inquiries and ascertain whether or not there have been any improper acts on the part of our officials.

LAYOFF OF TEACHERS AT TRAINING SCHOOL

Ms. Sandeman: A question of the Minister of Correctional Services: Could the minister please explain to me why it was felt necessary to lay off five academic teachers at Grandview Training School on Dec. 31 at a time when the school had such a shortage of teaching staff that it found it necessary to find 20 volunteers to help with students in their academic classes?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, the reason for the reduction in the teaching complement was the low counts at Grandview school.

Ms. Sandeman: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister explain then why the reason given for needing volunteers was that the students needed help

with their academic classes? Could the regular complement of teachers not have provided that help?

Hon. J. R. Smith: I think it should not be construed that this bears any relationship. The policy of the ministry—and I've encouraged this wherever possible, particularly in the juvenile division—is that there is a very positive role that volunteers can play, particularly in remedial reading and other aspects of education. They are encouraged at all the centres to use the volunteers.

Mr. Foulds: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister, as the former parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), not agree that fundamental skills such as remedial reading need a certain amount of expertise and that not all the volunteers you might get in such a programme would have that expertise? Wouldn't the minister further agree that inadequate teaching at that particular point could have a positively harmful effect?

Hon. J. R. Smith: I just used that specific example. The fact of the matter is that all volunteers go through an orientation programme—selected volunteers from the community.

Mr. Warner: The fact is you got rid of five teachers and took 20 volunteers.

Hon. J. R. Smith: They have a role in many capacities and I know they complement and reinforce the teaching staff and are of great assistance to them. It is unfortunate that these teachers at Grandview received their notice very late; I know particularly that the art teacher, for example, was one of them.

Nevertheless, the counts are down and in no way are we trying to bolster the loss of that complement through volunteers, but rather to enrich the overall programme.

Mr. Lewis: We know how you enrich the programme.

FUNDS OF PATIENTS IN HOMES FOR THE AGED

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services in regard to the statement he made on two occasions with regard to the confiscation of the funds of senior citizens in institutions in this province if, in fact, they have over \$500 to their credit with that institution. Would he explain to me his reasoning

behind that policy; how he is going to implement it—whether by regulation or by a change in the Act brought into the House—and if, in fact, this is the policy of the government to be followed continuously?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, let me answer that in the reverse order to which it was asked. May I say that the proposal was—

Mr. Lewis: Answer; answer. Get to the answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just be patient.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, you're wasting valuable time.

Mr. Lewis: Answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Maybe he'll learn something that he didn't learn through the press.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: Get to the answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. First of all, may I say that there has been no policy developed by this government in connection with that particular suggestion that I enunciated.

An hon. member: No policy?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say that the proposal, or the suggestion that I put forward, was made by me after discussing a particular situation that exists with the administrators of the homes for the aged throughout the province. As a matter of fact, the suggestion in terms of these trust accounts was advanced to me and put forward as well not long ago by the Metropolitan Toronto welfare committee. May I say that if you look at the situation that exists, persons resident in homes for the aged pay their full rate within those homes if they have the financial capacity to do so. In other words, if they have their own private assets, then they pay their own way in the homes for the aged until those liquid assets are—

Mr. Lewis: Answer, Mr. Speaker. This is ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —brought down to the sum of \$2,000. That's their own money and there was never any suggestion that that be changed. However, there has developed in Ontario a situation in regard to the buildup of trust funds because of residents in the homes who have become senile and who are not able to spend sums allotted to them as comfort allowances. In other words, there has

been a buildup in Ontario, I've been told, to the extent of some \$10 million.

Mr. R. S. Smith: How many chapters are you going to cover?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Let me answer.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The oral question period has expired.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I lost track of that question and the answer both.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please—just one moment, please. I stretched the time just for a moment because I recognized the member for Nipissing in time for the last supplementary. I did allow it to go, even though it was the end of the period. But it has gone on well past the end of the question period.

Mr. Deans: That's his fault.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'd like one supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: We're four minutes over now. So I think we should leave it to another day.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I've even forgotten what the question was. Let's get on to the next order of business.

On a point of order, the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Yes, Mr. Speaker, surely there has to be some measure of control brought to bear on cabinet ministers who unduly prolong their answers, as this minister was doing a moment ago.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Does the member for Wilson Heights want the facts?

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: I am sure I have encouraged short questions and short answers and I would do that again today.

Petitions.

Mr. Nixon: The government backed down on it anyway.

Mr. Lewis: Someone told me yesterday that he gives the right wing a bad name.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Motions.

Mr. Lewis: He takes the right-wing plank of the Tory party. Something has to be done about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Introduction of bills.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Could we get on with the business of the House? Any bills?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answer to question No. 1 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 486.)

Mr. Deans: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There seems to be a point of order or something.

Mr. Deans: I rose when you asked if there were any bills but you were looking that way, sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry if I missed you. I will recognize you now.

FIRE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Deans moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act relating to the installation of Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems in Buildings.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Deans: The bill provides that buildings or structures over three storeys in height or 45 ft in height to the roof line above grade be equipped with approved automatic fire extinguishing systems. It applies equally to new buildings and to buildings that are being rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise at this time to speak in this debate. I

want, first of all, for the sake of members opposite to explain that anything I may say in the course of this shortish discourse should not be taken as an offence to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor but rather as an offence to her government.

Mr. Mancini: That goes for the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson) too.

Mr. S. Smith: I feel, rather than start in perverse order the way my friend opposite does when he goes about answering questions, I'll start at the beginning.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Because your memory is short.

Mr. S. Smith: First of all, I want to continue with something I mentioned on the day on which the Legislature opened, that is, I would like to just take a moment to pay tribute to my predecessor in office, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon). I did make mention of this at the opening when the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) were kind enough to issue friendly remarks of greeting to me, but I do want to take just a little more time because I do believe that the people of Ontario have been, generally speaking, very well served by the politicians of all political stripes who have offered themselves over the many years to the public service in Ontario.

Among the people who have served Ontario very well, and I hope in this case will continue to serve Ontario very well for many years, there must rank very high the name of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. He is not only very well loved in his constituency, as I am sure we are all aware, but, generally speaking, he has a very well, deserved reputation as a decent man, an honourable man, an able parliamentarian, and as a person dedicated to the betterment of political life in this province.

Although there will be many times and there have been many times when there have been disagreements—even violent disagreements—with various members in various parts of this province and various parties, I think fundamentally Ontario would be very fortunate indeed if there were more people ready to offer themselves with the same selfless dedication which has been shown by this man's family and by this man himself. I'm very privileged to be following in his footsteps. I very much appreciate the fact that members of this House have shown similar appreciation.

I'm particularly pleased, of course, to be representing Hamilton West. On previous

occasions I have detailed some of the difficulties we have had in Hamilton in getting what we consider fair treatment from provincial governments and, for that matter, from federal governments as well.

Hon. members know already that our natural setting has been rather despoiled. Our bay is polluted. People living in the vicinity of our industries are suffering from illnesses—cancer, respiratory illnesses—and, generally speaking, we have had very little in the way of protection or in the way of special consideration for our heavy industrialization. We've had very little in the way of meaningful decisions from the Ministry of the Environment in particular or the Ministry of Health.

The people of Hamilton are becoming very impatient with the government in Ontario and in particular they are a little disturbed right at the moment by a tiny piece of typical arrogance, I guess, on the part of the present government. The municipal government in Hamilton, the regional government, is presently being bullied to accept an expressway route through Red Hill Creek which is a rather lovely conservation area. They're being threatened. They either have to seriously consider putting it through this area or they are going to lose the \$2 million subsidy. It's just typical of the way in which this city has been handled by successive governments over the years. On behalf of the citizens of Hamilton I want to protest in a heartfelt way about the way in which that particular city has been singled out for abuse and lack of protection.

Turning more to partisan matters, I was amazed and impressed by the three-hour performance by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. I sat through it all with the exception of a few moments and I found that there was very little I could disagree with. I thought that he—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Were you more amazed or impressed?

Mr. S. Smith: I was both.

Mr. Lewis: Don't push it when he is nice. Leave him alone. He has been friendly; leave him alone.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought I'd give him a chance.

Mr. Lewis: He is coming to the point right away.

Mr. S. Smith: I assure the Premier that I was both. I think there are not many parlia-

mentarians who could stand and give a three-hour oration of that pith and substance and I was impressed. I must say many of the criticisms which he levelled I had either levelled previously or would have liked to have levelled previously because I think many of them were very well put.

He did, however, take a little time at the beginning of his address to comment briefly on the Liberal Party and on me personally. I thought perhaps I should at least pay a little attention as well to this party sitting over to my right, even though the main substance of my comments today will pertain more to the gentlemen and ladies opposite.

For one thing, I want to take up the sensitivity to some remarks that I am quoted as having made. I'm really surprised to find that the Leader of the Opposition could believe I could have made the sort of red-baiting and red-smear type statements he quoted when he mentioned the business about Marx and the way the Russians liberated Latvia. The notion of comparing the NDP in that way to the totalitarian regime in eastern Europe is so distant from my mind that there is no way I would even think of making that kind of ridiculous and malicious child-like accusation or slur.

My point was as follows: I had pointed out that I agreed with many of the humanitarian policies of the New Democratic Party and I pointed out that in my opinion—and I'm entitled to that—I felt that their economic policies had not really advanced since the time of Marx. The name of Marx was not thrown out there in order to be a bogeyman or to scare anybody or because of any connotation—

Mr Lewis: Why?

Mr. S. Smith: —but as an economist, as a scientist.

Mr. Lewis: You might have chosen Adam Smith or Sun Yat-sen, but Marx came to mind—an easy, homelike fellow. Or why not Henry VIII?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. S. Smith: It has been my view that in fact the fundamental underlying philosophies of at least those members of the NDP who do admit to being socialists—I am not including those who claim only to be social democrats—

Mr. Lewis: Here, I will poll them for you.

Mr. S. Smith: —really are based primarily on the class struggle; that basically they do see life in terms of a capitalist class and a working class and a need to somehow or other use government to bolster the working class against the capitalist class and this, as far as I am concerned, is a rather antiquated way of looking at economics.

Mr. Bain: Talk to the workers about it!

An hon. member: Are you setting our programme then?

Mr. S. Smith: The other point I was making had to do with a very difficult matter which faces not only this party but also our own and the ladies and gentlemen opposite. That is, how do you protect the ordinary individual nowadays against the large, entrenched, powerful institutions in society?

Mr. McClellan: Like the Liberals.

Mr. Cassidy: Like the federal Liberals, yes?

Mr. S. Smith: Unless you form an arm of a powerful government in order to protect them, and then you do run into the risk, as Mr. Broadbent has suggested lately in his recent musings about the future of this party, that you then have to somehow or other free the people from the big entrenched government which you originally hoped would free them and protect them and liberate them from the big corporations or whatever.

This is a difficulty facing everybody in politics today. How do you protect the weak and the disadvantaged against the powerful without creating a powerful government bureaucracy to do it? So, in musing about that particular problem I pointed out that that is in a way similar to the question of leading them to be liberated from your liberators. And I used the analogy of the Russians and Latvia—not because there is any particular—

Mr. Deans: It's contrary to reason.

Mr. Cassidy: He stumbles into these examples.

Mr. Lewis: What about Portugal and Angola?

Mr. Martel: Why don't you try the junta?

Mr. S. Smith: I could easily, Mr. Speaker, have ignored the comments. I've tried in a reasonably friendly and responsible way to explain that there was no red-baiting, there were no smear tactics. That is not, in fact, the explanation, I am sure, for the remarks of the member from the island of sanity. I

would very much appreciate not being lumped in with that man. It is bad enough that I have to pick up the Hamilton Spectator daily and see my good surname used with atrocious headlines and—

Mr. Cassidy: You better be careful.

Mr. S. Smith: —my heart skips a beat while I say, “My God, surely I didn’t do anything like that”, and then find out it was not I to whom the remarks were intended.

Hon. J. R. Smith: A lot of your voters thought you were me.

Mr. Cassidy: You are going to send him around the province in your footsteps.

Mr. Lewis: You just wait for your great conversion.

Mr. Davidson: The member for Hamilton West hasn’t reached the top of the mountain yet, that’s his problem.

Mr. S. Smith: There are problems within the New Democratic Party, however, and the fundamental ones—

Mr. Cassidy: You have a few problems in your own too.

Mr. Lewis: I will attest to that all right.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Thirty-eight of them.

Mr. Lewis: You should only know what the problems are.

An hon. member: The Premier.

Mr. S. Smith: And the people of Ontario, you know, although I am sure they all admire them as a wonderful opposition party, I don’t think they would ever take the chance of putting them into the seats of government.

Mr. MacDonald: The decision doesn’t rest with you.

Mr. Lewis: Stranger things have happened. It’s possible.

Mr. S. Smith: Given the difficulties that we all have, and which they themselves admit—and again I quote Mr. Broadbent—in deciding whether the party is in fact to be a labour party or a socialist party, is it to be a labour party or a liberal party? Is it to be a socialist party or a liberal party?

[3:15]

Mr. Foulds: You really were frustrated by Trudeau.

Mr. S. Smith: And in fact these are the difficulties. At the moment they seem to wish, at least the leader does, to be a liberal party. They are pedalling furiously toward the middle—

Mr. Bain: The Liberals aren’t, so somebody has to.

Mr. S. Smith: —and we will gladly welcome them in this way, but unfortunately for them we are already here.

Mr. Lewis: If this wasn’t a maiden speech, I would plead slander.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, if you look at their amendment, I must say I agree with virtually everything in that amendment, but—

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Why wait until tonight to vote?

Mr. Lewis: We drafted it with you in mind.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West has the floor.

Mr. S. Smith: I’ll wait.

An hon. member: Move adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, the Lieutenant Governor is away for a few days. Can you—

Mr. S. Smith: I wish to draw the attention of the public in Ontario to the fact that these very pressing problems, which they correctly point out have been mishandled by the government opposite, would have been made it to a complete hash by these people.

Mr. Grossman: Well, you’re half right.

Mr. MacDonald: Here comes the tortuous explanation.

Mr. Lewis: Even so, if we are not going to be—

Mr. S. Smith: The Leader of the Opposition will have his chance to have an election. He just has to vote for what we come up with.

Mr. Bullbrook: Try that one on!

Mr. Lewis: Are you going to force an election—

Mr. Ruston: Now what do you say? That settled that.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: He’ll vote against his own motion.

Mr. S. Smith: They have spoken of the need to preserve agricultural land and I have

gone over a good part of this province saying the same sort of thing—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Could you find your way back?

Mr. S. Smith: —but the difference is that I don't do what they did last election. I don't go to the city of Toronto and tell them that we are going to build all the houses they need, yet we will not increase densities within the neighbourhoods inside the city of Toronto and we will also not sprawl on to adjacent farm land. The houses presumably could be built in mid-air or under the lake somewhere.

When they speak of the need for job creation to offset rising unemployment, they of course unfortunately speak of it only in the public sector, which has already grown at six times the rate of the private sector in recent years. They have, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has let us know, an infinite number of taxes in mind for the corporate sector and for every source of wealth that she is able to discern and may happen to exist in this particular province. And they still believe that redistributing whatever wealth and profit exists in the private sector is somehow or other going to create jobs in the long run. But that's because they want governments to provide jobs.

I was in this House when the rent review legislation came in, and they stood and trumpeted that this was the death knell for free enterprise. I was in this House when they were delighted to say that all apartment construction and rental construction would have to be taken over by government. I don't wish to be on one of their governmentally inspired waiting lists which will undoubtedly result.

Mr. Swart: These comments need psychiatric interpretation.

Mr. S. Smith: They speak, of course, of the need for restraint, and this I find very amusing because the truth is that within their party they are torn asunder. It is restraint vs. jobs. It is the attempt to be a moderate liberal party vs. their powerful union support. They know that's the kind of battle they have within their party. They know that very well.

Mr. Breagh: Your own caucus will applaud you on that.

Mr. S. Smith: Look at their views on wage and price controls. They are unable to come up with a reasonable alternative for the control of inflation and they are willing to countenance a situation where the very powerful labour unions in this country are able to engineer very high wage settlements—

Mr. Foulds: Such as high wages for non-medical employees in Port Arthur.

Mr. S. Smith: In that way they are able to redistribute wealth in favour of those who are employed in the large industries and the powerful unions, and in that way they are able to take that wealth from those who are not in unions, who are in very weak unions or who are on fixed incomes.

Mr. Lewis: There are 87 Tories in this House—87 Tories.

Mr. S. Smith: And their inability, in fact, to legislate the teachers back to work; their inability to shake off their indebtedness to their big labour union friends, their inability to shake it off sufficiently to vote to send the teachers back to work—something as simple and as straightforward as that—is simply symptomatic of the difficulties within their party.

Mr. Nixon: A measure of their irresponsibility.

Mr. S. Smith: Their rhetoric is admirable; their research is excellent—and their espionage is unbelievable.

Mr. Good: And your security is lousy.

An hon. member: The NDP-CIA.

Mr. Moffatt: It doesn't even compare with the Ministry of Energy.

Mr. S. Smith: But I am afraid that, as I say, much as we all admire this, we all feel they're an excellent group of opposers, they are certainly not a group to be taken seriously when the public wishes, as it wishes now—

Mr. Lewis: We'll see how the public feels.

Mr. S. Smith: —to change the government in this province.

Mr. Lewis: That has a hollow ring to it.

Mr. S. Smith: I shall now turn my attention to the government of the day.

An hon. member: Paper tigers.

Mr. Lewis: Your days are numbered.

Mr. S. Smith: The Throne Speech was very interesting, and it was typical of the Throne Speeches we've come to expect in recent years, more notable by what is omitted than what happens to be contained therein. The big problem is, of course, that the Throne Speech lets us all know that there's no overall plan for Ontario. After 33 years in government, there's no sense of preparing for a

future; no sense of looking at the changes which are coming upon us day by day, and which in the next 25 years may well be greater than the changes of the past many centuries in fact.

There's no sense that there's a recognition that our province has come to be a place where the sons and daughters of those who live in the towns and villages trek relentlessly to the city of Toronto and to the area in the "golden horseshoe," taking up as they do the finest in farmland, eradicating it from possible production just at a time when it may well turn out that that farmland is what can rescue this province and this country economically.

There's no sense that this government is truly aware of what happens to small-town living when everybody, as they hit the age of 20 or 21, or even before then, has to leave their families; and people don't think in terms of the future as a family, but in terms of the future as a broken up, fractionated, fractured group, a community that has no sense of continuity.

There's no sense given to us, in that Throne Speech, that there's a government there that's truly aware of the monumental changes which will be required in our attitudes toward bigness in industry and toward bigness in government; the need to provide employment at the local level, in the rural areas—

Mr. Foulds: How about at the provincial level?

Mr. S. Smith: —and to have this co-ordinated with a proper transportation policy so that we can have meaningful decentralization in this province. There's obviously no sense that this government is going to do anything other than lurch from crisis to crisis, attempting to put forward whatever cosmetic legislation they're able to devise on one occasion or another.

Look at the Throne Speech, and it starts: "This Legislature is called into session in a time of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens."

Well I must say there are many citizens who don't share that sense of optimism referred to in the Throne Speech. I don't call it a time of optimism when our unemployment is already at 6.8 per cent—5.9 per cent seasonally adjusted—and is going up according to all predictions. I'm not optimistic about a situation where the cost of living index has shot up to 144.8 in Thunder Bay, and 142.7 in Toronto. The Throne Speech goes on and says: "The province's financial commitment to help education, social and municipal programmes will not be reduced."

That simply is not the truth. We have already sat through the spectacle of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) attempting to answer for the limitations he has put on social service spending in municipalities of this province.

I would like to remind the people in the government of Ontario of the Edmonton commitment, the paper by John White at a tri-level conference in Edmonton in 1973. He said:

The Ontario government therefore gives this guarantee to its local governments: Provincial assistance in future years will grow at a rate not less than the growth rate of Ontario's total revenues.

We know very well that the province intends to renege on this this year. How can it possibly come up with a statement and say the province's financial commitment will not be reduced? How can it say, at a time when the dollar is depreciating at 10 per cent, that a 5.5 per cent ceiling is not a cutback—or for that matter 3.1 per cent as it is in some instances?

It talks of education, and I don't wish to go into extensive detail; suffice it to say that the Metropolitan School Board in Toronto has made it very clear to the government that, according to present information from this government, it may actually be receiving less money this year because of some of the changes in the transitional enrolment provisions.

I find it very difficult to put up with a Throne Speech which says employment security is the only real income security a free society can afford. Of course that's true. But closing small hospitals in small communities where in many instances, these are the largest or the second largest employers, is this employment security according to the Tory government at this time? Is that how it is to be defined in 1976?

What is the government doing to retrain and absorb these people? In my own city of Hamilton it's clear that a certain number of people have become redundant in the psychiatric hospital because of the trend, over the years, for patients to be treated on an outpatient basis. This is something the ministry has known very well for years, yet nothing was done to retrain these people for employment in the sector which would take care of the outpatients. Nothing was done to retrain these people to man the halfway houses or the boarding homes or any of these things which are very useful and now accommodate the patients who used to be inpatients. These

people have simply been told all of a sudden, "You are out on the street."

How can the government have the hypocrisy to make a statement that employment security is the only real income security in a free society and so on when it is going about the province in this way with no provision for retraining, no consultation, no attempt to soften the blow for the people who have lost their jobs. We know that the manufacturing industry in Ontario is actually on the way down, not on the way up. This is the conclusion of every analyst who has looked at the situation. Where are these jobs going to come from?

The speech went on: "My government is aware of its responsibility to ensure that those who are in genuine need receive social assistance." I am absolutely beside myself on that one—if you can imagine there might be two of me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: One of you is enough.

Mr. S. Smith: We have known for years that it is necessary for those who are able-bodied and who are healthy and so on to be working. Many municipalities have wanted to establish programmes to get people off welfare and working but it has been this government which has blocked these efforts. It's been this government which has made it very difficult.

The government comes to the children's aid societies and other benevolent groups—societies which have already told us they will have to turn away children in need—and all the Minister of Community and Social Services can do is posture and go about making statements like no able-bodied welfare person is going to get away with not taking a job.

In Hamilton-Wentworth for every four persons, skilled and unskilled, looking for work in the region, there is only one opening—frankly, I am not even sure there is one now. These figures are a couple of weeks old. In my constituency office, I am now finding a tremendous number of very able people, dedicated, who wish to work, totally unable to find jobs in a region as industrialized as Hamilton. I am sure the other Hamilton members, in their constituency offices, have been running into the same phenomenon.

I am very concerned that this is the situation today. When I hear this kind of posturing and nonsense saying: "Under my administration, nobody is going to collect welfare if they are able-bodied," then I know it's just pandering to a red-

necked sentiment, which probably exists in some parts of this province but which I hope is a very small and hopefully unimportant, minority.

[3:00]

Mr. Reid: Just on the front benches over on that side.

Mr. S. Smith: You may well be right.

Mr. Foulds: Where are you going to create the jobs?

Mr. S. Smith: And then the brilliant scheme; they are going to force mothers on welfare back to work, mothers of school age children. That has to have hit a new height in terms of modern social services.

Mr. Deans: It is a new low.

Mr. S. Smith: I was being sarcastic; you'll accept that.

Mr. Deans: Yes.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, thank you very much.

Mr. Reid: They have no sense of humour. That's what makes them socialists.

Mr. Peterson: Socialists are no fun at parties.

Mr. S. Smith: By what strange logic has the government concluded that a family and children, bereft of one parent, would be better bereft of both? Why are such people better working in industry than working at home? How can this particular minister justify the matter, which I brought up in the House the other day, of being the only province which vetoed the provisions that were being offered to change the Canada Pension Plan so that thousands who are in the home taking care of children can accumulate credits for their pension plan under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans? This is something every province, no matter what its political stripe, agreed to, and our minister went and disagreed.

Yet they have the nerve to point out in the Throne Speech that they are going to come up with a revision in estate laws concerning the rights of children and spouses and property matters. How can they talk about doing this, which is long overdue, and at the same time veto these necessary improvements in the Canada Pension Plan. Of course, I suspect in this instance it wasn't so much a matter of what has been termed welfare bashing and so on, as much as a total failure to comprehend exactly what it is they were talking about.

Mr. Warner: Mainly because of the minister.

Mr. S. Smith: The Ministry of Health, according to the Speech from the Throne, will therefore concentrate on improving the provincial health system. Well my God, that's a sick joke! That must be the sickest joke of the year.

They are concentrating on improving the provincial health system. Would they please do us the favour of concentrating on improving something else? If they improve this any more, it will be a complete disaster. This is the kind of improvement which took place at Hiroshima.

Mr. Lewis: That's what I meant about hyperbole. I would have said Nagasaki.

Mr. S. Smith: I want to make clear some statements that I have made in this regard. I tried to clarify them in the House the other day and I really want to make it clear now. Let me give a little background.

The health system in this province has grown like Topsy over the years, with election largess on the part of succeeding Premiers and government ministers offering a hospital here and a clinic there and a hospital somewhere else, so that beds were eventually created throughout this province in a very haphazard way with no logic and following no plan, despite the fact that the ministry itself has many times sent reports up to the minister pointing out the potential for abuse in the private lab system, the extent of unnecessary surgery, the fact arm's length transactions were not occurring in that system, and so on. They have also pointed out that in many instances there are too many acute beds which has encouraged the doctors in these areas to utilize them without the degree of efficiency they should have used, while other parts of this province, such as the Ottawa region, actually had too few hospital beds.

Even if they had a lot of money, the truth is they really have to go about cutting some of those acute hospital beds, but they have to do that in a sensible way. They have to do that by cutting them mostly in the places where they're not going to destroy the economy of the whole town. They have to cut the large hospitals in the larger cities. They have to cut in a way where the community impact is taken into consideration.

In addition to that, they have to make sure there are alternatives. Sure in some northern ridings, for instance, the doctors may keep people who are not all that sick in hospital

beds, but that's because the alternative might be to have them out in some distant place, very remote, away from services. Consequently, it may be necessary to use a hospital bed longer in a northern riding than it might, for instance, in the city of Toronto. These are the kinds of considerations which are not given sufficient attention by the government.

When I saw the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) go around the province closing small hospitals, I was horrified. I stated so right after the convention at which I had the privilege of being elected leader of this party—although I was, as many of you have noticed, rather exhausted. I still made a point of immediately going to Woodstock, to the private lab. I went to Goderich to see the psychiatric hospital, and so on.

Mr. Lewis: I have never felt better myself. I am not tired at all.

Mr. S. Smith: At that particular time I came on very strongly against the closing of these small town hospitals. I tried to point out to the minister that the proper way to do these things was to cut the budgets of some of the larger city hospitals and get together with people in the various municipalities and say: "Look, we have to save money now. How about sitting down and working out a way that we can do it?"

What happened? The minister finally brought in a change. He did cut some beds and some budgets in some of the larger city hospitals. I held a press conference and congratulated him for finally doing what he should have done in the first place. I haven't lived that one down, unfortunately, because it was taken somehow to mean that I was congratulating him for closing the small town hospitals; and nothing can be further from the truth. Apparently some media reporters have reported it in that way; and I'm very upset about that because it is totally untrue. My position has been consistent from the beginning.

Mr. Lewis: Well, you know the media.

Mr. S. Smith: And my position has been that the small town hospitals, and those that service particular groups in society in this way, have no business being closed down. That is my point of view, and always has been.

But I want you to know that where there are too many beds in this province, and where the government does have some obligation to cut some of these beds down, let's

remember who created the problem in the first place.

Just remember that it was Eric Winkler building a hospital in Hanover that now causes the death notice to be given to Chesley and to Durham.

Let's remember that at the Northeastern Regional Mental Health Centre, that particular hospital was over-built the very first day. It was twice the size it needed to be and many representations were made to this government over the years to try and find multiple uses for that building. In fact all that happened was these were ignored; the building continued to exist and be cleaned and heated for the years. It was called the "Timmins White Elephant", according to the people up there; and everybody knew that.

Then the Minister of Health turned around one day, advised by some civil servant, and said, "Hey, you guys have a lot of empty beds there. You're half empty. We're going to close you down." What a way to operate that is! What an absolutely vacuous way of trying to establish a proper mental health system.

And listen to what they're doing between Timmins and North Bay. They are taking the chronic psychiatric cases at Timmins and sending them down to North Bay. Then the idea is to take the mentally retarded from North Bay and send them up to Timmins. This is presumably in line with the need to keep people in close contact with their communities. Presumably it is a line with a need to keep people close to their families so that families can visit—this taking the retarded and putting them hundreds of miles away and taking the chronic psychiatrically ill and putting them hundreds of miles away. Absolute idiocy is the only way to describe that particular move at Northeastern.

Now they go on to say in the Speech from the Throne: "Stricter meat inspection and improved livestock and poultry protection will be enforced."

All that does to me is frighten me. Is the government not enforcing its provisions now? Is this a threat to the Province of Ontario that you're actually going to start enforcing your law? I encourage you to do so by all means.

They go on to say: "The judiciary will be expanded to meet the backlog . . ."

Mr. Lewis: You will notice all the positive suggestions that are coming. Where are the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Davis: They are coming.

Mr. S. Smith: I am very pleased that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) is going to increase the number of judges. Our own Justice critic has called for this for a long time.

Interjection.

Mr. S. Smith: But when I pointed out the terrible backlog in Hamilton, when I drew his attention to the fact there was unconscionable waste—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Who is your Justice critic?

Mr. S. Smith: —in the Hamilton court system, and the same was true in Toronto and Ottawa, his statement was: "I cannot take the hon. member seriously."

Mr. R. S. Smith: Where is your Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. Davis: He is having a press conference outside.

Mr. S. Smith: Hopefully, the government will begin to take it seriously. Hopefully, it will begin to do something about the administration of justice in this province, which has reached an absolutely new low when the Attorney General has to go before the people of Ontario and beg them to accept a modified form of plea bargaining. It's an admission of total incapacity on his part, actually, to deal properly with a system of justice in this particular province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's really very silly.

Mr. S. Smith: The Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) has thrown a goody in for us. He is going to upgrade insulation and energy conservation in public buildings.

Mr. Martel: Right away.

Mr. Reid: It's better than putting your sweater on, I guess.

Mr. S. Smith: That's the Tory energy policy for the year 1976. They are going to insulate government buildings.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Where is your policy?

Mr. S. Smith: We have to devote ourselves—

Mr. Shore: When we get over there we will tell you about it.

Mr. S. Smith: —to the establishment of renewable sources of energy. How can this

government continue to carry on in this way, as though we were not facing the greatest crisis in the history of our country? A total of \$5 billion will have to be paid for energy alone in terms of our balance of payments; \$5 billion will be added to that deficit in a few years time. What work is this government doing on alternative sources of energy?

Do members know that if a person now wishes to put in a solar unit, to use solar heating in his own home, this government has it set up in such a way that he actually has to pay taxes on that improvement to his home, instead of being rewarded and being called a man ahead of his time and being thanked for this? Instead of encouraging it they actually tax him.

Mr. Lewis: A solar unit?

Mr. Nixon: Shame; that's regressive conservatism.

Mr. S. Smith: In fact what they are going to do is insulate public buildings. I am delighted to hear that. That's a good idea.

Mr. Good: What they need is a padded cell in some of them.

Mr. S. Smith: We hear about the need for restraint. Ladies and gentlemen, we all ran for office the same time as the others here and we heard our leader at the time speak of the need for restraint, speak of the fat that was in government—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Now you are getting personal.

Mr. S. Smith: —speak of the extra civil servants whose jobs should to be made redundant; we heard that.

Mr. Bullbrook: What did you do? You gave us Lorne.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am still waiting for your energy policy. The member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) has the energy policy, hasn't he?

Mr. Peterson: Sure I have.

Mr. S. Smith: What does this government do? This government, instead, chose the giveaway route. It chose the giveaway route. It chose to give away \$86 million for home buyers. It chose to give away \$44 million for automobile sales tax rebates so people could buy American cars—and, presumably, increase employment in the United States, possibly—and Japanese cars.

Mr. Lewis: You supported it. You supported all of it.

Mr. S. Smith: It chose—

Mr. Cassidy: You are going to support them now.

Mr. S. Smith: It chose to give away a two per cent sales tax reduction which cost at least another \$330 million, possibly more than that.

Mr. Lewis: You supported it.

Mr. S. Smith: This particular government would have us believe that at the time it made these giveaways, at the time it gave away \$460 million to win the last election with a neat little gimmick which came to an end just after the election—
[3:45]

Mr. Lewis: We all supported it.

Mr. S. Smith: At that particular time the government would have us believe that between then and the time the election took place and the Tories woke up and found themselves in office, a sudden bolt of lightning hit them. It suddenly occurred to them: "My God! We are short of money, we must show restraint."

It really hit them. They suddenly decided there are some interesting ways to show restraint, and the chief way in which they are showing restraint is to limit the amount of money the municipalities can get for programmes the municipalities are already hooked into. Having been misled by these giveaways, having been misled by the fact that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) pointed out that there was a need to expand the economy at the time, the municipalities accepted higher wage settlements and they accepted certain transportation programmes. They are forced, in a time when the economy is in trouble, they are forced by statute to provide for the needy, to furnish welfare assistance and so on. And the Treasurer has decided that he's going to help them cut back. He says to the Good Roads Association:

Certainly the limits we've imposed make life unpleasant and difficult for councillors, and perhaps for some of their constituents. But there is no reason for anyone to suffer hardships.

What an inflammatory and absolutely empty statement that is. As I said elsewhere, if that man were the captain of the Titanic, he'd say: "Don't worry, we're just stopping for ice."

It's really quite pathetic. I'm still quoting from the Treasurer and he's speaking of the municipalities. He says:

They can cut out the non-essentials; they can postpone projects that have no urgency; and they can reduce their administrative overhead, including their own bureaucracies. They can do all these things.

But when we called on this government to do exactly the same thing during the last election, they claimed we didn't know what we were talking about. "What fat in government? What extra civil servants? What administrative waste?" What could we possibly have been referring to, they said. After all, all we had to do was look at Ottawa, where admittedly there's the same problem with bureaucracy, but they were just absolutely Simon Pure here in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Quite right.

Mr. S. Smith: Sure they were; and that is why the Treasurer is now able to come before the people of Ontario and say:

In our overall view of government spending, we are well aware the possibilities for savings exist within the civil service, as we all know bureaucratic structures have a natural tendency to perpetuate themselves and to proliferate even after their original purpose has been served. Many of the bureaucracies that were set up to manage the programmes and priorities in the 1950s and 1960s are still with us in the 1970s, even though the public priorities have changed from the original programme to become less important or even obsolete.

For instance, while new highway construction has declined, the number of staff supporting capital construction have been maintained. Similarly, administrative support for elementary and secondary education, that is the combined strength of the Ministry of Education and local school boards, has risen even though school enrolment has begun to drop.

Does that sound familiar? When my leader at the time was bringing to the attention of the people of this province the waste in administration in the various aspects of education of this province, he was being laughed at by members opposite and being called a number of names by members opposite. Now the Treasurer himself admits the facts in evidence in that system.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I never called him names.

Mr. S. Smith: The cynicism of going to the people on an election platform in which they

claimed the economy was just dandy and we could afford giveaways of this kind. They gave away about \$460 million and denied there was any fat in the government. Now they turn around and want the people of Ontario to believe these are the people to impose restraints.

It reminds of a situation where somebody might come to your house and decide to sell you some carpet cleaner and demonstrate it by spilling it on your carpet. It would eat holes in the carpet and destroy the carpet, shrivel it and unravel it. They'd come back the next day and say: "Fortunately for you we are now in the business of selling new carpets."

We might at least be thankful, I suppose, that they were no longer in the carpet cleaning business, at least they had that much insight. We could be grateful for that and we'll accept repentant sinners back into the fold. But nobody would buy a new carpet from these people. They would have us believe that we ought now to elect them on the basis—

Mr. Lewis: I wouldn't even buy a used carpet from you people.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We wouldn't sell you a used carpet.

Mr. Lewis: Then we are even on it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: However, it might be more interesting.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You are both a pair of carpetbaggers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Carpetbaggers? Look who is talking about carpetbaggers.

Mr. S. Smith: Let me say a few words, again on the subject of municipal finances.

Mr. Lewis: Going to be difficult for us to support the Liberal amendment.

Mr. Drea: What makes you think there is going to be one?

Mr. S. Smith: The key plank in the Conservative platform for the 1943 election was the promise to reform the municipal tax system. It has been said in the report of January, 1974, by that very subversive group, the Ontario Economic Council, that the province's record in municipal reform has not been impressive when measured in terms of time. It should be remembered that the major plan of the government in 1943 was the reform of the municipal tax base. More than 30 years later the reform is still not resolved.

Mr. Singer: The Premier himself was complaining about it this afternoon.

Mr. S. Smith: Now we have the pathetic spectacle of the Treasurer deciding to burden the municipalities with more in the way of property tax in order to pay for his giveaways before the last election. It just about fits exactly. The \$460 million given away before the last election by the Treasurer of this province—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Which all of your colleagues supported with enthusiasm.

Mr. S. Smith: —that particular programme of the Treasurer of this province—

Hon. Mr. Davis: They all supported it with enthusiasm.

Mr. S. Smith: —in fact has allowed for \$50 million in hospital savings that have to occur and—

Hon. Mr. Davis: With limited enthusiasm.

Mr. Peterson: I think Bob died.

Mr. S. Smith: —a 15 per cent increase in municipal taxes across this province will come approximately to \$300 million. It fits very nicely. So remember, citizens of Ontario, when you and I receive our municipal tax bills some time this spring—

Mr. Nixon: Some time in May.

Mr. S. Smith: —just remember that what we are receiving at that time is the price tag for the cynical giveaways of this Treasurer in order to purchase the last election.

Mr. Peterson: And you and I are paying for it!

Mr. Cassidy: You supported them.

Mr. S. Smith: I would like to quote from chapter 2 of the report of the Smith committee on taxation—and it was not my committee, as you know; it was that of a much more distinguished citizen. I would like to quote one part:

Because such a large proportion of municipal expenditure is a direct function of economic growth and of its principal concomitant, urbanization, excessive reliance on the real property tax can leave municipal government ill-equipped to meet its service responsibilities. In contrast to that of the senior levels of government, the structure of municipal finance reveals a basic imbalance in that it couples a rela-

tively stable revenue base with rapidly expanding expenditure requirements.

We all know the fallacy of depending on property tax to finance this province; and yet we know that stringent limitations brought in by the Treasurer on the municipalities of the province, forced them, beyond any shadow of a doubt, no matter what kind of cost-cutting they attempt, forced them for statutory provisions alone to increase their municipal taxes and their property taxes. This flies in the face of everything that government knows and everything that government has promised with regard to the role of the property tax base.

The same, of course, holds true of school boards, which are being forced to go to the people for vastly increased sums on the property tax base.

Look at the regional government situation. Here was a chance for the government to introduce a form of decentralization—something we all would have welcomed. Here was a chance to take the bureaucracy at Queen's Park and decentralize it by establishing, closer to the municipalities, the ability to make their own decisions; by giving them the money and the decision-making power to really decentralize Ontario, permitting various groups and various areas to make their own decisions about their health dollars, about their education dollars and about their planning dollars, instead of keeping the bureaucracy here at Queen's Park and giving orders. Regional government was looked on as possibly the way this could be accomplished.

The exact opposite happened. Regional bureaucracies were set up which have taken their power and their money just from the small municipalities. That's where these particular regional bureaucracies have got their power and money. None came from Queen's Park. Not a single person has been let go at Queen's Park because somebody has been hired at the region. For that matter, not a single person has been let go at the lower tier municipality level because somebody has been hired at the region. All that has happened is that regional bureaucracies were set in place which have done some good things, but these bureaucracies have grown in an incredible way, increasing the tax. For instance, you may well be aware that the average residential tax increase in all regions was 28 per cent over the four-year period that these regions were in. That's four times the 7.7 per cent rate which occurred in the same period in the rest of the province. There is a 53 per cent increase in total municipal staff—that's upper and lower tier—in the regions, compared with 15 per cent in the rest of the province.

It is perfectly clear that what has happened is that the regions were permitted to foster their own bureaucracies. In Hamilton they ended up occupying three floors of a huge complex which the government has caused to be built there. They were going to build another city hall for the region because they didn't want to share the one the city had until finally, by bringing it to light, I think we were able to put a stop to that.

This is what has happened everywhere. The experience has been repeated even where people like some of the things about regional government. It has taken government and made it more distant from people. It has added to the cost of bureaucracies in those areas by raising the salary expectations, leaving very few competent people to be hired. The municipalities now compete with the regions for these people.

There has been no provision made to lower the bureaucracy at the lower tier when you add one to the higher tier; and certainly decentralization is long gone. Queen's Park has not decentralized one iota of decision-making power or of money closer to where people are.

That's why, today, people I speak to feel extremely distant from the process of government. That's why they feel it is like a big elephant that you can shove and push and prod, but you have no effect on it. That's why you get situations like the Minister of Health sending out a direction to shut this place down or close that one rather than doing the only decent and intelligent thing, which is to go and have consultations with people.

This government has forgotten how to consult with people. The Minister of Health says in answer to this charge: "Well, there is no good way to give out bad news. If I had gone there and told them that there's a problem and asked them their opinion, it would have caused a tremendous amount of difficulty. It would have caused all kinds of flak." I think those were the exact words.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: You are darn right it would cause all kinds of flak, but that's the process of discussion. When this government is fearful of engaging in discussions, when we have the spectacle of the Minister of Health threatening to tell the people in Woodstock at a press conference how he is going to save money there when they were begging and pleading with him to come to a meeting to explain this, then we have reached a pretty sorry state of affairs in the Province of Ontario.

This brings me to a situation in which I would like to move, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deans: That's it?

Mr. S. Smith: Three hours are okay for some people with such amazing talent, but I am going to stick to a relatively brief one.

Mr. Lewis: At least we made some concrete suggestions. There was not a single suggestion in the entire speech.

Mr. Reid: Are you getting your excuses ready not to vote for our amendment?

Mr. Lewis: I haven't heard it yet; but I have no enthusiasm for it.

Mr. Speaker: Order from the member for Rainy River; order.

Mr. S. Smith: Listen, would you, sir, to this. These are the people with the constructive suggestions?

Mr. Deans: That's right.

Mr. S. Smith: These are the people who have not told a single person working for government that under an NDP government they might in fact lose their job; as yet nobody has been told that. Every meeting NDP people have gone to they have said: "In your case, you shouldn't have to lose your job. You might lose it under the Tories. I can't guarantee that you won't, I must tell you that, but that doesn't mean you would lose it under an NDP government."

They have not said which jobs would be lost under an NDP government. I have been to some of the meetings in the company of some NDP members where they stood up and berated me because I said to some whose jobs are redundant: "Look, unless you want a socialist government, some jobs are going to have to be lost here."

There's the difference between us. The member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) stood up at a public meeting and said: "With me, brethren, there is no such ambivalence as there is with the leader of the Liberal Party." No jobs would be lost, said he, under an NDP government.

They are not for restraint. They are basically in favour of increasing royalties and increasing corporation taxes; they feel they can continue this drift toward the public sector taking over everybody's life. They do not have the courage to stand up and say which jobs will be lost, and that's why there is the kind of fist-shaking that goes on between their union members and

their other members within the meetings of this particular group.

Frankly, I don't know how they go to their large unions sometimes and justify this. Why should the public employees' union have a certain inalienable right never to be laid off no matter how hard economic times may become when steelworkers and mine, mill and smelter workers can be laid off? I have never quite understood that. They're no friend of the working man.

Mr. Mackenzie: Go to one of the meetings; then you'll know what it is all about.

Mr. Cassidy: You haven't got the same heart when you go up to the Tories, have you?

Mr. Drea: Now we know why we need group therapy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Breithaupt, that the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor be amended by adding thereto the following:

And this House further condemns the government:

1. For its financial irresponsibility in forcing Ontario municipalities and school boards to increase inordinately the property tax on homeowners and tenants;

2. For its illogical decisions in ordering hospital and laboratory closings without any apparent regard to efficiency and economy of their operations and to the importance of these institutions in the lives of communities in which they are situate;

3. For its lack of effective planning in its restraint programme which has resulted in punishing financially those least able to afford it.

Mr. Reid: Put up or shut up.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order.

Mr. Singer: Sit down.

Mr. Reid: Out of order. Are you going to turn yourself into a pretzel again trying to get out of it?

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Deans: It's not an amendment.

Mr. Lewis: I'm on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will hear the point of order before I place the motion.

Mr. Lewis: You're all so frantic and anxious about what we're going to do it's almost unbearable.

Mr. Nixon: You are the one up on a point of order.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I want you carefully to evaluate that subamendment, because it is my clear impression there is absolutely nothing new there. It is entirely redundant.

Mr. S. Smith: Utter nonsense.

Mr. Lewis: It's all in the amendment that was originally moved. This is clearly—

Mr. Singer: Did Renwick advise you about that? Did Renwick ask you to do that?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reid: You had better go to the—

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Are you afraid to vote on it?

Mr. Lewis: Certainly not.

Mr. S. Smith: Well then sit down and vote on it.

Mr. Lewis: I just want to point out its redundancy, Mr. Speaker. You take a look at its redundancy.

Mr. Deans: We want a ruling on it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, at the time you are examining that, I hope you will also examine the rights of the parties in this Legislature to put forward their amendments in terms as they see fit, which reflect their philosophical views in the matters in which they have most direct concern.

Mr. Deans: On the point of order, I put to you, Mr. Speaker, that in order for a subamendment—

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, you're not going to take this fellow seriously?

Mr. Deans: In order for a subamendment to be considered proper, it must not deal with exactly the same matters that are contained in the amendment.

Mr. Bullbrook: This fellow is not Stanley Knowles, you know.

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: Point of order, I guess what I was saying in the point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order please; order please. I think there is no point of order.

Mr. Singer: You know Renwick can do better. Get up, Jim. Let Renwick get up.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, there is—on a point of order.

Mr. Deans: There is.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order, we will hear you.

Mr. Singer: Let Renwick tell us it is the worst amendment he has ever heard.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to hear the point of order.

Mr. Lewis: What I was saying in the point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that since the sub-amendment simply conforms to the amendment, it's clearly supportable by the official opposition—

Mr. Singer: You said that before.

Mr. Lewis: —as it obviously is by the Liberal Party. I am not here to play games with it. I said that yesterday.

Mr. Singer: You are bleeding, aren't you, Stephen? That is too bad.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order please. I might say that on this short notice I am not able to discern the fine points of the blue-prints.

Mr. Lewis: There is no fine point.

Interjection.

Mr. Sweeney: You should have no trouble supporting it.

Mr. Speaker: I will place this—order please. I will allow the motion to be placed.

Do we have the next speaker, or do we have a motion to adjourn the debate?

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lewis: Are you calling it tomorrow or shall we wait until April 5?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't know; do you want the midterm break?

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Reid: Quit posturing, Stephen. You make Hamlet look decisive.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Could we get on with the orders.

Mr. Lewis: There is no posturing. You people know what is happening. You expected us to back down? We won't do so. Don't be so silly.

Mr. Reid: You make Hamlet look decisive.

Mr. Singer: Why are you bleeding so visibly, Stephen?

Clerk of the House: The 22nd order, House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 2903:

Mr. Nixon: At the adjournment last night I was bringing certain matters to the attention of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and interested members pertaining to the announced closure of the Willett Hospital in the town of Paris in my constituency. I know the minister perhaps feels he has heard just about enough on a subject such as this, but he understands the importance of his decision to the people in the community of Paris and the surrounding district.

One of the things the minister put to the delegation from Paris which concerned me deeply, and I believe he made the statement in the presence of the Premier (Mr. Davis), was that in Brant county there was a hospital utilization 15 per cent greater than the provincial average.

I must say I found the figure surprising and perhaps even shocking. A first reaction is perhaps the people up there, compared to the provincial average, are not as well. The minister, having once lived in the community, knows, however, that's not a fact.

The second reaction is that perhaps the population statistics upon which the utilization figures are based were out of date. The minister has assured myself, and the delegation, including the mayor of Paris and others, that his population statistics are appropriate. We must accept the minister's assurances in that regard, although he has looked at alternative figures and has not yet decided, or given his personal judgement, if he ever does in that connection.

The one thing, however, that I feel I should put before the minister is that perhaps

a different style of medicine is practised in the Brantford, Brant county area, and in many areas far removed from the large metropolitan centre. The minister knows that if you require the services of a medical practitioner in the night or at an inconvenient time in the metropolitan area, it is practically impossible to get those services. You've got to bundle yourself into a taxicab and go down to one of the major Toronto hospitals for care on a catch as catch can basis.

The minister, coming from a small community himself, knows that medicine is not practised that way in Paris, St. George, Ayr and the communities that are served by Willett. The doctors there know their patients and their families on a personal basis. They are readily available by telephone. Probably admissions to hospitals, and many of the decisions taken with regard to the practice, are perhaps not quite as cold-blooded as they are in certain other areas. The doctors have a personal concern for the welfare, comfort and health of their patients. This might very well have resulted in a larger percentage of admissions than the provincial average.

The minister perhaps recognized that difference when he said, and I don't believe it was in private, and I think the minister's objections in that regard are well taken, that he does not have confidence in the judgement of the medical practitioners to exert what he considers to be their responsibility to see that no patient is kept in a hospital bed for longer than is medically supportable.

I believe the difference, however, is in what is medically supportable and what is the individual judgement of the doctors concerned. I would say to the minister something that he must already know in his heart. A different kind of medicine is practised in those areas where the doctors have a personal knowledge and concern for their patients as individuals and not just as OHIP numbers.

I wish the minister would think about that, and realize that when he is prepared to cram the medical practitioners into some sort of a uniform cookie cutter across this province it is going to be extremely difficult in those areas which have different traditions.

I don't want to dwell on this unduly. The minister has had the statistics brought to his attention. He and others would be quick to tell me this is not my forte. I am convinced, however, that the utilization of the facilities is extremely good. The minister knows the Willett Hospital had some difficulties in its administration three to four years ago. These have been cleared up and we are well administered. If he compared these statistics

with any other facility of a comparable size, we compare very favourably indeed.

I don't believe that is going to make any difference to the minister, since I have heard the debate with reference to other hospitals which shows that it does not seem to be a criterion of the administration on this whether the efficiency of the hospital is good, bad or indifferent. It seems to be simply the choice falling on a facility which can be closed without too much political repercussion.

I would say in closing that my strong submission to the minister is that to go ahead with the closure of the Willett Hospital, and in fact bring out the plywood boards and board up the windows in that hospital, would be an unwise decision.

He is aware of his traditions. While he is concerned with them, I don't believe those matters are going to affect his decision in the long run.

He is aware this hospital is still being paid for by the local taxpayers, paying off a debenture entered into with full concurrence of the minister's predecessor and the OMB. While he is concerned with that, I don't believe it will affect his decision at all. I really do not believe it will affect his decision.

Two things, however, should affect his decision. One is his undoubted knowledge of the requirements in the smaller communities of the Province of Ontario to have this sort of a facility on a continuing basis. If, in his judgement, it is necessary to reduce the activity of the Willett Hospital so that it is either entirely or largely chronic in this area, then we will have to live with that decision. To completely close it up, throwing 100 people out of work and leaving Paris, a town with a population of over 6,000, to find alternative care, is a decision which will have far-reaching and very serious ramifications. [4:15]

I would ask the minister to give consideration to the position put by the representatives from Paris, who are certainly willing, if not anxious, to administer the hospital with a reduced level of active treatment. The minister has indicated he might continue it as a chronic facility and he is aware that the statistics available now show there is a need for chronic facilities in the Brant county and Brantford area.

There is a continuing study, chaired by Mr. Mark Lefebvre of the city of Brantford. At least we should hold off on a final decision until the findings of that review are available to the community and to the minister. The cut-off date of April 1 is obviously

not obtainable at the present time and I would hope that any further action by the ministry would wait until the reports are available. I personally believe these reports will make it as clear as anything can be to the minister—who in the last analysis must make the final decision—that the Willett Hospital should continue, if not as an active treatment facility at least as a facility in the community of Paris and Brant county, which commands the respect of the community and which can be proved to effectively and efficiently continue serving the medical needs of the taxpayers, the citizens and the people in the area of Brant county.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, the arguments on population figures, of course, can be used for almost any point in the province. It is difficult, in a province growing as rapidly as Ontario is growing, to have up-to-date figures when there is usually a one or two-year delay in Statistics Canada or TEIGA figures. The only thing I can point out is if I say to you that 191 people per 1,000 are being admitted to hospital in Brant county, then that's on the basis of figures which compare to any other region in the province.

In fact, if there is any error in those statistics it's probably in favour of Brant county as compared to, say, Metro Toronto where a quarter or more of the residents of the Province of Ontario live; it would tend to shade it that way.

But even if one simply compares it with central west region, which is in the general geographic area of Brant county, then you could pull 10 per cent higher. So one still has to allow for the fact that rural medicine, if one wants to put it in your terminology, is being practised in that general area, and Brant county still exceeds the provincial average by that amount.

It ties very nicely in with the comments made by your new leader and by the leader of the NDP in the last couple of days about unnecessary surgery. What are people being admitted for? One has to look into that. If, in fact, the admission is high, it's an indication that the elective surgery rates are higher, because one assumes the incidence of acute disease is somewhat similar in most parts of the province, age-weighted as they probably are. So I think it's safe to say that the figures are as realistic as we can use for admission.

I'm intrigued to think that Brantford is far removed from the metropolitan areas of Ontario. I thought that Hamilton, which is a fairly large area, was close. I've lived in

Brantford, I've had that pleasure. I must say to you that I probably enjoyed living in Brantford.

Mr. Nixon: On Paris Rd.?

Hon. F. S. Miller: On Paris Rd.

Mr. Nixon: Such an irony.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can't be accused of being unfamiliar with the area when I lived on Paris Rd., part way between Brantford and your other city. I have a very real love for the area. I thought it was just a great place to live and I still do.

April 1, of course, is not a date that's going to be met. It can't be met nor would I expect staff to be making those final moves or winding down of operations until we've had the opportunity to reply to the very thoughtful briefs brought to me by your hospital administrator, the chairman of the board, and the mayor, His Worship Mr. Bawcutt—who as you know was in to see me again today for an hour or so presenting various thoughts on alternatives to the existing function.

I'm going to look at alternatives to the existing function of that hospital very carefully. I don't want to jump to a conclusion that could be shown to have been totally wrong six months from now. It may well be that the hospital has alternative uses such as you suggested in the five minutes of your speech last night prior to the adjournment of the House.

I believe, in all honesty, that the provision of employment in the community of Paris looms high in the minds of those people who came to see me today, as well as the provision of health services. They recognize the problem I am dealing with is a Brant county problem as well, but specifically aimed at the city of Paris, in terms of effective change. I am going to think carefully about their suggestions. I am going to think carefully about your suggestions. If I read them right—and you should really tell me if I am wrong—you said a chronic hospital was better than no hospital.

Mr. Nixon: Yes.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is one thing I am going to keep in mind. We have already established that a number of the active treatment beds in the city of Brantford are being used by chronic patients. However, if our final analysis tells me there is not a need for extra facility beds in the area, I can't just make work. In other words, I have to fill a

justifiable health need to keep the facility in any role at all. It would be so easy to make work, that I must say that the dollars I am spending can be well spent in other places, meeting needs. If we put down as the first prerequisite the fact that we must meet a need for Brant county, and if we can prove that the use of that facility would meet that need and must be there in place of facilities in Brantford, then we have a chance. That is exactly what I am looking at.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, if you will permit just this one further comment: The minister asked me to clarify whether I thought a chronic hospital was better than no hospital and I have no hesitation in saying, yes, of course it is. But the minister must be aware of the feeling of the hospital board that once they lose their active treatment capacity, in fact they are not a hospital at all.

I simply ask the minister to give every consideration, as well, to the proposition put forward by the delegation from Paris, which is quite prepared to accept the responsibility for the administration of a hospital which is a chronic hospital; asking that we maintain our ambulance service and, if possible, an outpatient clinic facility and an emergency service which would at least give us the nucleus of hospital facilities maintained in the town of Paris.

I am glad to hear the minister respond so reasonably to the requests and the submissions from the delegation from Paris and to my comments made in the House. I believe that is the first ray of light leading to some optimism that we have had since the notorious Tuesday when the hon. minister came to pass on the bad news.

Mr. Grande: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member has a point of order; will he state it?

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I noticed that the Minister of Health is answering the questions of all the other members when they get up to speak; I don't know whether he has refused to answer my questions?

Mr. Chairman: I was under the impression there was going to be further discussion on Doctors Hospital. Was it your intention to deal with them all at one time?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I think I should point out to the hon. member that it is not always the custom of the minister to answer each individual speaker in the

estimates debate. In fact, whether I liked it or not, the chairman last night recognized another speaker and I was quite willing to abide by his ruling. I would think, though, that in the course of the balance of today there will be other comments on Doctors Hospital and perhaps one summary of a number of speakers will suffice.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to speak for a minute about the situation with the Mississauga Hospital. I have a letter dated March 9, received from Glen Bryce, one of the directors, and the covering letter said, "It would seem that our present hospital beds provide for less than half the required beds suggested by provincial regulations. Our new addition is very necessary."

I'll just go back for a moment, Mr. Chairman. The need for expansion started in 1970. There was a proposal then and they commenced to develop the project. In November, 1975, our population was 234,975, as is contained in the material provided, of which I sent a copy to the minister. We provide for that population—say, 235,000—plus what comes from other communities on occasion.

But in addition, I think a significant portion of admissions are due to such things as accidents on busy highways which run through Mississauga. This, of course, is a very difficult area to provide for in utilizing whatever reference material or standards we have in developing the number of hospital beds needed.

I am going to touch on a couple of things. The emergency visits, of which I have spoken, were 8,197 in 1963. In 1975 these increased to no less than 63,843. Radiology exams went up from 14,303 to 59,140. Lab tests increased from a rounded 95,000 to 840,000. That is a dramatic increase in services provided.

This leads to the appendix attached to this report from the hospital board, which refers to the Ministry of Health planning guidelines. Active treatment beds are shown as medical, surgical, paediatrics, obstetrics at four beds per 1,000. For psychiatric beds, two formulas: 0.6 beds per 1,000 population over 15; 0.42 beds for general population. Chronic beds, again two formulas: one bed per 1,000 for the general population; 11.9 per 1,000 over the age of 65. Nursing homes: 3.5 beds per 1,000 per general population. That latter isn't in reference to the general Mississauga hospital, but in the early release of patients it is applicable. I understand all this adds up to some nine beds per 1,000.

I was wondering if these guidelines under which the board is working conform to cur-

rent guidelines, or whether there have in fact been reassessments since these statistics were gathered by our local hospital board.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know those are the valid, up-to-date guidelines. We have been aware that some of the high growth areas around Metro Toronto, and yours is one, have been operating with fewer than the four beds per 1,000; and, interestingly enough in many cases operating very well. It is one of those issues that has made us wonder, because that number is purely arbitrary, whether in fact it is still too high.

It has been interesting to observe that in high growth areas around the perimeter of the Toronto core some of the more effective management on a medical basis has occurred. Therefore I, for one, am agreeing that these are our current provincial guidelines. I wonder if in high growth areas, particularly those with relatively young population, they aren't too generous.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak only about Doctors Hospital, because it is the one hospital threatened with closing which I have had the opportunity to visit. I know something about its work, but I think what I am going to say is equally applicable to other community hospitals which are under sentence of closure.

[4:30]

I think the minister can only justify the closing of these community hospitals if he can answer "yes" to four questions.

First, are there excess active treatment beds in the area of downtown Toronto or the area of the other community hospitals? The figures are most confused, but so far I have not heard any figures that show there is an excess in downtown Toronto. There may be an excess in the whole Toronto area. It's very difficult to measure the needs of downtown Toronto. You don't relate it strictly to population, because the downtown hospitals serve the whole city and the whole province for certain specialties. But I don't think there has been evidence of a surplus of active treatment beds in downtown Toronto.

The second question: The 12,000 patients who went through Doctors Hospital last year, can the same number be accommodated in the downtown Toronto hospitals that would remain?

If there are no excess beds, the only answer is the minister's contention that those beds now existing could be used more effectively, more efficiently. But, Mr. Chairman,

what he is suggesting is really a gigantic speed-up. We all know what a speed-up means on the assembly line. It means that people are expected to work beyond their physical capacity—that people will not have time to even talk to the patients, that there will be mistakes made. Some of the mistakes could be very serious. It also means that patients will have to wait longer; wait for their bell to be answered, wait in lines for tests. It means that outpatients may have to spend longer waiting to be served.

The third question that the minister must answer: Will there be a real cost saving? I contend he has only looked at the cost of closing a facility, he has not looked at the social costs—the fallout—and they are tremendous.

There will be over 500 people thrown on the employment market. Many of them are unskilled in other occupations; they will require retraining or long periods on unemployment insurance and welfare. Many of them may lose their homes which they have undertaken to purchase in the anticipation that their employment would continue. Their plans for sending their children to university will be destroyed.

The medical and technical staff of the hospital may not be able to find other opportunities in Toronto or in Ontario. We may lose them to foreign lands.

There would be more costs to the people concerned. If they have to go further for outpatient service they will need more taxi fares; and more baby sitting service at home while the person is away a longer time if they wait in queues longer. All those costs increase for the individual and those costs can be very serious; and there's time off work as well as babysitting time.

The fourth question you must answer: Is the closing of Doctors Hospital and the community hospitals in accordance with what I think had been the policy of the Ministry of Health, that is, to start to transform the delivery of medical services to community-based health resource centres.

Doctors Hospital was on the verge of becoming such a centre. It had already submitted a plan a year ago—which had been approved—to reduce the number of beds, to turn that space into a community resource where there could be preventative work done, where family medicine could be distributed in what would be a real community centre.

The hospital already is a very important resource for the ethnic community in which it is located, but it would become much more. It would deliver outpatient and inpatient serv-

ice; and I think the figures on its per diem rates indicate it would deliver them very efficiently, more efficiently than the big downtown hospitals can deliver this kind of community service.

Unless the minister can answer yes to those four questions: That the closing is justified because there are excess beds; that the downtown hospitals will be able to accommodate the 12,000 patients plus the outpatients from Doctors Hospital without a tremendous and inhumane speed-up; that there will be real cost savings when you take into account the social cost; and that there will be no setbacks in the plans to develop community resource centres—unless he can answer yes to all those things, I contend he cannot justify the closing of Doctors Hospital on any ground except what appears to be a purely political ground. And that is the desperate attempt of the government to compensate for past mismanagement of the economy by spectacular cost cuts which will not really be savings; to compensate for past mismanagement of the health delivery system, for letting OHIP payments get out of control with lab fees and excess operations, and so on; to compensate for other budgetary excesses of the government in the entire field of government spending.

It is not planned restraint; it is not a planned redesign of the health system which is long overdue.

Mr. Sargent: I acknowledge that most of the subject matter given by my leader and by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has covered these subjects at hand fairly well. I wonder why, after 13 years in this Legislature, I stand here trying to make a point—but I believe in the system of government generally, democracy.

I have here, again, hundreds of petitions to the minister. Do you know that these people, whose names are on these petitions, and the thousands I gave you before, believe that they will actually mean something and are processed? That they could have an input; that you would do something about the situation. Do they mean anything at all?

The facts and I say this kindly because it is your nature, but you go into an area grinning; you are going to cut their life's blood off and you grin about it as you break the news. Are these people who send in these petitions—thousands of them—just a joke in your mind and in the mind of the government?

I can understand corruption on the part of the policy of this government—the Premier

(Mr. Davis) allows the selling of government contracts to Fidinam for \$50,000. We understand that because it is part of your *modus operandi*.

I can understand the Premier working toward giving a \$41 million contract to his friend Mr. Moog, who I find in the recent figures stands to make \$100 million because of his friendship with the Premier. These things have happened.

What I can't understand for the life of me, is the gall of a government, of a cabinet and Treasury Board, the minister and the Premier who have plundered the treasury of this province to the extent of \$11 billion; that's \$11,000 million in debt we are. The Premier, the Treasurer, the cabinet, were architects of their own disaster; and this minister has to take this out, this plundering, and make the small people, who have no way of recourse, suffer by the loss of their hospital beds.

They pay the same rates for OHIP in the country as they do in Toronto but you deny them of that service. You say: "We will take your money but we won't give you the service." That's exactly what you are saying; it's a form of fraud. You are not delivering; it's nothing else but fraud.

You tell them they've got to close their own hospital. You don't own the hospital. If you had taken Durham or Chesley, that hospital was built by them. I recall as a kid, and maybe the older members in this House will recall it, we used to have "Hospital Days." When we were kids every kid in the class would take a jar of fruit or a can or something to school for the hospital. It was a "Hospital Day." We built those hospitals. They belong to us.

That's what we're talking about people. The government in all its arrogance, having funded to the extent of \$11 billion, is going in debt in the past 365 days at the rate of \$8 million a day. In the hole. That is a fact, Mr. Minister. It's \$6 million a day in debt, and a \$2 billion deficit you have this year; and we have an \$11 billion deficit which works out to \$8 million a day we are losing.

Many of you will have seen the television programme about 10 days ago called "The Insurance Man from Ingersoll." Every person in Ontario who saw that programme knew exactly what they were trying to convey to us. The minister knew that. The Premier knew that. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) knew also. We all knew what was going on, but that is the system. That's the story they tried to tell.

What I'm trying to get across is this. On Sunday night on television they had another

story on the *modus operandi* of this government in land acquisition by the government, particularly a take-off on the Pickering deal. The man in the end said, "We beat the system." We, in the six seats in western Ontario where you know you can't win a seat at this particular time and place, know we can't beat the system. We've tried.

Restraint is the name of the game we talk about. You're going to close six hospitals, nine hospitals or whatever, and the overall policy will put 5,000 people out of work. So, 5,000 homes go down the drain because this Treasury Board, this Premier, and this minister went down the list of things they could attack and saw that the people were vulnerable and they said: "Here is one area where we might look good because hospital bed costs are too much."

I heard the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) talking about things like that. They are too high. But, they said: "Here's one area where we can get sympathy from the public. We can talk restraint in health." So, they did this in an effort to recover \$60 million, when a few weeks before they gave \$100 million as a gift to Syncrude.

What for? They said it was a gesture. They gave \$100 million towards a \$3 billion tar sands project which will never come into being in our lifetime. But, you give \$100 million of my money, our money, as a gesture. Who in the hell do you think you are that you can do that? You try to recover \$9 million in the closing of six hospitals, yet you give away \$100 million as a gesture.

[4:45]

Restraint is the excuse of the Premier of this province. He's making whipping boys of the lives of the people, of their health, of people who can't fight back. The minister can well grin, as is his policy when he goes in to cut down these hospitals and cut the life blood out from people.

It's going to cost lives, Mr. Minister. You know that and I know that.

At 2 p.m. yesterday I was told by the deputy treasurer, the deficit in Ontario, this current year, is \$1.976 billion. The government is \$24 million short of \$2 billion. And so to put the finger in the dike, it is going to close our six hospitals for exactly what is being lost in 27 hours in interest charges.

Because of this financial nightmare that Charlie MacNaughton told us about two years ago, the minister has jockeyed us into this position and is taking advantage of the people who can least protect themselves.

He is not closing Brampton. The Premier is standing behind him and he is going to give him an addition, I understand; an addition to his hospital in Brampton. He is going to give himself a new hospital of \$11 million in Muskoka—and he squandered about \$23 million in Sudbury.

I say it is high time we have a truth squad in this province. Why doesn't Norm Webster tell the truth about what is going on here? The corporate people of this province think the minister is doing a good job talking restraints. That's good economics for the corporate group.

Why doesn't the Star tell the truth? Well I will tell you. If we get across to the Ontario citizens the real villain in this whole piece we can show you what has happened here in the past two or three years.

It all started down hill when the Premier and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) got their hands in the public Treasury for their favourite programmes.

We recall some time back the trip to Germany when the Premier—and all of his camera crews—went searching for money, which they didn't need at that point they said. This cost us about \$9 million, this caper. We know of the junkets of the Treasurer; and all of the cabinet ministers all around the world. We know of the junket of the Premier to Italy last year. All these things were building up the picture.

Now the Premier's school consolidation programme—does anyone know what that cost? How much did it cost—\$500 million or \$1 billion?

The monstrosity of the thing is not easy to show, because no one knows the direction the government has been going in this tumble down hill. We are closing down schools in the schools consolidation programme with millions of dollars in debentures still owing across the province, but the government is closing down these schools and building new ones. So if the school consolidation did cost us \$1 billion, so be it. The Premier has a monument for himself.

How much did regional government cost—that the Treasurer and Mr. White worked on so thoroughly—\$1 billion? No one knows.

Last year in the budget, we found the government was going to spend \$1.5 billion in land acquisition for parkways. These aren't millions, I am talking thousands of millions of dollars. The budget last year was \$1 billion for the Niagara Escarpment.

The Premier is leaving now, but he knows he gave a grant of \$100 million toward

Syncrude as a gesture; \$100 million toward Syncrude. He can't deny that.

We still continue to open trade offices around the world, in Osaka and in Rome—you name it—with all the lackeys spending millions of dollars. The government is not closing those trade offices around the world, but it is closing my hospital. How do you tell that to the people of Ontario when you have come to the fast-approaching election? But you say, Mr. Minister, that our hospitals are expendable.

Now to get to the real control, to where you had your hands in the Treasury: I have been talking about billions of dollars for the last five minutes—and every word is gospel truth; it was in the budget and you spent it. But to get elected last fall, what did you do? Well you said it would be a good gimmick to remove the sales tax until after the election. So you took that off. And do you know how much that cost us? It cost us \$330 million.

Mrs. Campbell: Piled on the municipalities.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Who did it cost?

Mr. Sargent: Who does it cost? It cost the Province of Ontario \$330 million of lost revenue.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Where did it come from?

Mr. Sargent: Don't get smart. You know what I am talking about.

Mrs. Campbell: The municipalities are paying for it and you know it.

Mr. Sargent: You took off the tax on new cars, with a loss of revenue of \$40 million. But you didn't take the tax off trucks for a farmer who needs a truck on his farm; or off used cars for the average guy who needs a car. You just exempted the new cars. You helped the people who have the money. That cost \$40 million to get you elected.

You gave grants to first-time home buyers, and that cost us \$80 million. Even millionaires got that grant.

We went around the province and we estimate, by our very biased arithmetic, that your promises amounted to \$300 million around the province to get you elected.

I asked the Premier in the House one day if those promises were being kept and if the money was going through Management Board or orders in council. No one can find out. But I do know, Mr. Minister, that you spent \$3.5 million in my riding

trying to defeat me; so we are talking millions and billions of dollars.

You have the job—I don't envy your job—to go around the province and say: "Aren't we the great ones? We are going to save \$60 million"; when you know it's a phoney issue; it is corrupt; it is fraud. That's what you are doing.

You know, there are 300 men in my town out of a job because Mr. Winkler was defeated in the election; and many of them are on unemployment insurance and on relief.

Your friend, Mr. Maxwell Henderson—and I quote him here in a story from Kitchener, headed, "Put Your Own House in Order, Ontario"—told about 200 people that the government should have set an example by cleaning up some of the waste at Queen's Park before asking people to tighten their belts. Mr. Henderson said he had already warned the provincial government about the move to cut health and welfare costs before cutting the fat in government spending.

You fellows are still running around in your big chauffeur-driven limousines, but we have got to go on a snowmobile for a pregnant woman to get her to the hospital, because when you close our hospital on April 1, we'll still have 3 ft. of snow up there.

You are going to spend \$14.5 million for a courthouse; go ahead. You are going to put on 40 more judges; God knows how much money you are talking there. But you are closing hospitals. People are still paying OHIP, but they can't use it.

I see the political motivation of this government; where you were capable of criminal acts, of selling the contracts—

Mr. Martel: There is no government left after today.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, I offered to resign my seat; I further offered to bet the Premier \$50,000 of cash money to a favourite charity if he would open up the books and show where they received \$5 million in funds towards the election budget. I said that the majority of that money came from firms having government contracts. He wouldn't take the bet. But the bet still stands.

You can't beat the system. So the Premier says, and the Treasurer says, in going down the list: "Where can we attack and make ourselves look good?" Restraint? "What the hell," he says, "let's turn a negative into a positive. Let's tell a big lie often enough and it will work. We'll be tough on

restraint." And of all places he picked hospitals.

I say to you, Mr. Chairman, it has always been my belief that it is a function of government to see that we have equal allocation of all the resources of this province on a fair and equitable basis; that no man should suffer because of a job or because of geography; and no man's family should suffer in education because of geography; and no one should suffer in health because of geography—and I'll add politics.

The underlying fact is that 5,000 people will be out of jobs and 5,000 homes will go down the pipe. Homes are wrecked and we don't know how many lives this will cost. The underlying fact, I say again, is that this is a moral corruption of decency in our friend, the government. In all my years of politics, I've never seen a government stoop so low that they'll pick on the area of health and lives of people to make political hay.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The hon. member has spoken eloquently, and I have no reason to believe he isn't speaking honestly. There is no joke, there is no political game being played. The fact remains that we were able to make contractions within the system without changing the quality of health care.

Mrs. Campbell: Who says?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The experts who know how to assess health care say.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The discussions in your particular hospital's case went on for many many years—not months—long before the final decision was made. It goes back to 1968.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The deficit you talked about is an intriguing one. You and I are both in the same business. You're successful, I'm not.

Mr. Sargent: You tell that to my bank manager.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to. My banker still thinks I am. That's one of the lucky things I've got going for me.

But if you and I took a look at the interest on our business debts, we wouldn't think of them as wasted money. If one looked at the accounting of the Province of Ontario, you know as well as I do that capital projects don't show as an asset, they're written off. In many cases, the money is borrowed to cover their useful life so that not just the people paying taxes in a given year pay them. This is true of hospitals, it is true of

major roads, it is true of most capital investments.

The assets of this province that are in bricks, mortar and highways, far exceed the values of the debts against them. If one was preparing a statement, such as Imperial Oil or some other company would make, the assets would look pretty good compared to the debts against them. This province has had a great ability, and will continue to have a great ability as far as I'm concerned, as long as good management persists both in the government and the private sector, to borrow wisely for the things we need today and pay them back over a period of time.

The very actions that were taken by the Treasurer this year in restricting our rate of growth to 10 per cent were based on his assessment that that was the maximum amount we could wisely borrow and finance through a combination of today's taxes and tomorrow's borrowing to sustain the government. Every expert, including Mr. Henderson to whom you alluded, said government must control its spending. This government did. You have disassociated yourself from the federal Liberals but the federal Liberals have not shown that restraint. They have a 19 per cent growth in spending this year versus a 10 per cent for us.

Mr. Sargent: You are not close to insolvency?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are not close to insolvency, but we are close to taking as many dollars out of the taxpayer's pocket as he or she should have to pay. These cuts aren't cuts in services.

Mr. Sargent: Who put us in this mess?

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are cuts in waste because we have learned and produced better ways of caring for people. You talked about "The Insurance Man from Ingersoll." I saw that television production. I don't know how many others in this room did. I think the leader of the official opposition saw "The Insurance Man from Ingersoll." I saw him the day after. I believe the member was rather upset by it. The member was upset by the reports he saw of it.

Mr. Lewis: I was upset because it was so antagonistic toward politicians generally.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, that's exactly the thing I am going to touch upon. I don't think our party was tarred with the brush of that although it was very specific insofar as going to the Deputy Speaker of this House, and

using him without his permission, I am told, as a prop to make it look as if his party was part of that overall programme. I think the member and his party have every cause to feel a bit taken in by that ploy. I don't think any of us who are politicians are happy when we see the business we are in torn apart by the media with far too credible innuendos easily believed by the public. I am proud of being a politician. I don't suspect the member of dishonesty. I really don't. Stupidity perhaps, dishonesty no.

Mr. Lewis: Cupidity for sure.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Ah, well we have passed cupid's date. I like to think that in criticizing each other that you may think I am foolish, and that's fair play, but not that I am dishonest or corrupt any more than I believe you are dishonest or corrupt. I just don't believe you are. I am not about to stand up here and imply that you or any members of your party are.

I hear much about savings and where I should make them. Would you agree savings need to be made in government?

Mr. Sargent: Your priorities are wrong, Frank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right. The member has singled out this ministry as if it was the only one making any constraints. I got almost double the percentage of some of the other ministries for growth this year. My budget this year went up \$300 million in a year of constraint. That's 10 per cent of my last year's budget.

I will, as I have told the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), ask for every necessary dollar to run a good health care system in Ontario. If we succeed, and we probably will, in eliminating unnecessary surgery such as suggested by your leader, where do you think the savings are? Where do we save it? Sure, \$1 will come out of doctors' pockets and \$2 will come out of hospital pockets because that's the ratio of spending. For every dollar that goes to a doctor, two dollars go to hospitals.

Where do the two dollars go? They go to provide jobs for people. If you save two dollars what happens to the jobs? They disappear, don't they?

You are a businessman. I suspect that in your hotel you really don't have too many people on your payroll who shouldn't be there, who aren't producing. Do you hire them because you, the member for Grey-Bruce or whatever it is, feel kind, feel

generous, feel you should prevent unemployment or because you have a job for them?

My measure is this. I will get jobs for everybody in the hospital sector provided they are performing a useful necessary function. I begrudge every job over and above that. I will do my best to keep cutting the number of jobs to the bare minimum because that's what my job is. My job is not to waste taxpayers' dollars.

I think taxpayers are pretty good at spending their own dollars if we leave them in their pockets. Every time we leave them in their pockets and let them spend them their own way, they create jobs in your hotel, in somebody else's farm, in somebody else's manufacturing company instead of you and I lifting it out of their pockets in an involuntary way and making an assessment of where their money should go regardless of their own wishes. So, I don't apologize.

Mr. Sargent: May I ask you a question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me finish, Eddy. Okay. Ask the question.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Minister, I have three questions. Will you advise me, or tell me why you think it's right that you should be able to have a new hospital in your area? Why can the Premier (Mr. Davis) have an addition to the hospital in his area? And why must two hospitals in my area be closed? Why did you give \$100 million as a gesture to Syncrude?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The last question I'm not going to answer. It's not a gift. It's an investment in the energy sources this province needs in the future if we're going to remain competitive.

The first two I'll answer, yes. I think some 60 projects of hospitals around the province—varying from pretty small changes to totally brand new hospitals—are under way this year. I'm asking from you that three cents out of each \$1 in the House will go towards creating new buildings. It would have been exceptionally easy for me—

Mr. Sargent: You're getting a billion from Ottawa.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just a second now. I don't get the money for capital projects from Ottawa. You'd better check into that.

It would have been exceptionally easy for me to have cut the capital budget and assumed the savings were made. They are not. Expenses are deferred. And in this day

and age I cannot afford, in a rapidly growing province, to ignore the legitimate demands for service from people in the high growth areas, just because I have a surplus in the low growth areas of the province.

Secondly, my own hospital—first it is \$6.4 million and not \$11 million. Secondly, that hospital was ordered by my ministry before I was even an elected member of this Legislature.

Mr. Davison: That's foresight.

Mr. Sargent: Why don't you cancel it and save \$6 million?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm not going to cancel one in my riding any more than I would order it. I'm not going to cancel one in your riding because you're the member, and that's something you've got to get through your head.

Mr. Sargent: You are doing a damn good job.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm not going to cancel some of the projects in your friend's ridings and in this party's ridings because if you look across the 60 hospitals you'll find they are in all of our ridings.

Mrs. Campbell: Not yours.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mine is a replacement facility—

Mr. Breithaupt: You too can be replaced.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —ordered by the fire marshal in 1970-1971. One can document the fact that it was done well before I came along—

Mr. Sargent: Would you buy a used car from that man?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, a lot of people did. Would I buy used telephone books from you? That's what you were selling the last time—or what was it you were selling? No, no. It was books with recipes, wasn't it?

Mr. Sweeney: What's that got to do with hospitals?

Hon. F. S. Miller: He's bringing the topic up. He brought up used cars; I can bring up what he does.

Mr. Sweeney: That government needs a new recipe; maybe you should buy that book—a new recipe for government.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You talked about trade offices. I think we'll skip that because it's

not in my budget. Except I should say that I don't think one should ever try to stop selling this province abroad. The very modest dollars we spend, I think, are genuinely of use to the manufacturers of the province.

You talked about cutting the fat at head office in government. It is not recognized too often that almost 1,000 people have been cut out of my budget—out of my complement alone in a year, I'm told—some 900. Almost another 1,000 will drop in the next year.

Mr. Sargent: The Premier still spends \$1 million for his office.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm just pointing out that few governments of today's vintage have been cutting staff anywhere at any level.

You also touched on election laws and you implied that we were corrupt. That's your privilege. I refer to that in "The Man from Ingersoll." I don't think we are. I don't think we have been. I will tell you this. We have the toughest election laws for fund raising of any province in Canada.

Mr. Sargent: Since Fidinam you've had to, or somebody would have gone to jail. That's a criminal act by Canadian law.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has the floor.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just simply say I live by them, you live by them. I think that we can be relatively proud of the fact that fund-raising for politics is on the up and up and public in Ontario.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would say the NDP profited very handsomely from the latest cause.

Mr. Martel: You made sure we couldn't get any money from the unions.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh. I understand they never gave you any.

Mr. Martel: They gave us some.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh well, just a little bit.

Mr. Chairman: I wonder if we could get back to the Health estimates.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Voluntarily?

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, can I have one more question? We are having a meeting Friday night to discuss the decision to close down. If we raise \$200,000 locally, could we change the terms of reference and get another \$200,000 from Wintario to keep the

operation going? Would you try to see what you can do along that line?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, Mr. Chairman, the Chesley decision is final.

Mr. Sargent: All right. Can we have an outpatients programme?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, when I talked to the board at the Chesley hospital, I pointed out to them that we would gladly discuss with any group, community, doctors—whatever it may be—the formation of a health service organization in Chesley, but that the initiative needs to come from the community because you have to find people willing to work in that particular organizational form. I am still prepared to have that discussion.

Mr. Sargent: How much money is available?

Hon. F. S. Miller: There is no cash available for the creation of one but I don't think that's the problem in Chesley. Quite obviously you've got an existing building and you've got funds in the hospital reserve, as I understand it. But the operations are covered by our ministry, the budget is covered.

Mr. Bounsall: To the Minister of Health—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Who else?

Mr. Bounsall: I oppose in every sense the closing of the Riverview Chronic Care Hospital in Windsor. It differs only from the other hospital closings that we have encountered in that it has a one-year delay on it. But it makes no economic sense in terms of saving to the ministry—let us argue on the minister's grounds for a while. Those economic figures have not been quite worked out in detail at the moment, but it looks like the ballpark saving by the route which you have taken of closing Riverview, and let's not get into any discussion of the renovation costs, we are not considering renovation costs at all—would result in a saving of only about \$50,000 or at the very outside \$75,000.

Mr. Minister, it makes no sense at all, of course, to the community of Windsor who have looked forward for quite some time to a new chronic care hospital in Windsor. For many years that chronic care hospital has been sort of number one on the hospital planning council priority. It is not the community's fault in a sense, or their perception of the need for chronic care that in some years, from time to time, it has been surpassed by what has become at the very last minute some other priority. The feeling for

quite some years in Windsor, by the population generally, was that a new chronic care hospital would be provided and would be provided very soon. It makes no sense to the community and they see this simply as an attack upon the by and large helpless chronic care patients, many of them elderly.

I would like to give a brief history, Mr. Minister, of how I come to the feeling that it makes no sense economically to close this hospital. A year ago you and your health officials completely shocked the Windsor hospital community by your proposal by which you were to save the number of active treatment beds, roughly 200, required to meet the new ratios which your ministry set up, that of four active treatment beds per 1,000 of population. It was a proposal which shocked the whole community, a proposal to close down Riverview immediately—presumably that would have been at the end of this month—to fracture that chronic care treatment among the four existing hospitals in some way; to close down the maternity care at Grace Hospital, the one hospital in town which is noted for its maternity care—in fact the reason for its existence is its heavy emphasis on maternity care and the gynecological programme—and the consolidation of psychiatric care.

[5:15]

The explosion among the hospital people, the people in the community—or the focus—zeroed in on the closing of the chronic care hospital more than anything else. The medical community saw each decision presented as a bad one in medical terms. The fracturing of the chronic care and the consolidation of the psychiatric care was the wrong direction for both of those.

The minister then said, "Okay; come up with a better proposal." The community, perhaps for the first time, worked very effectively through the hospital planning councils and through the hospitals talking to each other. They worked very hard from April on, from time to time consulting with officials from your ministry, really consulting with each other, and having open meetings all across the community.

Last December they came up with a counter proposal which in every respect met the ratios which the minister had put forward for the community of Windsor. They met the active treatment bed cutbacks of four per 1,000. They said "We'll take those 200 beds and proportion them, those cutbacks, on a pro rata basis across the city of Windsor."

The ministry recognized that there was an increased number of beds needed for chronic care and they presented a proposal which

would bring that figure up to the ministry's ratio figures, that being 320. The proposal was supported by the whole community. It was supported not just by the hospital planning council and the medical people in Windsor but by every community group which had been involved in the procedures.

I asked the Minister of Health in a question in the House last fall, if the hospital planning council came up with a proposal which met the ministry's ratios and was acceptable to the community, would the minister accept those proposals? I can't give you your exact reply but it was an encouraging reply; if it met the general criteria laid out that would be acceptable, particularly as it had community support. The minister will remember that.

In December, when the decision of that hospital planning council was presented to the minister, I was present along with another colleague from Windsor, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr). That was the first time, after all the debate we had had last April in the House, that we heard that the saving in dollars was the appropriate and most important thing.

We stressed in all our conversations in the estimates a year ago—look them up, Mr. Minister—that the ratios had to be met. There was concern on our part that the ratios were being inappropriately applied in the Windsor area. We, all the members from the Windsor area, met with your officials over the appropriateness of applying those ratios. The focus there was the application of the ratios and the meeting of those ratios.

The ministry produced, in a very ballpark way, the fact that meeting those ratios and the consequent shuffling of space to meet those ratios would produce a \$4.5 million saving. They laid that out; there was no lengthy explanation of it. It was certainly a ballpark figure calculation. There was no detail in it nor did Mr. Backley say that he could give more detail than the four or five lines of rough calculation which he presented.

The hospital planning council came back with what was an eminently acceptable solution—as I've said, supported by the entire community—in which they said, "Okay, let's take the 200-bed Riverview Hospital and let's reduce that by 40 beds to 160 beds." Let's place the other 160 beds required for chronic care into two hospitals, Metropolitan and IODE, with 80 beds apiece. They had looked at the philosophy of chronic care; they had looked at the type of chronic-care patient which they saw and served in the Windsor community and they said that could be di-

vided into three fairly recognizable groups in roughly those numbers and that met the ministry ratio of 320 in expansion of chronic care facilities and was an eminently reasonable solution.

It was at that meeting where, all of a sudden, again on a quick calculation of about three lines long, your official said this proposal is only going to save \$3.5 million. There is a million-dollar difference between the hospital planning council's proposal and what we are trying to achieve. All of a sudden, it wasn't just a meeting of the ratios, it was the money saving which became all important and a saving of a further million dollars somehow in the Windsor area became all important. That's the first time anyone in the Windsor area, including the members in this House who had been involved throughout, realized the significance of the million dollars, and that million dollars means something else may have to be done, for that million dollars to be saved.

The minister responded, and the minister's reply was a fairly good one in some respects. They said, "Instead of the cutback at Riverview being from 200 to 160, we are going to cut them from 200 to 120 beds. Instead of 80, we will add that extra 40-bed cut at Riverview on to the Metropolitan Hospital complement to bring that up to 120 beds. We will leave the 80, as you proposed, over in the Casgrain." So you split the chronic care treatment into three areas, leaving everything with the 120 at Metropolitan Hospital and 80 at IODE.

If the proposal had stopped there, it would have made some reasonable sense and we could have supported what the minister had done. That was a suggestion which would not have unduly upset the community, particularly as the minister also granted, which was one of the hospital planning council's requests at that time, that there be a chronic care assessment and placement service to be under the direction of the district health council, a service which would receive our applicants, presumably for chronic care, and place those in one of the three sites which was most appropriate for that particular kind of chronic care and for the facilities that were engendered at that particular site. It would have been a fine proposal.

But what is incredibly unbelievable is that the minister then said that you are still, a year from now, going to close Riverview Hospital. You are going to close those 120 beds which for a year's time, you will leave in Riverview Hospital. What's incredible about that is that not only does it offend all the sensibilities of everyone in the community, but it comes no-

where near saving the million dollars that seemed to be the one point of difference at that meeting in December, when the hospital planning council presented their brief.

That doesn't save a million dollars on operating at any time, let alone and completely disregarding the renovation costs, at some time in the future—it might be three years, it might be five years or it might be 10 years—of converting the chronic care unit established in IODE and Metropolitan back to some other kind of care—after-treatment care presumably. We are not counting those renovations and those re-renovation costs, we are simply looking at the operating money saved—the calculation that I said has been done. When in a year's time, if your proposal continues, 120 beds are taken out of Riverview and it is closed, and the beds placed somewhere else in the community, the staff savings will be almost minuscule because of the fact that all the administration of Riverview is already conducted at IODE because all the purchasing for Riverview is done through IODE. There is virtually no administration cost involved to be cut or saved by closing Riverview Hospital. The nursing administration also will be a straight transfer in cost. There will be no saving there. The total amount of saving that one can see envisaged in the year's time in closing Riverview Hospital would be, in terms of staff, one switchboard operator, one and a half stationary engineers, and some two or three people on the dietary staff. That's the total saving in salaries achieved in a year's time by closing down the 120 beds at Riverview Hospital. The total outside saving would be \$50,000 at the moment. The most they could ever see that figure expanding to would be \$75,000. A far cry from the million dollars which you said must be saved. In no way does it come close, Mr. Minister.

It would make sense for Riverview Hospital to be closed when it is closed only if there is some form of the new chronic care hospital which has been so long awaited in the Windsor area. If your decision was that Riverview will continue with its 120 beds until your new chronic care modular centre, which is built in various modules to whatever size you need, is established, that would have made eminent sense. Whether that occurs at the end of 1977, or whether, as you said at the open meeting in Windsor, it must wait until 1980 or the early 1980s, it makes eminent sense to leave those 120 patients in Riverview Hospital until new hospital facilities can be built replacing it. But no, we have this order from you at the end of March, 1977, that Riverview Hospital

must be closed and those 120 patients go somewhere else in the community.

There will not be any new hospital facilities built, Mr. Minister, in terms of economic savings to your ministry, it does not achieve anything in terms of the operating savings which the minister is trying to effect in the area. It does not take into account any amortization of renovation costs or any future costs of renovation back from chronic care wherever in the community the minister chooses to establish it.

Let me tell you what is happening in the community at the moment to show you the degree of upset re chronic care that is taking place in the Windsor area. With 100, or nearly 200 beds, in fact, operating at Riverview at the moment, they have for some weeks stopped taking any sort of application or referral into Riverview Hospital because by the end of this month they are supposed to achieve 120 beds there only. I gather this date has been delayed somewhat so let's not argue over the date. It may well go into May, when the first 80 units in the IODE, having been renovated, may be ready for operation, but they are taking no applications. They are looking at no referrals whatsoever.

So really, what we have is 180 and that number is dwindling in chronic care at Riverview. Where the rest of those patients are, no one knows. They are either sitting at home or they are occupying active treatment beds in hospitals, both places being completely inappropriate. It would make, in the present situation, a lot of sense if the minister simply said that Riverview will continue to remain open at full capacity until those renovations are complete at the other two hospitals.

The current situation has a great uncertainty—patients at Riverview worrying about chronic care patients, the elderly ones worrying about leaving the institution in which many have resided for some length of time. It's the current situation and it's very discriminatory against those particular patients.

[5:30]

There is one other point I want to make about the eventual closing of Riverview Hospital, a closing which I hope the minister will profoundly reconsider by looking at the financial aspects of it; that is, once you have cut back to 120 beds, as you are going to be doing this spring in your review, none of those 120 patients will be occupying the older part of the present Riverview Hospital.

Riverview Hospital was built in three stages; one part is quite old. By cutting back to 120 patients, none of them will be in the older part of the building. Those 120 patients in fact are occupying the remainder of Riverview Hospital, which in terms of age is equivalent to the age of the space at IODE and the space at Metropolitan Hospital, which is being renovated to take the added chronic care beds. In terms of the age of Riverview Hospital, that part which will be occupied by the 120 patients, not one bit of it is any older than the space that is being renovated to accept the other chronic care beds. So they can be quite comfortably left there until the new facilities are built.

There is nothing before the ministry, nor is anything anticipated to be sent to the ministry, in the way of renovations or improvements in that part of Riverview Hospital which is to contain those 120 beds in the future. The ministry can't argue that by closing it in a year's time, the ministry will be saving the renovation costs which have already been planned for the remainder of Riverview Hospital. There is no additional expense to the ministry by leaving that facility operating with its 120 beds until plans can be formulated for the new chronic care hospital, which the area so rightfully deserves.

The second point is a rather interesting one and I wish the minister would take this into consideration and do something about it. The minister having gone on his programmes and having taken a decision to close hospitals around the province, when it comes to Riverview, one wonders if he has just got a hospital closing fixation. So when it came to responding to what was a good solution from the Windsor area with respect to its chronic care needs, he was so fixated on a closing that he couldn't look at the facts objectively.

I oppose, as our party does, the community hospital closings across Ontario for the reasons presented quite ably by other speakers for our party, particularly our leader in his reply to the Speech from the Throne on Monday. We oppose those. But that decision having been taken by the ministry in that area, one gets the feeling that he has a hospital closing fixation which prevented him from looking at the true facts in the Windsor area.

One other interesting fact: A letter from Mr. Jamieson, the manager of hospital grants, to Windsor Western and IODE hospitals, states that "the ministry will pay three-thirds"

—that is, the total amount—of "certain projects where substantial savings on operating costs are possible." A renovation, at this time, of 80 beds in the Casgrain wing of IODE certainly must be part of the minister's hospital operating cost-saving programme. The ministry will pay three-thirds of those costs "by a regulation that is going to be passed in April or May to be effective for those contracts let after that regulation is passed" and not to be made retroactive for any contract let before that.

Mr. Minister, that is extremely discriminatory. IODE, having got 80 beds placed in its Casgrain wing as a result of this shuffle, went out immediately, got tenders and has let the contract for that conversion, so, in the interim, 80 chronic care beds will open there as soon as possible. The fact that they have let that contract now and work will proceed before that regulation is passed, assuming it must be a programme that is going to achieve savings on operating costs, will prevent them from receiving three-thirds of the cost from the ministry, and only two thirds.

I say to the minister, pass the regulation now if you have that regulation in mind, and it seems from Mr. Jamieson's letter that you do. Pass it now and make it retroactive to all those situations in Ontario where renovations have had to take place as a result of the ministry's decision with respect to hospital closings and hospital space shuffling.

That's the only fair thing which the minister can do. There most certainly should be that sort of fairness entered into with this particular hospital which, however unhappily, quickly responded to the need for these chronic care bed openings and the renovations in connection with that at that particular site.

Thirdly, the important point that I would like to mention here is if the minister persists, in spite of all the financial data which he will be presented with—which is almost ready now—with the closing of Riverview Hospital in one year's time—

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is final.

Mr. Bounsall: You are now saying that it is final, irrespective of the financial considerations which show a total of \$50,000 a year operating savings. That is too bad. It shows just how close-minded and fixated on hospital closings this minister is and some of his staff have become. There is no advantage to anybody in this particular closing, certainly not to you in financial terms.

Mr. Warner: It has become an obsession.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Right.

Mr. Bounsall: Now you have admitted that it is a straight obsession on your part. All right. Let me put another thing to you on behalf of what should be done for chronic care in the Windsor area.

The minister, at the open meeting in Windsor, said there would be no new chronic care facilities built until post-1980, implying that by 1980 or shortly thereafter there would be new chronic care facilities approved in the Windsor area. Would the minister respond favourably to IODE Hospital going ahead and building the first two modules and a contracted operational centre of the chronic care hospital planned for some time on the land which it already has at the IODE Western site; and financing it themselves in its entirety until the ministry, in 1980 or 1981, comes up with the funds it would normally be coming up with at that time to build a chronic care hospital?

The hospital has very carefully looked at its resources and has decided—it must start very soon so those facilities can be available by the end of March, 1977—that for three or four years or even for as long as a five-year period it could bear the total cost of building that building provided the normal ministry grants in support came forward in 1980 to 1982, some time in that period.

That is a proposal which would satisfy the entire community. It's a proposal which makes sense. The decision to close Riverview only makes sense if it was possible for that to take place. I am told by the hospital that it would let the ministry have the same low interest rate—which the hospitals are charged by the ministry—on the moneys which the ministry should be putting forth in 1977 as it would be putting forth in 1980 or 1982.

That, again, is a very reasonable proposal and you know how reasonable it is. The architectural drawings for that proposed modular unit — each containing about 70 units which they would build to replace what would be torn down at Riverview—have been shown not, perhaps, by the minister but by various ministry officials to other firms and other areas considering the construction of chronic care facilities as a model of architectural design melding with the whole programme the interactions between those chronic patients and the children from the emotionally disturbed children's centre. In philosophical terms, the mixing of the emotionally disturbed children with the chronic care has proved to be very helpful for both. This integration is part of the plan

and, in fact, the plan itself has been proposed as a model.

This is the kind of thing that the minister is turning down if he doesn't delay the closing or give the approval to IODE Windsor Western, that in some three to five years time after March, 1977, the ministry will come through with this particular funding. That's the time it has said it may well be able to come through with new chronic care funding.

Mr. Minister, I won't take up too much more time except to say that the fracturing of chronic care into a whole bunch of small units in towns, the whole philosophy of the treatment needed for chronic care patients in a further fracturing, really rather bothers me. There must be space found for 120 beds past March.

The further fracturing of it to other hospitals in the community gives anyone dealing with the chronic care patients some real concern. They have real concern about it being a small unit in a hospital in which the staff there are there—not particularly wanting to be there—until another opening comes up on some other nursing floor in the hospital. It will be the area which is sort of neglected, left out, and, in terms of staff wishing to work there, the area to be avoided.

One wants to keep large units. We certainly have a recognition of how to treat chronic care within the IODE Windsor Western complex, of which Riverview is part. To expand those facilities as planned for so many years with a very good architectural design, melding the chronic care patients with the emotionally disturbed patients, is a superb concept. The minister should find some means of keeping Riverview open until that can be built, or letting it be built with a promise that in the early 1980s the minister's normal funding share of that project will come forward. That would be an acceptable solution in the area.

I might say, Mr. Minister, there is concern about the cutting of the active treatment beds in Windsor, resulting in possibly 120 persons being laid off in total. Some will be taken up by transfers to the additional chronic care beds which are being provided, but there is still some great degree of concern.

Apart from having those active treatment bed cuts, it certainly was a shock to the community to get the minister's recent letter which said the IODE must cut back another \$90,000 in budget; and for Grace Hospital \$90,923, which represents another 7.3 persons cut in staff to meet that figure. The Hotel Dieu cut of \$86,000 represents another five to eight persons perhaps. And the \$26,000 cut at Metropolitan General represents an-

other two to three staff having to be let go—on top of all the staff cuts which are going to have to take place as the result of the closing down of the active treatment beds in the Windsor area.

Mr. Minister, I would hope that what you have expressed today—your firm decision and conclusion to cut in a year's time that hospital—will be changed when you see that the financial evaluation will not result in the saving you've mentioned. Finally, if you refuse to close it, that you would back the building of the new chronic care hospital with your assurance that your normal grants, which you say cannot be made now, will be made at the time it can be made—in the early 1980s. Let the hospital carry, which it says it can probably do, the costs of that additional mortgage in the interim—until you can come in with your particular grant.

[5:45]

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I don't know where the hon. member was during the discussions on the Windsor area, but there is no question in my mind, nor in the minds, I'm sure, of those people on the hospital council, that the original objective was not an academic exercise to meet ratios but to save dollars. The dollars were clearly stated and were understood, \$4 million in round figures. In fact, at the meeting to which you alluded, the members of the council who came to Toronto with you, pointed out that their savings were estimated at \$3.2 million.

Mr. Bounsall: A million dollars—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. In round figures they asked us if that would do. Now, I think you recognize that. You may well recall reading an editorial in the Windsor Star in February. It was kind of a retrospective look. The Windsor Star has had some nasty editorials, quite understandably, about my moves there over the past year. It had some reasonably supportive ones, but the one it brought out referred to the other hospital closures in the province and it basically said, "In retrospect, we appear to have been lucky. The ministry asked us to do something, we objected. The ministry laid down what it thought should happen, we formed a committee, and countered. We made a number of suggestions, most of which were accepted. The government listened seriously and we feel a fair compromise was worked out." Do you recall seeing that editorial?

Mr. Bounsall: No, I did not see that one. I can well imagine it being written. Could I

simply say here, you've even got a more reasonable proposal before you.

Hon. Mr. Miller: Everybody feels the proposals they are making should be accepted 100 per cent. I do, too. Let me simply just read back to you a letter—it will take me a minute or two. This is my letter of Jan. 2. I am sure you have had a copy of it. It is to Dr. Jones of the Essex County Hospital Planning Council. It says:

In response to your letter of Dec. 3 [which outlines the points you just talked about] indicating the Essex County Hospital Planning Council's proposal for reduction in hospital operating costs in the Windsor area, the ministry has made the following decisions:

Recommendation No. 1: Riverview Hospital remain operational with a maximum of 160 beds. Our decision: That the Windsor Western Hospital Centre remain open at 120 beds starting March 31, 1976, and that it be closed effective March 31, 1977.

Mr. Bounsall: That's your one error.

Hon. Mr. Miller: Continuing:

During the next year an effective plan for the rationalization of chronic care to be developed by the Essex County District Health Council.

I am accused of never giving anybody any time to come back with a plan; they have a year to do so.

Recommendation No. 2: Two additional chronic care units, of not more than 80 beds each, to be established at Windsor Western, IODE and at Metropolitan. Our decision: Two additional chronic care units be developed starting March 31 at those two hospitals, one the 80-unit beds at Windsor Western, the other 120 beds. [In other words, we raised it by 40 at Met.]

Recommendation No. 3: Chronic care service centre or assessment of placement service be established to co-ordinate all the community services for chronic care. Our decision: The ministry concurs with the establishment of the above centre to be under the direction of the district health council.

Recommendation No. 4: There should be a minimum of a 200-bed reduction in the number of med. surg. beds and this reduction should occur on a pro rata basis in all the active treatment hospitals. [That is their recommendation to us.] Our response: The ministry concurs through the closing of the med. and surg. beds currently staffed and

in operation, such closures to be effected as at March 31, 1976. The submission of the exact bed closures should be submitted to the ministry by the Essex council before Jan. 31.

I will allude to the fact that other letters have followed showing 188 beds was a logical number if one took units. Again we found it quite possible to accept that, and it wasn't totally pro rata because pro rata left them with partial wards operating.

Recommendation No. 5: Psychiatric and cancer clinic beds should continue to operate as at present, subject to periodic review. Our decision: We agree.

Recommendation No. 6: A six-bed burns unit should be established at the Met. Hospital.

You and I know that was a bit of a red herring by somebody. We'll just ignore it and make no comments about it. Okay? I think you're nodding your head.

Mr. Bounsall: In the context of the closures and the bed shuffles, that wasn't inherent—

Hon. F. S. Miller: It was quietly inherent. A few people said that that was somebody's pet and obviously they had some improvements on the recommendations. But it wasn't the hospital council's highest priority, okay?

Mr. Bounsall: We can agree this was the second priority. We agreed that it wasn't part of the cutback.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We had accepted that a long time ago. But your local people had asked us to put money elsewhere than that, if we had to prioritize. I think that was agreed upon.

Recommendation No. 7: If the minister accepts these proposals the planning council will immediately undertake to continue its studies to find some rationalization programme for obstetrics and pediatrics. Our answer: A plan for the rationalization of obstetrics and pediatric services should be developed by the Essex County District Health Council and submitted to the ministry for an implementation date of March 31, 1977. [Again, we agreed with a logical recommendation.]

Recommendation No. 8: There should be no changes at present in the services at Leamington Hospital. [We agreed.]

Recommendation No. 9: Adoption of these recommendations would establish the building of a new chronic care hospital at the Windsor Western site as the first prior-

ity in major hospital capital expenditures. [We agreed.]

So I can only say to you that throughout we feel that a reasonable exchange of points took place. We compromised about \$1 million. If our estimation of saving is wrong then the council's is because they concurred in it.

Mr. Bounsall: But not really. They admitted that they didn't understand where you got your \$4.5 million.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oh well, okay. The fact is, there were some people more vocal than others in your community. Some people quite actively took to the press. That doesn't bother me.

Mr. Bounsall: That's fair game.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is true. They didn't necessarily represent the feelings of the group who continued to plan and deal. Let me tell you, I think the people in that area did a great job of working together—

Mr. Bounsall: They worked very hard at it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I just think they need to be commended for working with us and I hope in turn—and I know privately—some of them think we weren't so bad through it all.

I don't expect them to stand up in Windsor and say Frank Miller should run for office in Riverside-Sandwich or whatever it was.

Mr. Bounsall: Windsor-Riverside or Windsor-Sandwich.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right. I think if I did I just might be the ham in the middle.

Mr. Bounsall: Look—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me just finish.

Mr. Bounsall: If you're being reasonable, why don't you carry your reasonableness right through? Why be fixated on the closing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Because in my opinion we have to utilize efficiently the existing 320-bed surplus in your community. The plant is running downhill; the renovations to change the chronic facilities are minimal. The change of chronic patients to those hospitals will not have the disastrous effects that some people would allude to and have you believe.

As far as the 100 per cent funding of capital for projects that are cost efficient—yes, my ministry recommended that. Retroactivity in that kind of thing is a very danger-

ous game. It is like slapping an extra tax on or giving a credit on something retroactively. Most times government has to say, this is the date something starts or stops; there are too many ways of playing games with that one.

Mr. Bounsall: Pass it tomorrow.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I may have it through earlier than that. But I am just saying to you that we had a simple basis for deciding that we should fund a change at a hospital.

If, in fact, the money invested repaid itself in five years, in terms of labour saving or any other form of saving, then we could justify putting our money up without local participation because it was in the common interest of the taxpayer so to do. That's good business.

What we need is more and more investment. It is pretty hard to convince many hospital boards to go out and hammer on doors or talk to municipalities and say, "Look we have spent a million dollars—we will save \$2 million in five years." The council says, "Whose money are you saving?" The fact that it is the taxpayers' doesn't matter; they don't have to raise it so why should they pay their share.

So, fine, my ministry has recognized that problem. We've said where the cost saving—through improvements like low-pressure automated boilers—would be a good example—or doing away with stationary engineers. We've said that it's in the general interest of the taxpayer of the province to finance that kind of a project we should provide the money and we will do so. I think it's an important departure.

As for permitting them to invest their money today, no, we just can't permit 100 per cent financing in advance. Lots of people suggest this because they're asking for something that is committing some government six or seven years in the future to pay; whether it's me or you I don't think matters. The fact is I deal with a three-year budget based on my present assessment. I know enough about the changes in the health care system to know that what I think Windsor needs today and what Windsor may need in 1982 or 1981 may be entirely different. Therefore, I am not willing to see anybody investing their money on the assumption that I'll pick it up, when the services can be properly and efficiently rendered today in existing capital plant already paid for by you and me.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion on item 2?

Mr. Ferrier: Yes, I want to make a few remarks about the restraint programme and put it into the context of the fast-growth community that Timmins is about to be. We are experiencing rapid growth at the Texas-gulf complex in Timmins, where we will be going through a large construction period with perhaps 1,500 or more new employees coming into the city to work on that phase and then 1,200 or more on the work force at the new copper smelter—a copper refinery, I believe—and a fertilizer plant, which will mean probably 6,000 or 7,000 more people in our area within about three years.

In this environment we are quite concerned at some of the actions that the minister has taken. A couple of weeks or so ago when the constraint programme was announced, St. Mary's Hospital in Timmins got a letter stating that they were to be cut back by 25 active treatment beds and they were to be converted to chronic care. This came as a terrific blow to my people there because just prior to this St. Mary's Hospital had agreed to take a 20-bed psychiatric unit supposedly to replace the Northeastern Regional Mental Health Centre that had been closed. I think that St. Mary's Hospital—

Interjection.

Mr. Ferrier: I doubt it. The people felt they were dealing in good faith in agreeing to take the 20 beds and to try to salvage something of the psychiatric services that we had become accustomed to in the area. This decision to close 25 beds at St. Mary's and convert them over to chronic care was taken without really any consultation with the hospital people or the health council. Some of us were pretty outspoken at the fact that we've had a health council for some eight months and they were not involved in any way in this decision. One of the councillors even went so far as to suggest that the \$22,500 that you propose to save by this move could easily be saved by disbanding the health council, since you were making all the decisions here at Queen's Park anyway.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They don't get paid.

Mr. Ferrier: You have an executive director and an office you are renting; and you have secretaries so those people get paid. I'm sure they are not working for charity unless they are very different from most people today.

Mr. Chairman: If we are at an appropriate spot in the debate, perhaps we could adjourn the debate and return at 8.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX
(See page 453)

Answer to a question was tabled as follows:

1. *Mr. Breithaupt*—Inquiry of the ministry:

1. How many contract employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975? 2. How many casual employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975? 3. How many part-time employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975? 4. How many project workers are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975? 5. How many civil servants were there on July 7, 1975 and how many are there now? 6. Are all of those persons in the categories of contract, casual, part-time and project employees included in the rules governing the political activity of civil servants?

Answer by the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet:

The question Mr. Breithaupt has placed on order paper No. 3 of March 11, 1976, is identical to the one which he placed on order paper No. 5 of Nov. 3, 1975.

In as much as it took several months to gather the data, we are tabling the answer that we had prepared to that question, and trust this is satisfactory to the hon. member who asked this question.

1. How many contract employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975?

Contract employees are hired by the ministries under the authority of the minister, contained in section 8 of the Public Service Act, covering the appointment of unclassified civil servants. Regulation 749, under the Public Service Act, further subdivides the unclassified service into two groups—Group 1 and Group 2. Group 1 includes employees who are employed: (a) on a project of a non-recurring kind; (b) in a professional or other special capacity; (c) on a temporary work assignment arranged by the commission in accordance with its programme for providing temporary help; (d) for 24 hours or less during a week; or (e) during their regular school, college or university vacation period or under a co-operative educational training programme.

As a result of the differing situations under which these employees are hired, the number of contract employees varies widely during the course of the year. For the purpose of this question, all the group 1 employees are included since they are all contract employees.

As of July 7, 1975, there were 19,595 contract employees in the ministries. Since that time, 3,083 employees were hired and 13,162 contract employees were terminated, leaving 9,516 contract employees in the ministries as of Nov. 10, 1975.

The number of contract employees in each ministry on November 10, 1975 and then hired since July 7, 1975 were:

	As of Nov. 10, 1975	Hired since July 7, 1975
Transportation and Communications	553	363
Industry and Tourism	166	49
Natural Resources	890	158
Labour	73	56
Agriculture and Food	260	260
Environment	410	190
Attorney General	1338	162
Consumer and Commercial Relations	160	89
Correctional Services	1338	268
Solicitor General	288	55
Health	926	147
Education	361	302
Colleges and Universities	127	44

Culture and Recreation	563	166
Community and Social Services	787	331
Civil Service Commission	97	39
Government Services	357	159
Housing	246	73
Management Board	14	7
Energy	25	4
Policy Field Secretariats	56	33
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	246	15
Revenue	178	98
Premier's Office and Cabinet Office	45	14
Provincial Auditor	12	1
TOTAL	9516	3083

2. How many casual employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975?

Casual employees for the purposes of this question have been defined as Group 2 employees, those employed on a project of a seasonal or recurring kind that does not require the employees to be employed on a full-time, year round basis.

These employees differ from the Group 1 unclassified service and are usually found in extended employment periods covering the early spring to the late fall, and includes such persons as those employed in provincial parks.

As of July 7, 1975, there were 9,046 casual employees in all ministries, and since that date, 710 casual employees were hired and 5,002 employees were terminated leaving a balance of 4,754 casual employees as of Nov. 10, 1975.

The number of casual employees in each ministry as of Nov. 10, 1975, and those hired since July 7, 1975, were:

	As of Nov. 10, 1975	Hired since July 7, 1975
Transportation and Communications	1060	56
Industry and Tourism	-	-
Natural Resources	2245	23
Labour	-	-
Agriculture and Food	309	215
Environment	2	-
Attorney General	-	-
Consumer and Commercial Relations	13	13
Correctional Services	-	-
Solicitor General	-	-
Health	154	48
Education	63	63
Colleges and Universities	-	-
Culture and Recreation	36	9
Community and Social Services	663	220
Civil Service Commission	-	-
Government Services	209	63
Housing	-	-
Management Board	-	-
Energy	-	-
Policy Field Secretariats	-	-
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	-	-
Revenue	-	-
Premier's Office and Cabinet Office	-	-
Provincial Auditor	-	-
TOTAL	4754	710

3. How many part-time employees are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975?

Part-time employees are defined for this purpose as Group 1 employees, type (c) and (d). As a result, the numbers of employees referred to in this question are already included in the numbers stated for Part 1.

	As of Nov. 10, 1975	Hired since July 7, 1975
Transportation and Communications	259	175
Industry and Tourism	70	31
Natural Resources	145	53
Labour	38	24
Agriculture and Food	218	71
Environment	76	24
Attorney General	1273	139
Consumer and Commercial Relations	86	57
Correctional Services	936	200
Solicitor General	219	28
Health	737	108
Education	120	81
Colleges and Universities	104	41
Culture and Recreation	170	74
Community and Social Services	395	101
Civil Service Commission	24	12
Government Services	139	83
Housing	11	5
Management Board	6	4
Energy	6	4
Policy Field Secretariats	10	7
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	28	14
Revenue	66	45
Premier's Office and Cabinet Office	11	7
Provincial Auditor	-	-
TOTAL	5147	1388

4. How many project workers are there in each ministry and how many of those have been hired since July 7, 1975?

Project workers are defined as those employees included in Group 1, type (a), and as a result, are already included in the number recorded in Part 1.

	As of Nov. 10, 1975	Hired since July 7, 1975
Transportation and Communications	105	74
Industry and Tourism	-	-
Natural Resources	586	79
Labour	19	6
Agriculture and Food	11	-
Environment	238	26
Attorney General	27	14
Consumer and Commercial Relations	56	23
Correctional Services	187	34
Solicitor General	62	22
Health	84	11
Education	24	19
Colleges and Universities	11	2
Culture and Recreation	72	37
Community and Social Services	352	165
Civil Service Commission	9	2
Government Services	189	54
Housing	64	12
Management Board	1	-
Energy	18	-
Policy Field Secretariats	3	3

	As of Nov. 10, 1975	Hired since July 7, 1975
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	211	1
Revenue	102	46
Premier's Office and Cabinet Office	—	—
Provincial Auditor	—	—
TOTAL	2431	630

5. How many civil servants were there on July 7, 1975, and how many are there now?

July 7, 1975—70,648 civil servants; Nov. 10, 1975—69,759 civil servants.

6. Are all of those persons in the categories of contract, casual, part-time and project employees included in the rules governing the political activity of civil servants?

Sections 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 of the Public Service Act covering political activities refer to Crown employees. The unclassified service referred to in the question are Crown employees. Therefore these sections apply to the unclassified service.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 2903:

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Ferrier: Yes Mr. Chairman, between supper hour and now we've been doing a bit of research.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Don't admit any guilt.

Mr. Ferrier: We've been doing a bit of research and we've got more information than we had at 6 o'clock. We were talking about the conversion of beds at St. Mary's Hospital in Timmins and mentioning that the people were pretty upset when they were told that 25 beds had to be converted for chronic care.

Chronic patients are not people who lie in bed all the time; they are somewhat ambulatory and could use a common room or sun room for social activities and that type of thing, and would like to get up and eat their meals someplace other than in their bedroom. So there was quite a disturbance by the people at the hospital. They felt that if they just converted active treatment beds to chronic beds they would be just putting chronic patients in the hospital pretty well to vegetate and die. That wasn't considered a very worthwhile way to treat them.

The mayor came down and spoke to the minister and the minister realized that he had made a mistake. The information that had come from his ministry to make this conversion didn't seem to take into account the conversion to the psychiatric beds that St. Mary's had agreed to take. So the minister agreed that the whole hospital bed situation in the Timmins area would be referred to the local health council for them to make an examination of the facts and bring back some recommendations.

That's the way it should have been in the first place. The health council should have been involved and should have had the opportunity to look into the matter, to study the situation and to make recommendations. After

all, that was the reason they were appointed. I have to commend the minister. At least he realized that this course of action was open and he was prepared to take it. They will have some difficult decisions to make and I know there are tensions between the two hospitals in the community. But I hope they have the wisdom of Solomon and can make some recommendations that will be acceptable to both parties.

St. Mary's is going to take over the psychiatric services that are being closed down at Northeastern. There are to be 20 beds for active psychiatric care in St. Mary's hospital, or at Northeastern under the administration of St. Mary's. I suppose the minister feels that because it's being handled by St. Mary's they can get the federal subsidy on the OHIP payment.

One thing that has not been mentioned very much in all these restraints that are being carried on in the provincial sector, the cutback in active treatment beds, is that for a number of years the federal government has agreed to fund active treatment beds. However when the province went into extended care coverage for nursing homes and the home care programme and the chronic programme, my understanding is that the federal government refused to operate on a share-cost basis.

The federal government's cutback and restraints has, I think, put a significant degree of pressure on the provinces. It seems to me that the federal government, had they been responsible and co-operative in a fair and reasonable manner, would have been prepared to share these less costly health care forms and would have underwritten some of the costs, not only in Ontario but throughout the country. Had they done so, perhaps there wouldn't have been the great pressure on the provincial health care budget there is today.

I think we shouldn't let the federal Liberals off the hook too easily either, because—

Hon. F. S. Miller: We're ad idem there.

Mr. Ferrier: Yes, but you haven't said very much about that.

Ms. Gigantes: Who signed on?

Mr. Ferrier: I remember Tommy Douglas making a very informative presentation on Canada AM not too long ago, pointing out some of these things and expanding on what he was saying in the federal House. I haven't heard that come from Queen's Park. Perhaps you feel it would be too much of an excuse. I think that the federal government has been quite irresponsible on this matter and has been putting undue pressure upon the provinces. I feel that some of the actions we're seeing in Ottawa now about a new Constitution—they're going to repatriate it perhaps without even referring it to the provinces—is typical of the federal government's arrogance and lack of concern for the provinces. They don't seem to realize they are in a cooperative federalism. Prime Minister Trudeau has talked about participatory democracy, but he doesn't even carry it out in a number of instances within the federal system under which we operate.

Anyway, the 20 beds in Timmins, as far as we're concerned, is not enough. The minister proposes to carry out his programme in the Kapuskasing area with one social worker and one psychiatric nurse and with a psychiatrist visiting there periodically, and using the Sensenbrenner Hospital for acute patients. If these patients have to be hospitalized for any length of time they will be sent to North Bay.

He has suggested for the tri-town area that there be two social workers and two registered psychiatric nurses; again with a psychiatrist visiting there to consult. This could be under the public health programme in the tri-town area.

In the Timmins area there are to be, I understand, two psychologists. They have to be made available for Kapuskasing and the tri-town team.

There are to be two registered nurses to carry out the outpatient programme. There will be two or three social workers who will do the family visits in the community and that type of thing. There will be one rehab officer for all of northeastern Ontario, perhaps a child care worker as a resource person to the school board and a few extra nurses probably in connection with this 20-bed unit; and that is supposed to replace the Northeastern Hospital that has been serving all of northeastern Ontario for the last eight years.

If the minister feels he can adequately serve the area with modern psychiatric methods with a staff of 16 or 20 and 20 beds, then he is quite optimistic. Perhaps

you can carry out your outpatients' programme, I don't know, but there have been over 400 patients who have been involved in that programme. If you feel that you can substitute this service with this number of people for the over 200 that you had, then you've either been ripping off the taxpayer in a tremendous way in the last eight years or else you are not going to really adequately serve them by this method. I suspect that it is more of the latter than of the former.

The hospital has had problems and growing pains over the years. Some of the medical directors you had there have not been as responsive to the needs of the community as the last medical director has been. He has suggested that the hospital's programme should respond to the needs of the community rather than impose a pattern on the community. I know that previously there was a good deal of resentment when the programme was imposed on the community, because any person that was to be admitted to Northeastern had to be admitted first to the General Hospital and then transferred over there. On a weekend they just weren't prepared to admit people.

I know the member for Cochrane North, (Mr. Brunelle), like myself, has had a number of people call complaining about that, that so and so is very disturbed and should be in the hospital and he can't get them in.

Even doctors contacted me and we succeeded, sometimes, in getting patients admitted. That did cause problems in the community, but in the last year or so there was a reorientation of the whole treatment programme and I think it was working quite successfully.

The minister heard our brief and I think the minister has to admit the people in our area were very responsible, restrained and did not make inflammatory or derogatory remarks. In fact we presented a reasonable case, presented it well and were not involved in some of the insults or that type of thing that might have gone on in other places. We wanted a combination of psychiatric beds and chronic care beds and retarded beds. We were given to understand there would be reconsideration of our proposals.

Some of us came down to see the Premier (Mr. Davis) to present the case to him and he more or less said the same thing. The response that we finally got was that there would be these 20 beds at Northeastern.

The people are not really satisfied that it is quid pro quo, that you exchange one for the other and we are going to be adequate-

ly served. The alternative of making it a mentally retarded resource centre is falling into the same trap as the psychiatric hospital was, in that they are only talking about 50 in-patients at this point. It may be going up to a few more, but if you don't utilize that facility to its capacity you will fall into the same trap. It will be under-utilized and a minister four or five years down the road will say: "We are not really getting the most for our dollars, we're going to close it down again." And who will get it next? Will Correctional Services take over the programme at Monteith or something like that? This is the worry that the people have.

[8:15]

There has been a real period of anxiety and upset in that community. It's been a very traumatic period of time, particularly over the Christmas period. One wonders why it couldn't have been left a little longer into the new year before you took your action. It didn't make for a very pleasant Christmas for the employees, for the patients and for the families of the patients. It's been a very upsetting time.

While you did promise us those 20 beds, and St. Mary's Hospital is in the process of implementing the resolution that they passed—not so much because they agreed with it as they realized that there had to be psychiatric services in the area—you've transferred a number of patients down to North Bay. I know that one woman has had a fall down there and she has had quite a bad hip injury as a result. I know that it's been a very traumatic experience for some of the people who have been transferred down there by car, ambulance and what have you. It has been a very upsetting experience.

It's 225 miles or so to that hospital from our area, and it has been difficult for families to have to bring loved ones down there for a period of time. It means that they will not be visiting them nearly as often.

One of the sad things about these kinds of hospitals is that patients sometimes go in there in a chronic state, their family forgets about them and they're left there until their dying days. It's an unhappy situation.

The homes for special care programme that you do have at the nursing home is able to accommodate a few people, but not nearly enough. It means that while you might be saving some money, the people are going to have to pick it up in travelling down to North Bay. It's a long trip down there and back in one day, so people are going to have to stay in motels and will have overnight

expenses for motels and meals and all the rest of it if they really are concerned—and a number are concerned about their loved ones who are patients there.

I know that in the riding of the member for Cochrane North, people from Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock, and probably Cochrane, all will have to go down there too. It's not really the kind of solution we are happy about.

What about the employees? There were over 200 employees. The day the announcement was made about the closing, your ministry was to be presented with a proposal from the administrator of Northeastern to fully utilize the hospital there so that some greater economies would be available and you'd get better value for your dollars.

But that proposal wasn't even considered. The decision had been made and was already in motion, and the minister had to be able to say what a tough line he was taking on his own institutions, Goderich and Northeastern, so he could justify to the hospital administrators and the chairmen that were sitting in the room over in the Macdonald Block, or wherever it was, that he meant business and was prepared to take tough decisions within his own ministry with his own institutions, so they had to be prepared to accept the tough decisions that he was going to take as far as they were concerned.

The thing is that the employees first heard it over the CBC at noon and it was a pretty traumatic experience, as I have said, for them.

There are going to be a number of jobs lost. If people are kept on in the new facility—and some of them will be—they will no longer be civil servants and they will lose some of the credits that they have had. There will be a number of them, at this early stage, who will not be carried over so there will be periods of unemployment.

One of the really good things about this kind of hospital is that people who are not able to do hard work—the cleaning and this type of thing—have an alternative form of employment they can go to. This was one of the reasons, I think, why Mr. Spooner, when he was the member for Cochrane South, pushed so hard to have the hospital built there. There was a lot of politicking involved in it; it was good for him—bringing a hospital in and this type of thing—but he did have in mind the alternative kind of jobs which would be available in a heavy industry community. I give him credit for that.

These kinds of jobs may not be available and unless they are prepared to move there

may be very significant periods of unemployment. I doubt if the kind of people who have worked at the hospital will be employed by Texasgulf for some part of its expansion programme.

I don't know how many of the employees are being placed in other parts of your ministry or at your institutions. I know your personnel people used some very questionable tactics and when you found out about it you were quite annoyed; I hope you followed through. They gave the people the option of changing to another institution or another part of the Health ministry's operation, either being moved at their own expense or at government expense. It was a kind of blackmail. I hope you cleared that up.

Another problem I have brought to your attention—I don't know whether or not you are yet prepared to respond to it—as far as the employees are concerned, is the question of whether the severance pay, the holiday pay and pension credit for those to whom it pertains can be made available on March 31 or as close as possible. That is a concern among a number of the employees there.

I think the situation has been very traumatic for the employees. I don't know what the final resolution is going to be as far as St. Mary's is concerned—about the chronic beds and this kind of thing—but Northern College did have a contract with Northeastern Hospital as far as education for psychiatric nursing was concerned. They will now have to be accommodated in North Bay, at some expense as far as travelling is concerned and as far as room and board is concerned.

I don't know whether the regular nursing courses can be carried out at St. Mary's if you cut back and change over to chronic beds. You will have to cut down as far as I can understand, on the number of nurses you are accepting there.

Judging by the employment opportunities for nurses in my area, and perhaps in the general hospital system throughout Ontario, maybe you are going to have to cut back on the number of admissions you make to the nursing schools. It is not very fair for a young lady or a young man to take a course in a field when they are not going to be able to have a job. It's an important training but unless they can work in their field it's not very wise.

There is extra expense now being experienced by the Ministry of Correctional Services because they have to send inmates who have psychiatric problems down to

North Bay. It means a couple of custodial officers taking the inmate down and it's at least a whole day's trip. There are the wages of two people for a whole day and all the travelling expenses and that kind of thing. It has gone on with some degree of frequency and there are a number of extra expenses that you are going to have.

I don't know what the proposals are for the ARF programme. The last I heard was that they were considering putting Addiction Research Foundation personnel in St. Mary's Hospital in the old nurses' wing, up on the third floor I think it is. Because they are in the central part of the city, a lot of the people who would be calling upon them would have easy access to them. Well if that is the case, I don't know how the funding is going to be handled, but, I suggest it may cost as much to carry out the programme, or more, through that medium than if they had been at Northeastern.

I understand that the Monteith programme is going to be continued, but just where I don't know. Perhaps in the early stages it will be continued at Northeastern and then transferred.

That was the kind of programme that really showed the government was concerned about rehabilitation. I think there have been some pretty significant, positive results from that programme; and I was very concerned that this programme might be seriously jeopardized if you did not make the commitment to go ahead with it. But the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) and yourself, I understand, are prepared to stand firm and see that the programme continues.

I think that it was a pretty tough role that you perpetrated against northeastern Ontario. Perhaps Northeastern, as the leader of the Liberal Party intimated, was overbuilt in the first place. That's not our fault; that's poor planning within your ministry and your people back in those days. I think you should have, away back when, considered using that facility as a joint facility, as it was built for mentally retarded and for people requiring psychiatric care. Over the years we have pleaded with you, as a way of resolving this chronic care situation, to make chronic care beds available in Northeastern.

During the late stages of the election you led the Timmins city council to believe that this was in fact receiving very serious consideration by you and your officials. They were pretty upset when you came along and made your announcement.

Your plan to provide chronic care beds in the area is, of course, welcome; but they have to be provided in a facility that is appropriate for them and can offer the common room type of thing, where they can go and socialize, along with some suitable type of dining room facility. I have said all along, but perhaps you have never agreed to this, that if you made the 26 beds available at the Timmins nursing home and designated it specifically for chronic care, you could meet the crisis for the time being. Then when other long range plans were in place you could perhaps channel those over for extended care. You haven't been prepared to accept those arguments.

Now there was one hopeful thing that the minister did say when he was in Timmins; that he is prepared to move forward to some extent the new district hospital he has said would be coming our way. I don't know how much the restraint programme is going to have a bearing on that.

Also there is the fact that you are going to put about \$1.6 million into St. Mary's now to improve the emergency care, the radiology department, the urology department, the pathology department. That's very good. But what you are prepared to do as far as the district hospital is concerned is a very serious concern. I hope the minister, when he told us that night in January he was going to seriously consider moving it up, will be prepared to do that.

You know, Mr. Minister, I think that overall it's important to establish various parts of this province as regional or district medical centres where a fairly wide degree of service is made available for that region. I think our area, being a heavy industry area with mining and lumbering sectors, should have an orthopaedic surgeon at hand with the facilities he needs.

[8:30]

We've had two that have come there and they have gone, one to Stratford and the other one to Sudbury, because there were not sufficient beds available in the area for them to do the work that needed to be done. I think it would save money for the local people, it would be much more convenient and it might save money for the government, if you had facilities where an orthopaedic specialist could be there.

In our whole area of northeastern Ontario we should have a pediatrician. The nearest ones that I know of are in North Bay and Sudbury. It's not just my area but it's all up through the whole district of Cochrane. We serve all the way up to the coast of James Bay, the Moosonee area and all the native

communities. We also serve Gogama and Foleyet. Those communities should be taken into account when you are applying your 4.5 per cent formula to decide on the number of beds.

I hope when you are planning that region or district hospital that you are prepared maybe to move up a little bit, that you will think of the possibilities of attracting some specialists into that area and providing them with the facilities and sufficient beds that they can really operate as a district or a regional hospital and serve the people in those areas.

Another area that I think is of major concern as far as hospital facilities go is the service that St. Mary's provides to the francophone community. You have a committee looking into the needs of the francophone community of this Province of Ontario. I can tell you that there are not nearly enough francophone doctors serving the francophone community of this province. It's very disconcerting for a number of unilingual francophone people of this province who have to go to doctors and try to communicate with and tell them their symptoms when they can't communicate.

That's a serious lack that is in existence as far as the francophone community is concerned. I think that the University of Ottawa has for the most part taken the students from the Province of Quebec into their medical school and they are not taking a number of people from northern Ontario into the school so that the francophones from northern Ontario will be induced to come back to the north and serve in those hospitals we have.

In a hospital like St. Mary's we do have auxilliary health care personnel who are francophone and who can provide some of the significant services to the francophone population. But I want to tell the minister that his 4.5 beds should maybe be reconsidered as far as the francophone communities of this province are concerned. In those areas where there are inadequate facilities provided in the hospital sector for the francophone communities you should raise your ratio to a considerable extent.

When you are planning your district hospital, take that into account. When the district health council is making their recommendations to you, they better take that into account and see that the francophone community of my area, and indeed of the province, have sufficient professional health care people to serve them and to speak their own language; and your medical school at the University of Ottawa should give sufficient preference to francophone students from

the Province of Ontario so that we're graduating enough doctors who are prepared to come back to Ontario and serve our francophone community in Ontario rather than to go back to Quebec and serve there. They have their own medical schools there and Quebec can well afford to train their own doctors. We need francophone doctors in the worst way in our community.

So, I suppose I had better wind it up but I am—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Keep on, keep on.

Mr. Ferrier: Well I did a pretty good job of research over the supper hour. But I am telling you, Mr. Minister, we weren't very happy with your announcement on Dec. 19 and we are still not satisfied with the response that you have given us.

An hon. member: There is no rationale.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There is though.

Mr. Ferrier: In fact, Mr. Minister you have got too many insensitive, cold, calculating bureaucrats down here at Queen's Park. No, it is not you, it is your bureaucrats down here.

Mr. McClellan: It's them, yes.

Mr. Ferrier: And some of them ought to know better.

Mr. Angus: Lots of luck, Frank.

Mr. Ferrier: Some of them ought to know better because they have—

Mr. Warner: It is your responsibility.

Mr. Deans: Frank Miller, they have been manipulating Ministers of Health ever since I came here.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I realize that; it's probably the most plastic they ever had.

Mr. Deans: I am not going to tell you that.

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: I am telling you, Mr. Minister, northern Ontario has unique problems. They are problems of distance, they are problems of weather, they are problems of scattered population; but there are human needs, health care needs, that have to be dealt with in a unique way. The way the hatchet was used on Northeastern certainly didn't indicate much sensitivity on behalf of this government. You didn't win yourself very many friends in northern Ontario by that action.

Your compromise was the same thing we talked about in your office: that the general hospital would pick up 20 beds and you wouldn't be prepared to put the restraint axe on them. I think your bureaucrats really didn't do you much of a service when they said that they were there to axe St. Mary's Hospital. I think that slipped through your hands without you really realizing it. Sometimes they do things that seriously embarrass you and I think that—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, and they sent you information.

Mr. Ferrier: If they are really responsive to what is going on and they are concerned they will know that; and I believe there were some in your ministry who proposed that St. Mary's pass that resolution and accept those 20 beds.

I know; I have a pipeline into the St. Mary's Hospital board. I know it is all confidential and all the rest of it, but sometimes the better half lets the odd things slip.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Is she on the board?

Mr. Ferrier: She is on the board. You see the NDP are pretty active up in my area.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I have met your family.

Mr. Ferrier: In one way, Mr. Minister, some of us have to take extreme measures to pitch in.

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: But anyway, Mr. Minister, we feel it is typical of this arrogant, insensitive way that Queen's Park deals with the north. The whole decision reinforced our sense of separation, our sense of not being taken into account, of you concentrating more and more power down here and not transferring power out to the areas in a certain kind of local autonomy that some of your ministers get up and argue about when a pertinent local decision is to be made by the local people. You have a health council and you didn't take them into account; and you didn't take any of the professionals into account; you didn't even let your administrator of the hospital know.

I think you haven't really done yourself much of a service in the decision that you took there. If you had done what we had pleaded with you and pleaded with the Premier to do—and I hope that the Premier gets up and talks about the little conversation he and Bill Drysdale and I and Dr.

Stewart had in his room. We were prepared to take a compromise, with the hospital as a resource centre for the retarded—75 or 100 beds or more—to keep 75 or so beds for the mentally ill and to have adequate psychiatric services. We would have been satisfied.

The Association for the Mentally Retarded were not overly enthusiastic about taking that over, but now they have agreed and I think they're pretty pleased they've got this large facility. They're going to go ahead with it.

I think you made a mistake in not listening to us in our area. You might be able to justify it in dollars and cents, but you haven't explained very well what you're going to put there in its place. You may have explained it to a few of the professionals, but we had to wait a long time for the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) to approve his news release. It must have been about three days we waited for that to come forth.

I still don't know what you're going to come forward with as far as the children's programme is concerned. I hope you've got something in place to take over there, because if you haven't that 5.5 per cent increase to which you're limiting the Children's Aid Societies is going to work real havoc upon the Children's Aid Society in my area and other places. You've got to give us something.

Perhaps you're going to have an overall saving, I don't know, but you've upset the people there very greatly and you've got to prove to us in some way that the alternatives you've put in place are going to work. I hope they do but I'm kind of dubious. If you can carry out a programme with 20 or 25 people where previously you had 200, one way or another you've really been misleading the people.

Mr. Laughren: Right on.

Mr. Ferrier: I say to my hon. friend from Nickel Belt I'm speaking up for his people, too, because there are the hospitals in Chapeau, Foleyet and Gogama; and also the member of Algoma (Mr. Wildman), we looked after some of his people. You know that now, and before you hammer that baton down I'll sit down.

You've got one psychiatric hospital in North Bay serving all of northeastern Ontario from North Bay to Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa to Hornepayne to Hearst to Moosonee to Winisk to Ogaki to Fort Albany. I don't know, that's half the size of Europe and you've got one hospital. I know there are not too many people up in the northeast with

problems but there is the odd one who does need some psychiatric care.

You've let us down and I'm pretty damned mad at you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, we shared the same source of research across the dinner hour and that's not all we shared. First of all, we have two other things in common. We're both nice guys.

Mr. Warner: That is the only source.

Mr. McClellan: Half right.

Mr. Deans: Half right again.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The second thing is we both are members of the United Church.

Mr. Sweeney: He's getting in deeper all the time.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: My friend on the far side is not only a member but a minister. Now that's the closest he is ever going to be to being a minister in any other sense.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have to point out I now understand how he got elected, because any minister of any United Church that I ever attended who spoke more than 20 minutes was out. He has now spoken for 45.

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's the trouble.

Mr. Laughren: Are you going to take the chiropractors out of OHIP?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will have to if they continue to interfere with my debates in this way. It's one of those secrets we have to keep between you and your congregation.

Mr. Warner: It's a good thing you are not a minister of the church.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think I'll go up there and start converting them to some other faith.

[8:45]

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Could we have a little devotion to the estimates?

Mr. Warner: Watch him. He is going to close the churches.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That, I might say, is the only devotion the Chairman has shown since he got elected.

Mr. Chairman: Hear, hear.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Until I became Minister of Health, I never realized what a nasty guy I was.

Mr. Chairman: Hear, hear.

Mr. Deans: Hansard is recording you. Did Hansard get that? The Chairman said, "Hear, hear."

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, there is a time and a place for almost anything, but this is not it.

I've been called arrogant, as somebody reminded me from your benches, more often in the last three weeks than my wife has called me in 25 years of marriage.

Mr. Laughren: Is your wife at home a lot?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I've been called dictatorial; I've been called insensitive.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I've been called many things. But one thing I've discovered, though, is the difference between me and you is I'm willing to make a decision without waiting until doomsday for enough facts to have all of the facts—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, they're trying to incite me into responding to interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The minister will continue.

Mr. Deans: We'd like you to respond to the speech.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There was nothing to respond to, so I had to find something to say.

Mr. Deans: That is a bit insulting, I think. Would you like him to restate it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: If he can do it in one sentence, yes.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact is, though, the decision-making is always based on incomplete facts. One of the things I've learned about planners or experts, is that there is always something else they need to know before they give you advice.

An hon. member: That won't bother you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They need another study. They need more information. They have to check more variables. The fact is that life goes on and decisions have to be made.

Mr. Warner: Without facts? That's what happened with the hospitals, and you know it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You were at the chiropractic dinner too. I sat near you.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: He didn't smoke a cigar, though.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, but I shared that with another member of this House who doesn't share my sex.

Mr. Sweeney: Since when did you start sharing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll rephrase that.

Mr. Sweeney: When did you start sharing?

Mr. Gaunt: This is confession night.

Mr. Makarchuk: Are you advertising?

Mr. Warner: If you were the Minister of Transportation and Communications, you would close Highway 401.

Mr. Lawlor: Stop complaining, Frank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I wish I were advertising; I would be caught on one of our bases for false advertising if I were.

If, in fact, I waited for all the facts nothing would happen, because they are never in. One of the things I say in all seriousness is that I've never pretended to know that I made the right decision on any particular issue.

Mr. Warner: That's obvious.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's fair enough. Yes, I admit it. That's the great difference between you and me. I'm always aware I'm human and fallible.

Mr. Makarchuk: Stop it.

Mr. Shore: Stop pontificating, will you?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Pardon? No, no. If I were pontificating I would be infallible.

Mr. Shore: Oh, okay.

Mr. Sweeney: Bob, who is the minister?

Mr. Deans: I will have the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) fly in to deal with you if you don't get to the point pretty soon.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have to sit through till 10:30 under any circumstances.

Mr. Warner: You're making up for yesterday.

Mr. Deans: When is the last time you did this?

Hon. F. S. Miller: And besides, until April 5 that's as far as I can see. And what worries me is my pension. My pension isn't in effect that day. That comes as a great shock. The Liberals, who today fell into their own trap—

Mr. Gaunt: We will worry about us; you will worry about you.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: The blame is yours.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: You worry about you, and we will worry about us.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member for Huron-Bruce is safe anyway.

Mr. Gaunt: Thank you.

Mr. Laughren: One of 36.

Mr. Gaunt: Thank you; I hate to be alone.

Mr. Laughren: I think the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) is all right.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was trying to give you some meaty information.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would point out, though, that health councils are a newly-formed entity. In my 12 visits around the province on a number of occasions I was asked by people at my meetings in January and February whether or not I was referring the issue of closures and constrictions in budgets to the health councils. I said with one exception, no.

My reasons were simple. They had to be. That was, that in fact most health councils had just been constituted. To pass the buck to them to make some tough decisions in their early days would probably have alienated the communities they served against them and, in fact, made them subject to advice they got from us rather than advice they got from their communities. Thus, I chose to take the responsibility myself for the decisions I had to make in this year.

I don't recall your council offered any objections to that suggestion when I was in Timmins. Later on, when there was an error—and I happen to admit to errors—in suggesting that 25 beds be transferred from active to chronic as well as taking the psych load at St. Mary's, they wrote me a rather angry letter, and I don't blame them, saying that they wanted to be involved in that decision. I quickly, immediately—you know that—without any reference to staff, accepted that recommendation. I revoked the decision and agreed that the assumption of the 20 beds by St. Mary's was not a fact that some of my staff were aware of, who had prepared this information well in advance of St. Mary's agreeing to take the beds, and asked the health council to give me their alternatives by June 1.

It is interesting that even where I have challenged the health council to solve my problems, they have asked out. They don't want to solve them. They want to wait until they have had some more time establishing their liaison with their communities before they get a nasty job, such as the closure of beds.

You talked about federal government constraints. You and I see eye to eye on that. But you may well recall me standing up in this House last June and demanding a health minister's conference of all of the provincial health ministers to object to a unilateral decision by the federal government to opt out of 50-50 cost sharing in the hospital and health field, without consultation with the provinces. That meeting took place on Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

It is interesting to me that a unanimous, non-political provincial agreement was reached decrying the decision of the federal government and asking them to revoke or stop Bill C-68, which right now today is before the federal Parliament—and they are going to have to invoke closure to get it through.

Mr. Lewis: So?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I am just referring to the things your speaker mentioned in his speech.

Mr. Lewis: I heard.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't think it is fair; it has nothing to do with today's constraints, and I don't want to try to pass the buck from me to them. But we were living within a set of rules they created and we did not feel they should opt out when, in fact, some provinces, led by Ontario, had been looking for lower-cost alternatives in 100-cent provincial dollars. Psychiatric care, as you mentioned, is not shared federally. Nursing homes aren't shared federally. Home care isn't shared federally. Ambulance services aren't shared federally and drug plans aren't shared federally. All of those things have been brought in by the Province of Ontario in the belief they were necessary for their people without federal assistance, even though the assistance would have been easy to take, had we opted for a continuation of the high-cost health care programmes they had financed. I think we all know that.

The delegations you referred to were, I thought, very orderly and very thoughtful. Whether we agree upon my willingness to listen or not, I believe we listened and took action on a number of the things they suggested, again, not on all the things they asked for but some.

You asked me about the need to contract the hospitals at all. Great changes have taken place in psychiatric care. I have 15 institutions, some of which like St. Thomas, if I recall figures, have 600 patients where a few years ago they had 1,800. One can only continue to contract the patient load of a given hospital for so long before sooner or later there's a need for the closure of some.

Mr. Lewis: What about your rationalization study?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Which one?

Mr. Lewis: The one on psychiatric care.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I mustn't answer those things. I've been told by your representative in the chair that I mustn't answer interjections.

Mr. Lewis: You told me in question period the other day you'd get an answer to the letter you haven't answered.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm looking seriously for that.

Mr. Lewis: You're looking seriously at it, are you?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I must say you've kept me rather busy in here of late.

Mr. Lewis: Come now, you have a very large staff.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Ah, but my civil servant doesn't look after that aspect.

Mr. Lewis: Any civil servant who can disrupt a health system so artfully can answer a letter.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Anyone who can send copies of my purchase orders to your party must be—

Mr. Warner: A dime a dozen.

Mr. Lewis: If your purchase orders for cars weren't on stationery order sheets, they wouldn't come to us. Where's the rationalization study?

Hon. F. S. Miller: You referred to nursing courses. There will need to be a reduction in the admission numbers of nursing students. I'm sure the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has already taken these steps to tailor the number of graduates more closely to the demand.

Mr. Davison: Fifteen per cent.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Fifteen per cent. Let me say to you I don't know that any educational course in this province has ever been offered solely on the assumption that taking it meant getting a job, has it?

Mr. Davison: But at least they had some possibility of getting a job. Not any more.

Mr. Warner: It is called planning.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We probably have as good manpower planning as any place in the world on that particular topic. Should I answer you on the francophone bit in French tonight or English?

Mr. Deans: Continue with what you're doing.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The only thing I can tell you is if I answer you in French you'll understand me without any problem at all.

Mr. Ferrier: Oui.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The trouble is I embarrass the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Brunelle) when I speak French.

We're concerned and we evidenced that concern by asking for a study.

Mr. Warner: Is this French or English?

Hon. F. S. Miller: What was that? Switch to English?

Mr. Warner: I didn't know whether it was French or English.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Monsieur le président, il m'a dit que je dois changer à l'anglais, n'est-ce-pas?

Mr. Lewis: Well, you could have run for the federal leadership.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Oui, pas question! C'est mon avis, j'aurais été le choix du Parti Progressif Conservateur du Canada, n'est-ce pas?

Mr. Lewis: That's the first time the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) has ever applauded for a French speaker.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's because he didn't know what I was saying.

An hon. member: Is that the research you did over the dinner hour?

Mr. Yakabuski: Maybe we did and we know there is an opening in London for a new leader. Socialism has failed.

Mr. Lewis: Who are you anyway?

Mr. Yakabuski: He is frustrated.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. minister return to his estimates?

[9:00]

Mr. Lewis: Do you belong here?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I am sure there was much more I could have added that would add to the intellectual level of this debate tonight, but I think I should wait for some of the other 22 speakers who are still to come.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick,

Mr. Grossman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Angus: Are you going to cross the floor?

Mr. Grossman: It had to be sooner or later.

Mr. Riddell: Lay the cards on the table.

Mr. Grossman: Well, Mr. Chairman, may I initially say that I don't apologize one whit for the—

Mr. Warner: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member has a point of order.

Mr. Warner: Should not the Liberal speaker be next in line as we left off with the member from the north of our party?

Mr. Chairman: No, the Chairman recognizes the hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. Yakabuski: What about the question period?

Mr. Chairman: There hasn't been a member from the right-hand of the Speaker's seat for some time. Then we will recognize the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans).

Mr. Grossman: And I will speak for some time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Gaunt: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you mentioned that after the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick you would recognize the member for Wentworth. We have a number of speakers on this side and I thought we were going in rotation.

Mr. Chairman: The Chair will recognize them in order. There hadn't been anybody from your party who had indicated he wanted to speak, but I will recognize them.

Mr. Gaunt: I thought you had a list, I am sorry.

Mr. Chairman: I have no list.

Mr. Lewis: Where did you have dinner, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Grossman: How long are you going to be?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Gaunt: Fifteen minutes.

Mr. Ferrier: Come on.

Mr. Grossman: Let's wait for Warner.

Mr. B. Newman: May I start, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Ferrier: This is a conspiracy against the Conservative Party.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Chairman, if I may, the first thing that I want to bring to the minister's attention, and he did make mention of it in his reply to other previous speakers, is the consultations. If the minister went through as much consultation as he has made mention that he does—and I am not referring to my own community—I would wonder why the following letter would have been sent to all of the members, or I assumed all of the members of the House, and that is from the president of the Ontario Medical Association. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring it to the attention of the minister. This letter is dated today, and it is for immediate release.

The Ontario Medical Association today released the contents of a letter sent by its president to Premier Davis calling for consultation on the closing of hospitals.

Following is the letter:

Dear Mr. Premier,

I am writing to convey to you the grave concern of the physicians of Ontario over the manner in which your government has reduced the projected expenditures of the Ministry of Health. We are particularly anxious about the effects of unplanned closing of community hospitals on the health of the people served by the hospitals, on the employment of the highly skilled personnel working in the institutions, and on the future prospects of communities without hospitals attracting resident physicians.

The council of the Ontario Medical Association, with representation from across the province, has unanimously deplored the projected, abrupt closing of Doctors Hospital, and has been strongly critical of the arbitrary closings of other hospitals. The council recommends a reappraisal of revenues, expenditures and utilization within the health care delivery system.

It is the view of our profession that before a decision is made to close any hospital, the Ministry of Health ought to consult with the district health councils or hospital planning councils where they exist and with the medical profession and with other interested parties. Such discussions would evolve plans for alternative health

care facilities for the people in the community and for relocation of hospital personnel.

The medical profession, through the OMA, has been most co-operative with your government in matters affecting the public and the profession. We believe your government has a responsibility to reciprocate through meaningful consultation on an issue which so seriously affects the public and the profession as does the closing of hospital facilities.

Yours sincerely,
Donald C. MacNeill,
President,
Ontario Medical Association.

I am surprised, Mr. Chairman, after listening for probably six to eight hours and the minister's comments and replies to the various members, that such a letter would have been sent out by the Ontario Medical Association if all of that consultation that the minister speaks of actually took place.

In my own community, I will say there was consultation. I think that the minister did start in—I wouldn't necessarily say the right way—but there was some consultation.

I would like at this time, Mr. Chairman, to centre my remarks essentially around the closing of one hospital in my community; and that is the Riverview Hospital for chronic patients.

Back in early April of last year, I raised three questions with the minister concerning that hospital. One dealt with the rationalization of the facilities and the services in the hospital. Another dealt with the manpower situation and the unemployment situation as a result of the rationalization of services. At that time the minister replied to me that no one would lose their employment as a result of rationalization of the services in the city of Windsor.

The minister can look into Hansard and see that he actually did say that. I think I made mention to him of that at one time in talking with him. I think I even mentioned it to him when he was in the city of Windsor and he met with various individuals who were going to be affected by the rationalizations of services in the community; the meeting held at the University of Windsor.

However, Mr. Minister, since my original asking of the question—and I think it was April 15; it may have been some other day—you have changed your mind and now you state that there is going to be substantial dislocation of personnel in the various hospitals in the community.

I am concerned about the loss of jobs as a result of the minister's projected rationalization and the closure of the chronic care facility of Riverview. My first concern is the health of the patients. Is the patient at Riverview going to be provided with that same high standard of hospital care as he had received over the many years that the chronic care hospital has been in existence in the community? I hope that that same standard of care will be maintained.

The minister knows as a result of the discussions during his estimates back in May—and I think May 5, 6 or 8 were the other two dates in which we had debated the estimates of the ministry—all three members from the Windsor area took part in an attempt to point out to you at that time, Mr. Minister—

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of order, may I just ask for the reference you are speaking to in terms of dates. I would like to see Hansard on it, and I need to know it.

Mr. B. Newman: Right. I can't give you the exact date, but I think it was April 15. If someone from your staff looks in the Hansard directory under Riverview Hospital, they can get those dates.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is probably not printed.

Mr. B. Newman: It is printed, Mr. Minister.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In book form?

Mr. B. Newman: Yes.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Is it in response to a question, or in terms of estimates?

Mr. B. Newman: That was in response to a question, originally. I asked three questions before anyone was interested in hospital closures. Later, we got into the discussion of your estimates and the closing of Riverview Hospital at that time. I think it was early in May if I'm not mistaken—May 5, 6, 7, 8, around that period of time—in 1975. Your officials can look in Hansard and see exactly what you've said as far as the loss of jobs in the community was concerned.

However, I want to carry on. As I said earlier my prime concern is the delivery of services to the individuals who require these services at the Riverview Hospital. I am very much afraid that by dispersing the patients in Riverview you may be doing a real disservice; I hope you will not do any harm to them as individuals. I hope not. However, I look upon your fragmenting the various teams which provided these services to the patients.

You are going to break up these health delivery teams and as a result it is maybe going to be very difficult to provide the same level of care that the people received.

You're aware of the whole situation in the Windsor area. You have debated it back and forth not only with me but with the other two Windsor members. I ask you to reconsider some of the decisions which you have made.

Remember there was the Essex County Health Council that met and made certain proposals but you sort of used the bull-headed approach—"It has to be my way"—rather than the general way as recommended by the health council in the community. I hope that you reconsider what plans you have had and keep that Riverview Hospital open until the time you or your ministry or your successor deliver to the community just what the ministry, your predecessor, had promised.

That was a chronic care facility stationed in or in conjunction with the IODE hospital so that we could move the patients en masse out of Riverview into the facility at IODE without disrupting the valuable health delivery teams which have been developed in the Riverview Hospital.

It was back in 1973—in fact I happen to have a letter dated Oct. 11, 1973, that says:

The Essex county council has passed a resolution to share in the cost of construction and the Essex County Hospital Planning Council has also approved the building of a new chronic care hospital.

This communication happens to be dated Oct. 11, 1973. I would assume that had been discussed at some date prior to Oct. 11.

I would think it was probably some time in September because on Oct. 3, 1973, the Windsor Star carried a headline, "Hospital Addition Reduced." It was referring directly to the new chronic care facility which we thought, in good faith, was going to be built at the IODE or the Windsor Western Hospital site. That was in 1973; that's 2½ years ago now. Surely, when you make a commitment like that—and this is for the betterment of the health services in the community—we in the area would think you would fulfil that commitment.

I know you are going to say that you people didn't approve of that; that this was only a recommendation of the Essex County Hospital Planning Council. I hope you don't tell me that. I hope this was in your plans. If I am not mistaken since that date some \$1 million has been expended in the planning of the new facility. Is that \$1 million going to go down the drain today?

[9:15]

You are asking the community to save you \$4 million in health costs. The \$4 million of the \$50 million that you are attempting to save through your rationalization in hospital closings is the equivalent of eight per cent of the moneys being asked to be saved in the community of Windsor alone. We have only four per cent of the population. You are asking us to make twice the contribution of the average in the Province of Ontario. That is not fair.

Our people pay the same OHIP premium as do people in all other parts of the province and we would like to have a fair share of the health dollar spent in the community or spent in the delivery of health services. We hope that you reconsider any decisions, that you come along and keep the Riverview Hospital at higher than the 120 figure that you or your officials are suggesting and that you do not delay until 1980 on the building of a chronic care facility. You have got to do it. You are going to save money by doing it because in your plan as you have it today—and that is the redistribution of the patients from Riverview into three acute care hospitals—you are really only shifting costs from Riverview, in which the patients are accommodated at a substantially lower figure, to higher cost hospitals in the community. You certainly are.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Really and honestly, one must look into the arithmetic of chronic care before you make a comment like that. Unlike active care, we pay a per diem for chronic care and it is not the active treatment rate. Please check that.

Mr. B. Newman: The minister can use that argument; I will use my argument.

Hon. F. S. Miller: But you are wrong.

Mr. B. Newman: I don't think I am wrong.

Mr. Deans: That has never stopped him before.

Mr. Warner: You have been wrong all day today.

Mr. Lewis: This has not been a good day for them.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It hasn't been; they have been wrong all day.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. B. Newman: Then what you are saying is that, for the hospitals in the community now that do not have beds occu-

pied, the costs there are still at that higher figure than what they are at the Riverview Hospital.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. B. Newman: You say no?

Hon. F. S. Miller: You are wrong.

Mr. B. Newman: Well, you can reply to me a little later. I will continue with this. As I said, this promise was made by your government in 1973. No issue in my day in this House has disrupted the community to the extent that the closing of Riverview Hospital has done. It has absolutely got everyone in the community very much perturbed at the actions of this ministry and at the actions of the government. It has solidified the feeling and the concern of all of those who would like to see the facility operate at a reduced bed capacity—but not reduced to the extent that you want to reduce it—and to continue and at as early a time as possible to complete a new facility at the IODE centre.

I understand that you could go on one portion of it, and over a period of time really complete the whole hospital. I hope the minister does construct that new facility for the health of the many who require the services of Riverview Hospital. Your actions or your decisions to phase out or to close out Riverview Hospital have brought all kinds of protests. There have been protests from every level of society in the community—from workers in plants, caretakers in the hospitals, housewives, the medical profession, both the students and the educators in the four levels of education—everyone was completely upset.

In fact, there were even members from one of the union locals who picketed the hospital because of the decision of the government eventually to phase out Riverview Hospital.

Here are some newspaper headlines on Riverview. Sept. 24, 1975: "Pickets Protest Cut At Hospitals." Nov. 4, 1975: "People Should Fight for Riverview Hospital." November 1975: "Staff At Riverview Give Hope And Courage." That was an individual writing that the staff were so concerned about the situation that they were the ones who were maintaining the morale of the patients in the hospital. November 1975: "Riverview Closing Spurs Loud Outcry." November 1975: "Labour Group Goes to Bat for Riverview." Nov. 18, 1975: "Aldermen Rally Behind Riverview."

On November 17, 1975, city council passed a resolution at its meeting asking the minister to reconsider his decision regarding the closing

of Riverview Hospital and that the operation of these facilities be continued. On Dec. 2, 1975, the city of Windsor endorsed a resolution from the district labour council concerning Riverview Hospital. On Nov. 25, 1975, the town of Riverside passed a resolution concerning the keeping of the Riverview Hospital alive.

Mr. Chairman, listen to this letter from a patient in the hospital:

(My name is Mary "So-and-So." I have MS. My husband took care of me when I was in a wheelchair for five years until he had his heart attack. Then, I had to come to Riverview. It is not funny to know that I will never get better. I accept this, but it was hard for me to come to Riverview. Now I'm happy here because I have good care.

We have wonderful doctors and kind nurses who try to take care of us. The people in the therapy area are very kind and try very hard to help us. The whole people of Riverview make us feel not like patients, but like a family, from the youngest to the oldest, who is over 100.

We wish to stay in Riverview until we have a new building. Otherwise we are asking you to guarantee us the same kind of care we have in Riverview.

Here is the pleading from an individual who is afflicted with a type of ailment that none of us would like to be bothered with.

The minister earlier in his comments made mention of an editorial in the Windsor paper that was sort of complimentary to him. But the minister never mentioned the editorials that made mention of false economies in hospital plans. The minister's comment is concerning a Feb. 12, 1976, editorial: "Hospital Programme—Tough but Needed." But he does not mention a Nov. 13 editorial:

False Economies in Hospital Plan

The Ontario government's proposal to rearrange Windsor hospital services in the interests of economy have a strange flavour of false economy.

I'm not going to read the rest of the editorial because if I'm not mistaken I read it into the record when we debated your estimates back in May, Mr. Minister, and I'm fairly certain that your officials have all of these editorials. If they don't have them here they'll show them to you at a later time.

But, Mr. Minister, you can see that practically everyone in the community is extremely concerned over your proposed closing of the hospital, or phasing it down to a point where you may—and I hope not—interfere

with the health delivery to the many individuals who require the services provided in Riverview Hospital.

I do understand that the Windsor Western Hospital would like to build a new facility; that they do have sufficient funds to start it. I wonder why you wouldn't come along and allow them to use these funds in an attempt to provide the type of chronic care facility that I know you want. You are essentially a kind and considerate individual but sitting to the right of you are individuals who are looking at only dollar signs, not at individuals—

Hon. F. S. Miller: They're not even that good.

Mr. B. Newman: —not at the needs, the health needs. It's the same as with your officials back there. I think they are considerate. I don't think they are as inhumane as some may say. They have simply been misled, and they are following what your colleagues are telling you you must tell them—that is, to find some method of phasing out some of the hospitals that are providing an extremely high level of service to the patients in various communities throughout the province.

The phasing out of Riverview completely is going to have a harmful effect on the employment picture in the community. As I said earlier, my prime interest is in the health of the patient—the health services provided to the patient—but there is also another concern too and that is the fact that so many of the employees are not going to find employment. We have 10.3 per cent of our work force in the city of Windsor unemployed at this time. It's many and many a year since we've had that high a figure and, surely, you aren't going to add to that figure to increase it substantially. I hope you are not, in the interests of the delivery of health care to the many who require it in the Riverview Hospital.

You make mention that we're going to take these people and put them into Metropolitan Hospital, into IODE and into Grace. With three other hospitals in the community you're going to take a certain category of patient out of Riverview and put them into these other hospitals. What you are doing, Mr. Minister, is putting them in a hospital that has to have renovations. Anyone I have ever consulted says you cannot have certain categories of chronic care patients in the ordinary type of hospital because of the changes needed—washroom facilities, doors, elevators, everything of that sort.

So it's really false economy when you think you are going to come along and provide that same type of health service when you're going to put them into active treatment hospitals in the community. The cost of those alterations could be better put into the construction of that 1973-planned chronic care facility in the community.

[9:30]

I am also told that if you contacted any one of the hospitals today a person needing psychiatric treatment could not get a bed. What are we going to do with them? You've rationalized the services in the community—or you have closed up some of them—to the point where the individual needing psychiatric treatment—has no place to go.

I hope, with the few comments I have made here, that you will reconsider the decision to reduce substantially the number of beds at the Riverview Hospital. We are willing to accept certain reductions. We are willing to rationalize the services. We are willing to play our part and to pay our share in the community but when you ask us to be responsible for eight per cent of your cutbacks when we have only four per cent of the population, you are asking for twice the sacrifice from the residents of the city of Windsor and the Essex county area than you are asking for from many of the other communities in the province.

Mr. Minister admit you made a mistake. Don't worry about what your colleagues will say to you. It's easy to be stubborn and bull-headed. You erred in the Windsor situation. Reconsider your decision.

Mr. Eakins: Reconsider.

Mr. B. Newman: Did you hear that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The latter speaker's last—well, I don't know what you would call them—exhortations to me made me think of the old Irishman who was dying. The father came in to give him the last rites and said, "Do you renounce the devil?" And he said, "At a time like this, Father, I don't want to alienate anybody." I feel much the same way in responding to this. I have answered most of the detail you talked about earlier.

Mr. McClellan: What have you got against the Irish?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My mother was one.

Mr. Samis: What about the RCs?

Mr. Lewis: Why do you attack ethnic groups whenever you have the opportunity?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Do you realize I married an immigrant?

Mr. Lewis: Most of us did.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Samis: Most of us are.

Mr. Deans: So did my wife.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, she told me the error of her ways. Interestingly enough, my wife and your wife's husband came from the same country.

Mr. Deans: Is that right? It just shows you.

Mr. Davidson: Please respond. The hon. member is waiting to speak.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In a more serious vein, first of all, by the time the final suggestions made by your council were taken by us and accepted, the savings were considerably less than the \$4 million we asked for. I mentioned that in responding to the member for Windsor-Sandwich.

Mr. B. Newman: It was \$3.7 million.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, they were down by their estimation to \$3 million—to \$3.2 million. I hope you are right because, methodology being what it is, it might be a bit difficult, until the change was made, to give a final dollar figure on it. I would suspect that your population rate and the percentage of the savings effected in Windsor are not too far out of line. Be that as it may, it is recognized that 25 per cent of the population lives in the city of Toronto—Metro Toronto—and that is an area where the savings were taken in 1973 and were not there to be taken in any significant percentage. Again, it was a very high percentage. I keep repeating, 80 per cent of the total bed cuts or 80 per cent of the dollar savings that I took in this last round, were in the cities, I'm told. I'm sure you'll find I may be out by a per cent or two, but it was in that range.

But what disturbs me most is the belief that you express—and you're a person I have respected, and I still respect, because of your long-term interest in preventive care, exercise and all those things that I believe in—that more dollars and more hospital beds mean more health; they don't.

Mr. B. Newman: I don't necessarily believe that. I'm simply trying to point out, as you

know, that the facility is antiquated. You know you're eventually going to build a facility for them; in fact, you yourself say it will be in 1980. You can accelerate that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, should one build beds today when surpluses exist and beds are sitting empty? In that city there will be beds empty even after these changes and without Riverview.

Mr. B. Newman: But whose fault is that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's not a fault.

Mr. B. Newman: What do you mean, it isn't a fault?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me point that out. It is not a fault.

Mr. B. Newman: Your government approved the construction of those other hospital beds.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Right. But I've also had letters from every member of this House, I think, asking me for more nursing home beds in the last few years. Have I not had a letter from almost every member, at least of the previous House?

Mr. B. Newman: I don't think so.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, there are not too many of you who were in the last House—

Mr. B. Newman: I don't think I've ever written you a letter on that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, you must be one of the exceptions. Certainly I've had them from Windsor. I've had them from the north. I've had them from almost every riding—I won't say every one.

Dr. Potter, in his wisdom, albeit sometimes criticized, pointed out that we couldn't continue creating more and more expensive hospital beds and that the alternatives had to be provided. And contrary to the comments made by many critics, he and we provided them first and then cut back on the active beds. That's what permitted a change in the overall provincial planning standards for active treatment beds. I'm reasonably sure they can be cut further without affecting the health of us in this province.

Chronic beds cost less than active beds, and they will cost less; I think the savings are greater than we compute in some ways. When we utilize the existing beds in existing hospitals—rather than carry on with five institutions, we'll have four—we will still have

spare capacity. To the best of my knowledge, although I stand to be corrected if my staff can tell me I'm wrong, we didn't change the psychiatric bed setup in Windsor. We suggested changes, but we listened to the arguments of your hospital council and accepted their recommendations. Is that not so?

Mr. B. Newman: I don't know.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's true. I read the letter into the record earlier and I think you'll find we accepted their recommendations on psychiatric beds after due consideration. Therefore, the present three hospitals providing psychiatric care will continue providing it. Our staff and our psychiatric advisers suggested there were both good savings and good reasons for consolidation, but your hospitals and your council felt otherwise and we accepted that advice. We did ask them to look at paediatrics and obstetrics, and we gave them a year to give us an answer. And surely, again, that was fair. That was their suggestion and again we accepted it.

So really, in all seriousness, I think of all the places in the province that have had to face some of the tough decisions, Windsor has had a fair shake. Windsor has participated, Windsor has been listened to and, apart from some of the predictable public reactions, Windsor is reasonably satisfied.

Mr. B. Newman: I did make mention at the outset of my comments that you did consult in our communities and we appreciated the opportunity of having input. But consultation only goes up to where it meets your standard or your requirement and after that the heavy hand comes down.

You can recall that the suggestion from the health council was for 160 beds to be maintained at Riverview Hospital. You insisted on 120 beds. All I ask you is to guarantee the community that the individuals at Riverview will get the same kind of health care as a result of your rationalization and that you keep in mind that a new chronic-care hospital or transforming one of the hospitals into a chronic-care hospital is by far a better answer than distributing those requiring chronic care through four or, as you say, five facilities in the community.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Until the changes are effected I can only say I hope and trust the quality of care will be up to the standards that exist today. I took the time to look up the April 14, 1975, copy of Hansard, and unless we have researched the wrong copy, I don't see—

Mr. B. Newman: Right at the bottom of the Hansard, in the right-hand column, the last couple of lines.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, I must have the wrong one then. So therefore rather than argue with me, you did pose the question but you did not get the answer that you claim I made. I would appreciate your making reference to it specifically if you can find it.

Mr. B. Newman: I will do that personally.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I hope you will allow me to speak with as much clarity and length as you did before you assumed the Chair. I also say that I have learned my lesson. The member for Windsor-Walkerville said he would be about 10 or 15 minutes, but it's not the first miscalculation he has made today.

Mr. Warner: Take your time.

Mr. Sweeney: You are wasting time. Come on, there are 20 more of us over here.

Mr. Grossman: I don't really have to repeat just for the sake of Hansard or the record a lot of those valid points that have been made with regard to Doctors Hospital by both opposition parties, and I won't purport at length to do so. Suffice to say, before I cover some similar ground, lest my friends in Her Majesty's loyal opposition took me the other day to suggest that they ought not be supporting the fight against Doctors Hospital, let me assure them that I do quite understand that very many of their constituents are seriously affected by the closure, as are a great number of mine.

As one who has made clear that I would oppose the closing if I were aware of the facts, as I am, even if it were not in my riding, let me say that it ill behoves me to suggest that the members opposite ought not do the same when they become equally aware of the facts, which is not, however, to say that I quite approve in any way whatsoever the way they conducted themselves or handled themselves at those meetings at which were assembled very many hundreds of threatened people who were trying to guess which way to move at the particular time.

Having said that may I assure them that any facts they brought out during the debate I am very happy to receive and I will attempt as a result not to get emotional unnecessarily, nor to get involved in too much rhetoric during my remarks about this hospital.

[9:45]

As the minister will attest, I have done my share both outside the Legislature, and inside this building outside of this assembly. I would like to begin by referring immediately to the statement issued by the ministry on, I think it was Monday, Feb. 2, when they discussed the oncoming hospital closures in Metro Toronto. At that time on page 3 of the release, the ministry stated under "Hospital Closures" the following:

We determine where closure is possible by looking at hospitals with an alternate facility within reasonable travelling distance and institutions where a building programme was essential for the continuation of its operation. In our review we also assured ourselves that the facilities nearest these institutions could accommodate the additional patient days. In many instances, the hospitals identified for closure have occupancy rates that are considerably lower than their peers. Virtually all hospitals identified for closure have an average length of stay higher than comparable facilities, a reflection of under-utilization.

Well, as has been the habit, I think I may deal with those in reverse order. That may cease, because the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) was advising the minister at some length on how to handle question period tomorrow a little earlier.

Mr. Lewis: The minister works only in reverse.

Mr. Grossman: I understand.

Mr. Lewis: Therefore, he answers only in reverse order.

Hon. Mr. Miller: Even though I went to Mr. Transmission.

Mr. Lewis: That isn't you. That's your colleague in Community and Social Services.

Mr. Grossman: I think I will save my election rhetoric. I may need it shortly. In any event, "average length of stay higher than comparable facilities." This is one of the criteria for closure. Well, not only is that not true about those hospitals there in the peer group of Doctors Hospital but it is even more untrue about the hospitals in the vicinity of Doctors Hospital. Let me quickly recite some comparable average length of stay periods.

For the peer group in Metro Toronto, the Doctors Hospital has an average length of stay of 7.5 days. The peer group: Etobicoke General, 7.8; Humber Memorial, 9; North-western General, 7.7; Queensway, 10.1; York-Finch, 7.8. Those are the peer groups.

Now let's look at the downtown Toronto teaching hospitals—St. Michael's, 12.1 days; Toronto General, 10.8; Toronto Western, 12; Women's College, 9.7; Wellesley, 11.6 and so on and so on. They are all, without exception, hospitals which have a longer average length of stay than Doctors Hospital.

So when the ministry says, "In many instances the hospitals identified for closure have an average length of stay higher than comparable facilities," it is inapplicable to the Doctors Hospital. Secondly, the ministry goes on: "In many cases, the hospitals identified for closure have occupancy rates that are considerably lower than their peers." Occupancy rates are supposed to be considerably lower than their peers if the hospital was closed. Well, the Doctors Hospital has 83.9 per cent occupancy. What about the peer group that wasn't closed? Humber Memorial is busier, 92.7 per cent; Northwestern General, 78.4 per cent; Queensway about the same, 84.3 per cent; York-Finch, 83.6 per cent, about the same. Certainly Doctors Hospital has a percentage of occupancy which is equally sufficient and certainly not "considerably lower" than its peers.

Try another criterion. The ministry says: "We also assured ourselves that the facilities nearest these institutions could accommodate the additional patient-days."

My friends and some others opposite have pointed out that the bed surplus, the ability to accommodate the patient-days, is clearly denied by the adjacent hospitals. It's not there. Or there is some feeling that more patient-days could be squeezed into those beds. The institutions themselves have denied that they can accommodate all the additional patient-days. With regard to that surplus, with regard to that ability, the Henderson report, which was referred to earlier and quoted, has also indicated that there isn't a bed surplus that is close enough or indeed existent at all in order to "accommodate the additional patient-days."

Surely if it is a fact that the institutions nearest can accommodate those additional patient-days, it's no great trick for the ministry to identify where that accommodation will occur, to what extent and how many patient-days will be picked up. But they can't do it for the simple reason that the hospitals in the vicinity can't do it; they can't indicate their ability to pick up those additional patient-days at any cost—and we'll get into the cost later.

So the ministry has not assured itself, nor has it assured this member, this assembly or

the institutions involved, that those institutions can accommodate the additional patient-days.

Mr. Nixon: Has he assured you there will be a saving in money?

Mr. Grossman: It hasn't satisfied me as of yet.

Mr. Grande: Are you going to resign?

Mr. Nixon: He has got until tomorrow, I understand.

Mr. Grossman: Until the 5th.

Mr. Nixon: Oh well, lots of time.

Mr. Grossman: May I also say to my friends opposite, I appreciate their support. I know they find it shocking when a party does not exercise a strong whip on all of its members and permits one of its members to speak out on a matter about which he feels very strongly.

Mr. Samis: It is healthy.

Mr. Reid: You know that it is all a plot to get rid of you.

Mr. Nixon: But your hospital closing was just a political token, you know; you are just a show Tory.

Mr. Grossman: I was about to give you a compliment—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: They've saved your seat on the far right.

Mr. Grossman: No kidding.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: I was about to give you a compliment, Pat, but you blew it; now I'm not going to.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: That's something that some of the more democratic parties in this country and in this Legislature can allow; it keeps them healthy and it is something I suggest should be commended. I appreciate your support anyway, even though your mouths are agape.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: Secondly, the ministry continues: "Institutions where a building programme was essential for the continuation of its operations." Mr. Chairman, lest anyone still wonder whether or not the institution

requires a building programme for the continuation of its operations, let me first reaffirm the ministry's position. In the fact-sheet that was distributed with regard to the Doctors Hospital on the announcement of the closing, on page 2, under "Selection," the ministry goes on to say:

The principal reason that Doctors Hospital was selected for closure is simply that the hospital would have had to have been totally replaced within the next few years.

Mr. Grande: They know it is not true.

Mr. Grossman: I'll tell you why it's not true. Firstly, the ministry has seen to it that it's not true by spending a heck of a lot of money on the building in the last five years. Let me just run through a few of them. These are works completed since 1971: Complete implementation of changes requested by the Ministry of Health to conform with updating of requirements of the Fire Marshal; reworking of the medical gas system; alteration of access to patient bedrooms; alteration of previously poorly utilized admitting and emergency suites; rearrangement of nurseries; replacement of eroded water supply; modernization of dishwashing facilities; addition of ventilation systems; redesign of main entrance; re-roofing of both the original hospital buildings; three new heating boilers; air-conditioning and humidity control for safety; addition of facilities to enable the electric wiring of all patient areas to be put on emergency standby power; elimination of waste incineration to suit the air management branch; addition of new small pathological waste incinerator; reworking of the waste chute; paving of the parking lot; redesign of a proper coronary care unit; general rearrangements of the cafeteria; and a miscellaneous set of works to update the mechanical and the electrical installations. I could go on—

Mr. Chairman: There seem to be quite a few conversations going on in the House; I wonder if we could be a little more quiet and listen to the member.

Mr. Grossman: It will be quieter after the election, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Please turn left.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: I would like a little bit of order, please.

Mr. Nixon: You are a very harsh chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Will the member continue?

Mr. Grossman: The hospital quite sensibly sought out and obtained an architect to give an independent assessment of the building. Let me quote just one portion of his report:

Certainly at this time, after all of the work done in improving its planning and fabric, your complex need not be replaced for any functional reason and not within a few years. The existing plant will survive without anything more than usual maintenance cost for as many years as the government may desire.

That's the certified report of an architect who studied the building one month ago.

In any event, notwithstanding that, if it was felt that the building was one in which "a building programme was essential for the continuation of its operation," and if it is evident that the building can continue for a few years and where the government acknowledges that the building and the operation is an efficient one, surely the government should make do with that older facility. After all, the name of the game is to save money—not to close hospitals, not to close beds, but to save money.

Finally, the fifth criterion, or the first in their order, is an alternative facility within reasonable travelling distance. Well, I suppose we can't deny that there are alternative facilities within reasonable travelling distance but whether those alternative facilities can accommodate the additional cases, whether all the doctors on staff get into those hospitals and, most importantly, whether the patients can and will travel and be welcome at those institutions is another matter. More to the point, there has been no analysis which shows that these alternative facilities within reasonable travelling distance can take on those cases and treat them as inexpensively as the Doctors Hospital has been treating those very same cases.

Mr. Chairman, I suppose I need not read into the record all of the evidence that shows that the Doctors Hospital was perhaps the second or third most efficient hospital, by all standards and including all hospitals of all sorts, in the province. I need not do that, because the minister in question period acknowledged the efficiency of the hospital and the fact that efficiency did not play a role.

[10:00]

Suffice it to say then that an analysis of hours of work per day, which is generally accepted as the most accurate standard of efficiency and the most crucial one in view

of the fact that salaries comprise 80 per cent of the operating budget, shows that the Doctors Hospital substantially outstrips and outperforms all other hospitals. Most important—

Mr. Lawlor: You may perjure yourself on this one, and save a by-election.

Mr. Grossman: —if I do, I'll win it.

Mr. Martel: Don't count on it.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: If I don't my successor as nominee for this party will win it.

Mr. Martel: Who are you running for, the Liberals?

Mr. Grossman: Maybe my predecessor will come back.

Mr. Samis: That is nepotism.

Mr. Nixon: Lots of other good ridings.

Mr. Grossman: We've done it before.

Mr. Nixon: What are you getting out of them?

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: That's what I say—mostly held by Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

Hours of work per diem—Doctors Hospital, 11.1.

Mr. Grande: How do you tolerate him?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are a democratic party.

Mr. Grossman: That's right. I say to the member for Oakwood I have explained that we do have a democratic party and my friends on this side of the House may not be happy tolerating it but accept it as part of the system. That's the system over here.

Mr. Samis: Why be so defensive about it?

Mr. Grande: I want you to speak.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: I know it isn't quite the same over there. I know you all believe in everything that happens over there.

Mr. Warner: Do you oppose it?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: In any event, getting back to the Doctors Hospital, which is why I'm on my feet. The Doctors Hospital, 11.1 paid hours of work per day. Toronto General, 19.8. Toronto Western, 17.2. New Mount Sinai Hospital, 21.2.

Mr. Martel: That's an exercise.

Mr. Grossman: Suffice it to say I do not allege that these other hospitals are operating inefficiently. I do not say that they should be penalized. What I do say, is that when you're saving money, how can you save it by closing down your efficient-running Ford and shifting everyone over into a Cadillac?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I have to rise on a point of order.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Warner: It is a fine time.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't mind him criticizing me as Minister of Health but when he starts talking about efficient-running Fords to an ex-GM dealer, it's just drawing the line a little too fine.

Mr. Martel: That is a point of distinction.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Grossman: When the ministry wants to shift people out of Chevrolets which are running efficiently and into fancy Cadillacs which are well run but which by their very nature, cost more to run how are you going to save money? I would say that I can't neglect the fact—

Mr. Martel: Resign.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The member for Sudbury East is an expert on Cadillacs and big houses.

Mr. Martel: Inco gave me one.

Mr. Warner: Tell him about switching sides.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: I wouldn't call the member a Cadillac; perhaps a tank but not a Cadillac.

Moving from those five criteria—the Doctors Hospital does not fall into any of them—generally, when applying them to the closing, we must deal with how and why you're going to save money.

I hate to say that private industry would do it better—and I'm not saying that—what I am saying is that if we were dealing with a situation in private enterprise—of closing down one plant, to move that facility into another plant—there would have been a very careful analysis of exactly—

Mr. Nixon: Doctors Hospital used to be a private industry until it was nationalized.

Mr. Grossman: Some days I wish it still were. There would be a careful analysis of exactly what is happening in the old plant—exactly where the people who worked in the old plant were going to go; exactly where the input was going to be replaced and turned out; exactly where all that production was going to occur; and should have said where that saving would be effected and what the new product coming out of the new plant would cost.

I understand, certainly, it's more difficult to do it in the health field. But I suggest, as well, that it's not totally impossible to have a fairly good idea, with fairly good reasons and fairly good reasoning within some percentage of error, before you go about throwing 600 people out of work. You can't just do it and guess that somehow we can squeeze the other institutions, because you may be wrong.

Mr. di Santo: You're darn right he can. The minister is incompetent.

Mr. Grossman: It seems to me that in Metro Toronto the downtown Toronto hospital budget is somewhere just over \$200 million. Taking the other hospitals in Metro, the total is somewhere around \$430 million or \$450 million. It's inconceivable to me that this was the only way in which this saving could be effected.

Surely a general squeeze on the system would have put that additional pressure on those beds, wherever they be located, wherever those alleged vacancies occur, sufficiently to save \$6.5 million. I quite agree with the minister when he says that if he can squeeze those \$450 million down to save \$6.5 million and close the Doctors Hospital or any other hospital, then he must consider saving money each and every place that he can. In other words, he may suggest it's not an either/or situation. That's fair enough. But we're dealing with the same beds. We're dealing with the same problem which, in essence, stems from the conclusion that there are about 400 surplus beds in Metro Toronto.

This House has discussed in some detail, as has the Henderson report—and I won't burden the House with hearing all that over again with all the arguments—that there is, in fact, no surplus. I believe there is little or no surplus. The Henderson report is not usually one of my favourite documents. The special programme report, isn't that what they call it? In any event, suffice it to say I don't believe there is much of a surplus, if any, and if there is one, no one can quite identify it.

I think the feeling is that the surplus is in the availability of beds and in the minister's acknowledgement that where there are beds they will be filled. So the name of the game, really, is to put pressure on beds; to have those beds turned over more quickly than they're being turned over at the present time.

Let me comment that here is no hospital in Metro that turns over beds as quickly as the Doctors Hospital. I won't bother you with all the figures. Trust me, the figures are here.

Mr. Singer: Why don't you tell the minister about this, not the rest of us? The minister is the fellow.

Mr. Grossman: And if you want to get the other hospitals to somehow see if they can push through more patients—

Mr. Singer: But you are on the wrong side of the House to make that speech.

Mr. Grossman: —in the same number of beds, that's fine. Squeeze all over; squeeze on your \$430 million, but don't—

Mr. Singer: Larry, who are you preaching to?

Mr. Grossman: Unfortunately, I'm preaching to somebody who has already heard it.

Mr. Singer: In other words, the minister has turned his back on you. Who are you preaching to, Larry?

Mr. Grossman: But do not squeeze one portion. Squeeze all of them, including the staff portion, wherever they may be.

Mr. Singer: Preach to Miller. He won't even listen to you. He turns his back on you.

Mr. Grossman: He's listening. He's heard it.

Mr. Singer: Listen to your own member. You are going to defeat him.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Grossman: The minister is tired. He spent a long time listening to your members.

Mr. Singer: Yes, he's tired and sick.

Mr. Nixon: He's about to retire.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: He spent a long time listening to your members go on at length. It's our turn over here.

Mr. Singer: Who closed your hospital?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, he is tired and sick. Who closed your hospital? Miller closed your hospital.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Chairman, please ask them to refer to me as the Minister of Health.

Mr. Singer: No, Miller closed your hospital.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, if the interjections are going to come from the hon. member, why doesn't he move to his proper seat? That's what he is supposed to be doing.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: Come on, come on. It is your fault. You gave it to him.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Singer: You are punishing him for having been fired. Too bad.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. member return to his seat if he wishes to address the Chair?

Mr. Grossman: I just want all the candidates from St. Andrew-St. Patrick to know what was happening in the House the evening that we were debating the Doctors Hospital as it applies to the party that inadvertently caused the election.

Mr. Martel: So you would resign?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Grossman: At least the opposition and I were discussing the hospital.

Mr. Singer: Miller cancelled your hospital.

Mr. Grossman: Meanwhile back at the hospital.

Mr. Singer: Yes. Miller cancelled it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: All the people who like doctors have to pick on Miller.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Wilson Heights kindly refrain from interrupting?

Mr. Singer: No, no. Kick me out.

Mr. Chairman: Will the hon. member return to his seat if he wishes to address the Chair?

Mr. Singer: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Miller cancelled the Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Chairman: Order please. The hon. member will return to his seat if he wishes to address the Chair.

Mr. Singer: I am not addressing you, I am just commenting.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Grossman: The hon. Minister of Health cancelled the hospital and Smith, the leader of the Liberal Party, said he thought a supportable case could be made out for the closure of the Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Singer: How are you going to find any work? Are you going to vote with the Minister of Health?

Mr. Grossman: That's what he said. Of course, that was the morning of that day.

Mr. Singer: Tell us why it was justified.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, in analysing what is going to happen after the closure of the Doctors Hospital supported by the leader of the Liberal Party, some analysis ought to be made of the various and non-variable costs.

Mr. Singer: Who ordered it? Miller has gone.

Mr. Grossman: Let me say that when this matter was taken up with some of the officials in the ministry there was an indication made and admitted that not all of the patient-days would have to be picked up. When I asked how many of the patient-days will not have to be picked up there was no answer. They didn't quite know.

Mr. Singer: There was no hospital left.

Mr. Grossman: I pointed out that I am a fairly reasonable man, which I am, and that I would accept an indication of whether it would be closer to five per cent than 50 per cent.

Interjection.

Mr. Grossman: You may learn something, just settle down.

Mr. Singer: What do you take up if you haven't a hospital left?

Mr. Grossman: There was no indication. They couldn't say whether the loss in patient-days would be closer to five per cent than 50 per cent.

Mr. Singer: Very difficult if you haven't got a hospital there to do it.

Mr. Grossman: Then we must look on to those costs that move with the patient. Some cost obviously have to move with the patient. You are still going to feed him. You are still going to take x-rays. You are still going to treat him with drugs.

Mr. Singer: Very difficult if you haven't got a hospital there to do it in.

Mr. Grossman: You are still going to clean his sheets. There is still going to be some housekeeping service and there is still going to be some special services with regard to dietetics and general admission and medical records and libraries.

Mr. Singer: How do you do that if you haven't got a building?

[10:15]

Mr. Grossman: Now, some of them can be separated out and applied onto, for example, general administration. So that when the ministry says, as they are quite entitled to do, "Obviously if you close an entire unit it is cheaper than closing down several beds in several units." But it's not quite so obvious when you take the next step and say: "Well, where are they going to go after you close them?"

Obviously, in accordance with the fact sheet they're going to go to the hospitals in the vicinity. And the hospitals in the vicinity are not only going to have to pick up a lot of the non-variable costs that must move with the patients, such as food, but they're obviously going to be picking up a lot of other costs. And so far, because of their very special nature, they have been able to do so

only at costs which are substantially greater than at the Doctors Hospital.

I've heard it said that obviously it's comparing apples and oranges when you talk about community hospitals such as the Doctors Hospital, and teaching hospitals such as the ones on University Ave. That's true, except if you're saying to those patients, "Would you mind moving from the apples to the oranges and start using the oranges?" Then you've got a valid comparison. Then you're entitled to compare those figures.

And, yes, I quite agree that obviously it's more expensive to treat them at a teaching hospital. The question surely becomes, to use the vernacular: Is the incremental cost such that those additional cases can be handled more cheaply? In simple terms, without taking you through the calculations, let me say that it would require the teaching hospitals, which now treat patients at about \$1,800 per case, to pick up the additional cases at about \$240 per case—from \$1,800 to \$240 as an incremental cost.

If that happens, if they can do that, then surely a calculation—even if it hasn't been made so far—can be made tracing down how it is expected that it's feasible that the incremental cost can be as low as \$240. So there are a lot of questions remaining to be answered.

Mr. Singer: Tell us why he closed Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Grossman: One of them is the position of your party; but the other one is laboratories. For example, there is no hospital lab in the province—and here are the figures—that has a lower per-unit cost than the Doctors Hospital. Here it is, the lowest in the province. The average cost per 100 units of their special services in laboratories is lowest in the province. What's going to happen to those costs? Can that be averaged down? Certainly not. Are the same number of tests, or whatever, done? How are they going to be done at the new hospitals and for how much?

I was in the House earlier when the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) was talking about the numbers of people who supported his position.

Mr. Singer: Do you object to that?

Mr. Grossman: No, I only feel obliged to point out to him that while his effort is, I'm sure, stupendous in that regard in terms of his community, the Doctors Hospital has pretty good support in Toronto. There are at the moment 80,000 people—

Mr. Singer: And that's why you're going to vote against your minister? Are you going to be brave?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: I understand the leader of the Liberal Party has already decided on this issue.

Mr. Singer: Stand up; vote against him.

Mr. Grossman: The government is open to appeal on this issue; so this is for them. I know that your decision is made.

Mr. Singer: Come on. Tory poop.

Mr. Grossman: A total of 80,000 people in Metro have signed a petition—80,000 is the last count; it could be 84,000.

Mr. Singer: And the minister is very concerned. He's walked out on you.

Mr. Grossman: I wonder what Wilson Height's count is in view of the position of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Singer: He has walked out on you.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: A while ago it was 1,421.

Mr. Singer: He walked out on you. Are you going to vote against the government on this?

Mr. Grossman: Anyway, let me finally say—not shortly, just finally—that I needn't belabour the facts and figures on the hospital. Not only do the ones we have covered speak for themselves with regard to the excellent operation being performed at the Doctors Hospital, but also it's fairly obvious that if a shift must be made of those patient days, there must be some understanding and some anticipation of how many patient days are going to be picked up, where they are to be picked up, how they are going to be picked up and at what cost.

The ministry may be correct in saying they feel in their experience and wisdom that it can be picked up and that somehow in the general squeeze by their power of the purse, by their power not to allot any more money for the treatment of those patients, they can squeeze the savings so that the \$6.5 million saving is effected. I just don't see how it can be done at the present time.

Let me say clearly and go on record as saying that even if that \$6.5-million saving can be effected, it ought not to be effected

in this particular institution. I well understand that there are several hospitals—nine others—being affected in this province, and each of them has its own very special case. Some of them may prevail, some of them may be more special than the Doctors Hospital, and some may be less special. I don't think myself that a more special case can be made out than that for Doctor's Hospital.

Mr. Singer: Are you going to vote against it?

Mr. Grossman: I need not dwell at length on the importance of this hospital to a very special community. Let me say, however, that that community has developed a particular attachment to the hospital for some very good reasons. It is not enough to say there are 56 languages spoken at Toronto General Hospital, so everyone will be looked after. The languages spoken at the Doctors Hospital are spoken by the family practitioners, by the medical staff.

The languages are spoken by the very medical staff that at the Doctors Hospital work on a team basis. They can treat their patients right through, including the time during which they are operated on by the attending specialist up to the point at which they are discharged from the hospital. That is the way in which those persons who have a language difficulty, those persons who do not speak English, have a connection and an understanding about what has happened.

Anyone who has spent time in a hospital will understand that being perfectly fluent in English is not enough to prevent some feeling of paranoia, some feeling that I am locked in here, lost in a hospital, ill, and I need some help. It is bad enough being in a hospital without a language problem.

Mr. Singer: Having said all that are you going to support the government?

Mr. Grossman: This is a little too serious for heckling.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: That's why it's different.

Mr. Singer: How can you support the minister after having said that?

Mr. Grossman: That's why the number of languages spoken is not so important as who speaks the languages, and what privileges those persons who speak those languages have to treat their patients.

Mr. Singer: They are impressed with you; they tell me that.

Mr. Grossman: Let me tell you something about the doctors on staff. Let me read to you the countries of origin—

Mr. Singer: You make the speeches but you vote against them.

Mr. Grossman: —and the places in which some of the staff, just some of the medical staff, got their degrees: Romania, Italy, Portugal, Bucharest—Romania again—South Africa, Portugal, Mexico, Philippines, Philippines, Hungary, Glasgow, Hungary, West Indies, Spain, Poland, Spain, West Indies, West Indies, Spain, Spain, Spain, Hungary, Turkey, Germany, Romania, Romania, Romania, Uruguay, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Spain, India—

Mr. Grande: Are you going to go on until 10:30?

Mr. Grossman: Yes. Yugoslavia, Taiwan, Taiwan again, West Germany, South Africa, Indonesia, Czechoslovakia; and so on.

Mr. Singer: You certainly have impressed the Minister of Health with all that. He is convinced.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: That is some example of the composition of the medical staff at Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Foulds: Are you going to cause a by-election?

Mr. Grossman: Let me also say that I was rather shocked to read that when the Grace Hospital was reprieved, for whatever reason, a spokesman was quoted as saying: "Few hospitals in this area have the warm relationship between it and the public that this hospital does." I say that few hospitals may have as warm a relationship, but certainly one of those few which does—and has a warmer one—is Doctors Hospital.

An hon. member: Will you run as a progressive or as a Conservative.

Mr. Grossman: Let me say that I—we will fight the election when it comes, let's talk about the Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Singer: I thought you were going to resign. You have given that up, eh?

Mr. Grossman: There are a lot of people at that hospital who require—

Mr. Singer: They don't speak very highly of you.

Mr. Grossman: I wonder what they think of the party whose leader and member for Wilson Heights do not support the hospital's continued existence?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps you will return to the estimates.

Mr. Grossman: Those persons—

Mr. Singer: How are you going to vote on this?

Mr. Grossman: If the member for Wilson Heights wants to stand up and give a lengthy defence of the hospital, then he will be entitled to ask the question on how certain people are going to vote when it comes to voting on the hospitals. I tell you—

Mr. Singer: The vote is much more important than the rhetoric.

Mr. Grossman: If that member is prepared to stand up and be counted—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: —it ill-behoves him to stand up and heckle. Now before 10:30, let me say that there a lot of people—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Grossman: —obviously affected in this area.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The other half of the Sargent-Singer combination. Throw him out.

Mr. Grossman: There are a lot of people in the affected area to whom the lack of a sufficiently detailed explanation is more than just an error, is more than just a misunderstanding; it is critical. Some of those people, who have been through concentration camps and have fled Europe and fled a lot of dictatorships, don't understand when officials of the ministry say—

Mr. Singer: We don't understand how you can speak one way and vote the other.

Mr. Grossman: —they are going to come in with lead boots.

Mr. Singer: Some of us don't understand it either.

Mr. Grossman: They are entitled to a little more than to be told that the time has come to apply the lead boots. Somehow they don't

understand that is just an indelicate way of explaining that we have to squeeze some hospital beds in Metro Toronto.

Mr. Singer: Are you voting for destruction of Doctors Hospital, having made that speech?

Mr. Grossman: Somehow it is just as important—if the member for Wilson Heights won't let me finish, I would be happy to finish tomorrow.

Mr. Singer: Explain it.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, are you going to adjourn or shall I continue?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps, as it is close to 10:30, the hon. House leader will move the committee rise and report.

Hon. Mr. Taylor moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the House leader, I would like to indicate tomorrow's House business. The Premier (Mr. Davis) will be speaking in the Throne Speech debate following the question period, followed by consideration of supplementary estimates by the committee of supply. I understand the estimates will be those of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Taylor moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Wednesday, March 17, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of a new, five-year agreement that the province has signed with the federal government with respect to water quality in the Great Lakes. This new agreement, known as the Canada-Ontario Agreement for Great Lakes Water Quality, was signed last Friday in Ottawa by the Hon. Jean Marchand, Minister of the Environment, Canada, and by myself on behalf of the province.

The main purpose of this agreement, which is effective from Jan. 1, 1976, to March 31, 1980, is to ensure that Canada will be able to meet its continuing obligations under the Canada-US agreement on Great Lakes water quality. It extends the original agreement, which was undertaken with Ottawa in 1971 and expired last December.

The new agreement goes beyond our original agreement, which basically entailed research, capital construction for sewage works, and phosphorous controls. Now we are placing more emphasis on environmental assessment and protection as well as keeping watch for new pollutants, including toxic chemical substances.

As members are fully aware, the St. Lawrence Seaway has transformed the Great Lakes into an international transportation system serving the industrial heartland of North America as well as our grain elevators at the Lakehead. We therefore intend also to place stronger controls and stricter penalties on vessels using the lakes which discharge oil, sewage and other contaminants.

Ontario has indicated to the government of Canada its acceptance of a set of regulations permitting either sewage retention on large ships or provision of reliable sewage treatment devices. Increasing emphasis must be placed on correcting other vessel pollution problems caused by inadequate handling of bilge waters and cargo-handling wastes.

The new agreement will encourage cost savings through joint programmes. It stipulates that Canada will first consult with Ontario on all proposals for discussion between Canada and the United States. Abatement measures to be undertaken in the agreement include maintenance performance requirements for waste treatment systems, a search for practical means to reduce pollution from combined storm and sanitary sewers, provisions to require prior approval of construction and operation of industrial waste treatment facilities, measures to eliminate industrial discharge of toxic heavy metals and toxic non-degradable organic contaminants as well as thermal and radioactive discharges, and measures to control the discharge of contaminants from vessels using the lakes, including contingency plans.

I am pleased to report that Ontario met its deadline last December, under our former agreement with Ottawa, for cleaning up phosphorous in the lower lakes. Permanent removal facilities are now either in operation or practically completed at all sewage treatment plants in the lower lakes basin. Clear proof of the effectiveness of our phosphorous control programme is apparent from the fact that by the end of 1975 there was a 40 per cent reduction in the amount of suspended algae in Lake Erie's western basin, compared with data taken prior to 1970, when that lake showed signs of rapid eutrophication before the control programme began.

Ontario's industrial waste control programme has advanced to the point where minimal national levels of control are generally in effect and improvements in waste treatment are now being made to meet local water quality needs. The one shortfall for Ontario continues to be the pulp and paper industry, and I've notified the industry that we will negotiate specific compliance dates in each case where programmes are lagging.

Early problems with funding and procedures on the US side have been recently overcome, and I am assured our neighbours are now giving high priority to Great Lakes projects. Work on the great backlog of sewage treatment programmes in major US centres will be mainly completed over the

next two or three years, with one plant at Cleveland delayed until 1981.

In the past five years, up to last December, some \$480 million has been spent on sewage treatment in Ontario municipalities. On the United States side, about \$2.5 billion has now been committed and is being used for construction of sewage works in the basin.

Canada and Ontario will continue to share costs for sewage works under an existing separate agreement with Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., which commits, by the end of 1977, a further estimated expenditure of about \$400 million, most of which pertains to Great Lakes cleanup.

Research begun but not completed under the 1971 agreement will continue to be shared equally between the two governments until March 31, 1978, at a total cost of \$1 million.

Canada has agreed to pay half the cost of provincial surveillance of Great Lakes water from April 1, 1976, to March 31, 1977, the federal portion being a maximum of \$762,500. Following March, 1977, a further sum for surveillance of the boundary waters will be determined by the two governments, based on information gathered at that date and on recommendation of the International Joint Commission.

Only last week, the IJC released its third annual report on Great Lakes water quality. It has recommended to all jurisdictions involved in the agreement that they marshal their environmental planning efforts and implement these across the entire system.

Finally, let me say that the people of Ontario have a great stake in the Great Lakes, since our province's whole southern shore borders along some 1,300 miles of these fresh water resources, providing Ontario with the greatest supply of fresh water in the world.

Today, 90 per cent of Ontario's population resides in the Great Lakes basin. This fresh water is one of our most vital resources, so it's imperative that we clean up the lakes and maintain them in a healthy condition, and we intend to do all in our power to achieve this objective.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

WELFARE PAYMENTS TO METRO TORONTO

Mr. Lewis: First, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Community and Social Services: In the budget that's been passed by the

department of social services, municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, there is an amount of \$7,333,000 meant to apply to general welfare assistance over and above the 5.5 per cent to which the province has agreed. Can the minister explain how it is, under law, that the government has withdrawn its obligation to pay this additional amount of money, which is now assumed exclusively by the municipality?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, very simply, we haven't withdrawn any legal obligation at all. As the member knows, the province pays 80 per cent of the total costs of welfare—

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—my question has been answered; I really don't thank the minister—I take it that the province will pay 80 per cent of whatever obligation arises under general welfare assistance?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say this, what we have done is set out the parameters of overall spending, which we think is reasonable. As a matter of fact, there have been some concerns of ever-escalating caseloads which, in fact, have not been true, because the percentage increase is dramatically down this year over a year ago rather than the other way.

Mr. Lewis: So the province won't pay?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: So we're convinced that they can live within the overall parameters that we've set out for their spending.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Therefore, as I hear the minister, he is saying he is convinced that the 80 per cent to which he is normally committed can be met, and they need not budget in excess?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm saying that our prediction is that the additional 5.5 per cent over what we funded last year will be adequate for them to meet their needs.

Mr. Lewis: If it is exceeded, will he pay it, as he is obliged by law?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a hypothetical question. In terms of—

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. He has answered my question. Mr. Speaker, I've another question, if I may—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this question period has lost a lot of time by excess answers. The minister has

answered, sir, and thank you. I would like to ask his colleagues questions if I may.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary question?

Mr. Lewis: I'm sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for St. George have a supplementary?

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if I may. Could the minister explain what his obligations are under the CAP arrangement with the federal government, and whether or not he will pay the 80 per cent required under CAP, whatever the cost may be, to the municipality for general welfare assistance?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Of course, under the CAP agreement, which is a fairly broad and open agreement, we have to ensure that we qualify for various programmes in order to share in federal funding. Generally speaking, we obtain 50 per cent from the federal government in terms of cost-sharing; then, of course, the provincial contribution is an additional 30 per cent and the municipality picks up the 20 per cent. That is the arrangement that we have worked on under CAP and I don't expect that to change.

Mrs. Campbell: The minister will honour it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't expect that situation to change.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a question of the Chairman of the Cabinet: In view of the election that now seems both likely and imminent, probably before the end of May, would he be willing to raise at cabinet, at the earliest opportunity, in his role as chairman, the desirability of a moratorium on all the hospital and public lab closings, at least an extension in time on them all, until the public of Ontario has had an opportunity to render its judgement on the appropriateness of the government's action?

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, this would be a government decision. I will be pleased to bring it to the attention of cabinet.

Mr. Lewis: That's good of the minister. Does it perhaps strike the Chairman of Cabinet that it makes sense, since the intended date of the closure will correspond so closely to the likely date of the election that these

three closings should at least be held in abeyance until there has been a public decision as well as a political decision? Does it strike the minister as fair?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: That will be taken into consideration.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Lewis: A question of the provincial Treasurer, if I may: If memory serves me, the Speech from the Throne made reference to the continued support of the government for the federal wage and price guidelines. Can he, just out of curiosity, indicate to us any single significant price alteration in any sector of Ontario's economy since the Prime Minister of Canada made his speech announcing the guidelines?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the fact that the consumer price index has fallen for three months in a row is of some interest of all of us, I think.

Mr. Lewis: I agree. By way of supplementary, can the Treasurer indicate where the Anti-Inflation Board—or can he recall any single instance in the field of prices where the Anti-Inflation Board has taken an initiative, either stabilization or rollback? He may know, where others wouldn't.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, no, not offhand, I can't. We are aware of a number of price increases which have been put in front of the board—and not all of them, as I understand, granted.

Mr. Lewis: But the Treasurer knows of no single instance that has been denied?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That has been denied? I think I am aware of some which have been modified.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations whether, if he had evidence, as I believe he has, that rate increases on fire insurance rates from Allstate on some houses—I have here a letter for an individual home in Toronto—have gone up 50 per cent for 1976, would he be prepared to intervene on behalf of the person making the complaint before the Anti-Inflation Board?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't know when the rate increase that the hon. Leader of the Opposition refers to was made.

Mr. Lewis: After Thanksgiving.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It may have been imposed after, on the basis of the schedule that was imposed before Thanksgiving Day, and whether or not it is subject to the AIB I really don't know.

Mr. Cassidy: You are squirming.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I would be prepared to look at that again and see if it is subject to AIB. I can tell the member this, that the insurance companies have been called to AIB, are negotiating their rates with them, and setting justifications before the AIB.

Mr. Cassidy: Negotiating?

COTTAGE LEASES

Mr. Lewis: A further question of the minister: Is he aware of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway case involving increases in rent on land leased to cottage owners of \$150 a lot to \$500 a lot? Is he prepared to go before the AIB on behalf of those cottage owners and protest the increase in the rental rates?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I caught the whole question; and I must apologize to the hon. member. I didn't realize he was directing another question to me.

Mr. Lewis: I meant to ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am bringing to his attention yet another very major increase in costs, this time in the area of rent of properties leased to cottage owners by the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway that have jumped from \$150 a lot to \$500 a lot. Would he be prepared to intervene before the Anti-Inflation Board, since they do not appear to be willing to respond?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, it is not the function of our ministry to intervene before the Anti-Inflation Board. I assume from what the hon. Leader of the Opposition says the property is not subject to rent review and, therefore, there would be no legal basis for our intervention?

Mr. Cassidy: What about price?

Mr. Lewis: Does the minister feel he has any obligation at all, of any kind politically,

to intervene to protect the consumers in Ontario when the federal wage and price guidelines do not turn back illegitimate prices—or does he wash his hands of it?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: No, Mr. Speaker, we don't wash our hands of anything in this government. We use the legislative remedies that are available to us; and if there is a legislative remedy available to me, I'm prepared to look into it. But I do not intervene with the AIB, nor does this government.

Mr. Cassidy: And if there isn't a remedy, you wash your hands.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If there isn't any remedy, what do you do?

Mr. Cassidy: You find one.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You find one? Where?

Mr. Cassidy: You found one with the AIB. You had no problem there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Breithaupt: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment with respect to the environmental assessment steering committee. Can the minister advise us what work has been done by that committee, which was to report progress on a weekly basis, and whether that work has been completed to the point that we can expect an expedition of the Environmental Assessment Act in its proclamation as soon as possible?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, that committee has met regularly since last year and it is my understanding now that there is one more meeting to be held. I hope the regulations will be finalized so that they can be presented to cabinet by the end of this month.

Mr. Breithaupt: By way of supplementary, can the minister advise us, when the Act does become law, if the Ontario Municipal Board will have to withhold any decisions until the Environmental Assessment Board applications are heard in all cases that might come before that board?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I doubt that very much. I think the Act and regulations in all probability will apply to any new applications by any government body or agency.

SCHOOL GRANTS

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Minister of Education: Can the minister advise us when we will know when the grant regulations for school boards will be produced, which were promised, as I recall, in mid-January but apparently have not come forward, so that the boards are having difficulty in planning for their budgets?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the information that the school boards need in order to compute their grants is all in their hands and has been in their hands for three weeks. The printed grant regulations, which are sort of the final printing of the actual regulations that put the changes for this year into effect, will be in their hands next week. But I must point out to the hon. member that the school boards now have all the information they need, and have had it for three weeks, in order to fairly accurately compute what they are going to get in grants.

Mrs. Campbell: Fairly accurately?

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary: Is it correct that there will be certain school boards that can and will receive either the same or less funds because of the declining enrolment factor, and the shift in provincial support for education costs being a greater amount than the increase of eight per cent and the eight per cent plus \$80 which is planned for this year?

Hon. Mr. Wells: In actual dollars, some of the boards will receive less in grants this year than they received last year. Yes, that is quite right; that will be due to a variety of circumstances. In some cases indeed it will be because they have fewer pupils. In other cases it will be because of changes in their assessment; if they become a richer board, in assessment terms, than they were last year, there could be a change.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question directed to me by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) on Monday of this week, concerning rent charged to employees in government-provided accommodation, I am pleased to advise as follows:

For a number of years the Ontario government has provided accommodation for some employees in certain northern areas of the province and in some relatively isolated situations, such as parks or very small communities, where it has been necessary to ensure

effective programme delivery. The administration of government-provided employee accommodation has been and is currently administered by the Civil Service Commission.

In June, 1973, the Ministry of Government Services was asked to complete appraisals for these properties to provide a basis for fair market rental. The Ministry of Government Services completed the appraisals and the ministries involved were requested to commence payroll deductions on Oct. 1, 1975, based on the revised rental rates.

In most cases the revised rental rates necessitated an increase in rent. However, in no case was the rent increased by more than \$25 per month on Oct. 1, 1975. Further increases, if necessary, were to be made at six-month intervals, with such increases not to exceed \$25 per month, until fair market rental was reached. The full adjustment was planned for completion by Oct. 1, 1977.

When the Residential Premises Rent Review Act came into force, the plan to provide for fair market rental of these houses was inconsistent with the provisions under the rent control legislation. Although the government is not bound by the rent control legislation, we intend to be consistent with the provisions of the Act. Therefore, there will be a roll-back where indicated. From now on, all rental increases for employees in government-provided accommodation will be made in accordance with regulations under the Rent Review Act and any rental increases which have been implemented and which exceed the provisions of the legislation will be refunded to employees.

Mr. Lewis: First the member for Algoma saves Bruce Mines and now all of the workers who rent. Not bad for one day.

Mr. Cassidy: You are covered by rent review as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

Mr. MacDonald: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food: What has happened to the election promise made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in a speech in Ridgeway on Sept. 9 to the effect that there would be a full rebate of provincial income tax to anyone engaged in seasonal work on the farms and that the province would approach the federal government to extend the \$1,000 exemption to any Canadian engaged in seasonal work on the farm?

Hon. W. Newman: That matter is under very active consideration in my ministry now. There are very active discussions on this particular point. We have had some discussions and we hope we will have an answer for the member very soon.

Mr. Moffatt: It is in the Throne debate.

Mr. Martel: Next year!

Mr. Makarchuk: It's so good you are keeping it around for the next one.

Mr. Foulds: They are not going to have another chance.

Mr. MacDonald: In view of the commitment of the Premier that whether or not the government of Canada responds to the \$1,000 exemption at the federal level, the government of Ontario is prepared to rebate its share of provincial tax to those who were seasonally employed, can the minister at least give us the assurance that he will move on that aspect of the election promise that relates to the provincial government?

Hon. W. Newman: There have been a lot of changes since the budget came in but let me say the whole matter is under active consideration.

Mr. Lewis: Since the budget came in? What budget?

Mr. Moffatt: What budget?

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: What is the minister talking about?

Hon. W. Newman: I am sorry, I am talking about estimates. My apologies.

Mr. Lewis: Since the estimates came out?

Hon. W. Newman: We are pulling this whole thing together now and hopefully we will have an answer.

Mr. Lewis: I have his promise at this time.

Mr. MacDonald: Why wasn't it in the supplementary estimates we had to consider yesterday?

Hon. W. Newman: Why wasn't it in the supplementary estimates?

Mr. MacDonald: Right!

Hon. W. Newman: We will look at them when the time comes.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, will you?

Mr. Martel: What a bunch of windbags over there! They promise everything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES EXPENDITURES

Mr. Riddell: A question of the Minister of Government Services: In keeping with the budgetary restraint programme of this government, which we on this side agree is necessary, if applied in areas which do not present further hardships to the sick—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Restraints if necessary but not necessarily restraints.

Mr. Riddell: —the handicapped and the poor, would the minister not agree that the government expenditure of \$30,000 plus to decorate the plush four-storey MTC office building on Highway 135 with green plants was completely unnecessary at this cost-cutting period of time and would she not agree that the expenditure of \$67,500 to construct and furnish a more modern office and suite for the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor is surely a lower priority item than a public health lab, the closing of which is supposedly saving the government \$12,000? Which is more important, green plants and modern suites or patients?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The member is equating apples with oranges.

An hon. member: And some of the apples have gone rotten!

Mr. Peterson: That's people.

Mr. Reid: There is a high degree of responsibility right there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: Quite an answer, that one!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Oshawa with his question.

Mr. Lewis: It is quite an effective reply.

POLICE CHASES

Mr. Breaugh: I would like to ask the Solicitor General if he is prepared to set

a uniform policy for police chase procedures in Ontario.

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Not to the point where we take away from the individual officer on the scene or at the site the final discretion of whether or not the police chase should take place. That must remain, in my opinion and in the opinion of those who are senior in the importance of law, with that individual officer.

As far as policy is concerned, the OPP have an extensive policy in regard to when and when not in their opinion—that is, in the general guidelines as to when a chase should or not take place. It is similar to what the Metropolitan Toronto force has and, I believe, what most major forces have. I am asking the police commission to review all these policies and all guidelines and put them all together and make sure that every force in the province has those guidelines to follow. But, as I say, it must remain up to the individual officer to make the decision in any one case.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow the supplementary.

Mr. Breaugh: Does the minister think it quite fair to put on to one individual police officer something that becomes, after the fact, a matter of great public scrutiny? I would quote for him the case of the incident in Acton recently where—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been placed. Thank you.

Mr. Breaugh: Is that really fair?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Yes, sir, that's one of the responsibilities that goes with being a policeman.

PICKERING LAND FREEZE

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the provincial Treasurer: In the light of the announcement about six months ago by this government that services would not be provided for the Pickering airport site, thereby effectively stopping construction at that site, when does the Treasurer intend to lift the freeze around the lands in that area so that the people affected, such as those in the town of Markham, may enjoy

relief from the continuing and oppressive losses to their home values?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, that is a matter that is under consideration by the government.

PORT ARTHUR CLINIC DISPUTE

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour, if I might: Does the minister have a report on the dispute at the Port Arthur Clinic? Has the ministry closed the file on that particular dispute, or is there a possibility that negotiations may still continue?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we have not closed the file. We have been in communication by letter during the last 10 days, as a matter of fact, with both parties to this dispute. We have had a response from one party. We have not had a response as yet from the other side; we are awaiting that.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary, if I might, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Foulds: Does the decision by the Ontario Labour Relations Board concerning a recent case—and I think it's in Barrie with DeVilbiss (Canada) Ltd. and the electrical workers—have any bearing on the clinic case, as I believe there is a first contract element in both?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would suppose that any case heard by the Ontario Labour Relations Board regarding a first contract would have some bearing on this situation. I am not sure that one has any direct bearing at this time.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Bullbrook: Through you to the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, with reference to the application being made to the Supreme Court of Canada as to the validity of the agreement that the Treasurer signed with the federal government, presuming that the Supreme Court of Canada might find it to be invalid and presuming that there wouldn't be a Legislature extant in Ontario at the time, what does he intend to do?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a very hypothetical question.

Mr. Bullbrook: By way of supplementary, and most respectfully: In view of the mess the leader of the New Democratic Party is getting us into, surely it can't be regarded as hypothetical at all.

Mr. Lewis: Have they been worrying over night—this crowd over here?

Mr. Speaker: The member for Beaches-Woodbine. Thank you.

Mr. Lewis: We are not backing off.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition will please take his seat.

Mr. Foulds: Where is the Liberal leader today?

SPECIAL PROGRAMME REVIEW

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the provincial Treasurer. I would like to ask him how he could sign the report of the special programme review, in which it is stated that the tax credit for mortgage interest is in effect in November, 1975, when in actual fact it was only an election promise which had not been implemented at that date, and which has now been rejected, according to the information we received yesterday?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I would want to check the wording, without doubting the veracity of my friend's question or the implications in the question, but she might also want to check and she will find that my signature is not on the report.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I have the exact wording here if the minister would like me to read it to him.

Mr. Speaker: I think not.

PEMBROKE CREAMERY

Mr. Conway: Through you, Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Is the minister aware of the serious difficulties in which the Pembroke Creamery presently finds itself?

Hon. W. Newman: No.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker, would the minister please—in the light of the fact that the difficulties at that particular creamery are the direct result of an inexcusably bad loan arrangement made

with the Eganville Creamery—look into what is a serious problem at the Pembroke Creamery, because most of the Renfrew county cream producers are in serious jeopardy today?

Hon. W. Newman: I don't know what the member means by being in difficulty, because if I remember last fall that was taken over, was it not, by Ault? Is that the one he is talking about?

Mr. Conway: The question would be that because of the fact that the Ault—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the hon. minister just wished clarification as to whether he was dealing with the right matter.

Mr. Conway: Perhaps the question would be better put if it was put this way: When Ault Foods, with the help of a \$1 million ODC loan, took over the Eganville Creamery it took over all the area of sale in that particular Renfrew county zone. The Pembroke Creamery was approached by the government of Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Conway: —and told to take over the cream production—

Mr. Speaker: And the question, thank you?

Mr. Conway: —and now they can't sell their product. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. W. Newman: If the member is talking about the market share quota situation, which I believe he is, about a surplus of market share quota—that's a surplus of powdered milk, plus a surplus of butter—if that's what he's talking about, I am meeting with Mr. Whelan and with the other provincial ministers this coming week, as a result of a wire I received from him this morning, to try and sort out that whole situation across this province and across Canada.

WATER QUALITY OF MILL STREAMS

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Now that the minister obviously has the results of the intensive analysis of the pulp and paper mill streams of the province—I say obviously because of the cleanup orders that he is negotiating—could the minister share those facts and figures with this Legislature, as he has promised to do twice in the past?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I believe, Mr. Speaker, I have given the hon. member the figures on the improvements in water quality downstream from those particular mills as a result of a shutdown. If he doesn't have that, that's an oversight. I should have followed up, I'm sorry. I'd be happy to let the member have those figures. I gave this information in a speech in his home town just a month ago.

AUTO LICENSING AGENCIES

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister prepared to tell the House how he is going to clean up the motor vehicle licensing branch in his ministry? Can he tell the House how much of public funds has not been turned in to the Treasury from these motor vehicle licensers across the province?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has had a question on the order paper for the last few days, I believe it's under his name, inquiring as to the amount of shortages of funds over the past five years. I expect I'll have that report to table within the next day or two. In the meantime, I assure you, Mr. Speaker, the amounts involved are minimal.

The other part of the hon. member's question or statement as to what I am going to do to clean up the branch, I believe is the way he put it; first, I don't think I'm going to take any action to do any cleaning up of the branch.

Mr. Reid: What about the checking of receipts when they come in? Did the minister read the auditor's report?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Certain comments were made to my ministry, through my deputy minister, by the Provincial Auditor some months ago concerning things that came to the auditor's attention. Since that time considerable action has been taken by the ministry and considerable improvement has been made in the computer programme, which I'm the first to admit has given us some problems. I think as of this date the accounting part or the reporting part is very well under control.

Mr. Reid: A supplementary, if I may. Is the minister satisfied with the way the ministry operates in appointing motor vehicle licence issuers across the province? Is he satisfied with the way that is done, the way it is handled, without any bonding? Apparently there are people who have charges

against them and yet they are handling public funds.

Secondly, and more specifically, is the minister prepared to continue the practice of having Ontario Hydro have its trucks registered with a private vehicle licensor in the Province of Ontario, which apparently brings that person some \$35,000 in vehicle licences when it could be done downtown?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the second part of that question is not supplementary to the main question. The answer to the first part, the hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Snow: First of all, I would say I am satisfied that the present system of having private motor vehicle licence issuing offices is the most appropriate and the most economic system for—

Mr. Reid: It needs a little tightening up.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —issuing these licence plates that is possible.

Mr. Lewis: You could do it through Drake Personnel.

Ms. Gigantes: That's a good idea.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Obviously, a programme such as this we are reviewing continuously. There will no doubt, from time to time, be some changes made. On the comments regarding the bonding of the particular issuing agents, the hon. member may not be aware that the government is a self-insurer. We do not provide bonds in this case as we do not provide insurance on most capital—

Mr. Reid: There is a slight difference, though, don't you think? You are dealing with public funds.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would suggest that when I am able to table the—

Mr. Lewis: Why don't you watch the issuers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: When I am able to table the report—

Mr. Lewis: Why don't you enforce the law?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, do they want me to answer this question or not?

Mr. Singer: We are very concerned that you answer it.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am sure when I do table the figures the hon. member asked for he will be pleasantly surprised and it will be obvious that over the past years the operation of this system has been such as to indicate no need for all the agents to be bonded.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It will make your spring vacation.

Hon. Mr. Snow: With regard to Ontario Hydro buying its licences through a private agency, I would suggest that perhaps the hon. member should take this matter up with the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) as I have no authorization or no way of telling a particular motor vehicle owner where he or she or that company should buy the licence. I have some concern regarding the member's statement that there was \$35,000 in commissions involved.

Mr. Reid: The total cost.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I believe he meant annually; \$35,000 would be something like 50,000 vehicles.

Mr. Speaker: I think the balance of the answer should come in the written answer.

SCARBOROUGH EXPRESS BUS EXPERIMENT

Mr. Warner: A question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Is it a lack of government concern for public transit or is there some other reason for not providing the supplement needed to continue the Scarborough express bus experiment?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, there is no lack of government concern for transit. A great many million dollars of funds are being made available to the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto which, in turn, makes that money available to the operating authority, the Toronto Transit Commission, which, in turn, sets its priorities for the operation of the transit system. The decisions as to the operation of that system are basically with the local authority.

[2:45]

Mr. Warner: Supplementary: Is the minister not aware that representation has been made to the government that if a supplementary grant is not received from the province by May 1, it will result in that experiment being curtailed?

Hon. Mr. Snow: First of all, that is not an experiment of my ministry. If it's an experiment at all, it must be an experiment of the TTC. I am not aware of an application for a special grant. I have received no communication regarding that. And, although I'll naturally review any request that I receive, I would have to say that the possibility of any special grant for the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto for a specific bus service is almost nil.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Housing. Are there any elected officials serving on housing authorities, has the minister received any requests for such, and is he planning to change legislation to accommodate elected officials?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there are elected officials serving on housing authorities. I trust the hon. member is familiar with how appointments to the housing authorities are made. I don't intend to change the legislation. From the sound, Mr. Speaker, I note there may be others in the House who don't know how they're made either.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm one of them. Lorne does mine all the time.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: Apart from the three tenants now on housing authority boards, does the ministry have any further plans to include more tenants on these public housing authority boards?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No, I don't have any plans to specifically include tenants on the board. Perhaps I'll take the time to remind the hon. member, as I think he is aware, that appointments to the housing authority are made on an alternating basis, as the positions become vacant, from the federal government, from the municipal government and from the provincial government; and although these appointments are all confirmed by an order in council, they are never rejected when they come in from the federal or municipal governments. The hon. member should talk to the rest of his colleagues in the various levels of government.

Mr. Cassidy: How about you?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You've already spoken to me and I've taken care of your problems.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ACCESS TO OSHAWA MARSH

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of the Environment. I would like to know if the members of this minister's staff are still being denied access to the marshland known as the Oshawa Second Marsh, which is presently under control of the Oshawa Harbour Commission.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that they are prohibited from inspecting that site. I'll get the information and give it to the hon. member.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Sweeney: A question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of the fact that Seneca College, through his ministry's funding mechanism, has been able to build up an investment portfolio of \$2 million? If so, does he approve of this procedure?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am aware of the dollars that each institution has. We think that there should be every reason for those funds to be used appropriately for the purposes for which they were designated; and I'm sure, given the present financial restraint that all of the areas have to cope with, that's precisely what will happen to those funds.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Supplementary: Will the minister be instructing the colleges to use their reserves and that, in future, only a percentage of the budget will be allowed for reserves and nothing beyond that percentage?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm sure that the hon. member is aware that reserves are not a usual problem; if I read the press correctly, it is usually to the contrary. Usually the colleges are complaining about the deficits that they have faced—particularly when we announce the amount of money. We hear a great deal about the deficits that they expect to have; the deficits don't usually materialize to that degree. I'm not contemplating legislative controls in that instance.

Mr. Warner: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Did the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot have a supplementary?

Mr. Sweeney: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sorry, I didn't notice you earlier.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: Given the very point that the minister has just made, that so many of the colleges are in difficulty, how is it possible for them to build up those kinds of surplus reserves?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I would like to correct the interpretation that the hon. member has placed on my answer. I did not suggest that they were in difficulty. I suggested that the press would report, when the colleges were given their original allocations, that they suggested they would be in difficulty.

I also noted that usually that deficit didn't materialize but, indeed, a balanced budget was struck. In some instances, with good efficiency and good management on the part of the administration, there was a surplus—not usually very large—but, indeed, there should be. I want to encourage a surplus position if it is created by good management within the administration. I would not want to criticize a community college for building a surplus if it could be done through good management. I think there is an occasion here and there where that does occur. But, certainly, there is very little evidence in the original press release that they expect that surplus to become a fact of life.

GO TRANSIT TERMINALS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I believe it was on Monday that the hon. member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) asked me a question regarding transit terminals. Due to the fact that the answer is somewhat lengthy, perhaps I could table it with the Clerk. (See appendix, page 575.)

HOSPITAL CUTBACKS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health and the Premier, perhaps I can direct this question to the Chairman of Cabinet. Is he aware that the House leader made an announcement yesterday morning that the matter of the bed closings and the cutbacks of the hospitals in the St. Catharines area is now being referred to the hospital council in that area for its review and a report with recommendations to the

Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)? Is this a change in policy whereby the government is now going to consult with the health councils and other concerned people in all of the areas where there are cutbacks in closings?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: No, I was not aware of that statement.

CERTIFICATION OF SKILLED WORKERS

Mr. Mancini: I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. In view of the fact that the meat cutters of Ontario serve an apprenticeship of nearly 4,000 hours, why is it they are not issued certificates which would classify them as skilled workers?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I can't give the member a detailed answer on that question. I'll be prepared to get it for him. I think that if the information he supplies in his question is correct, it probably illustrates a prime reason for the Industrial Training Council we recently established—and one of their duties would be to look into the apprenticeship programme. We have already identified that as one of their prime responsibilities.

Given that the information is correct in the question, we'll certainly refer that item to them. In the meantime, if I can give the member some more information, I will do so in due course.

CONTAMINATION OF FISH

Mr. Foulds: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware of the report that was released some two weeks ago by the Great Lakes Environmental Contaminant Survey Board of the high levels of contaminants in fish, particularly trout, in the western part of Lake Superior—those contaminants being PCBs, mercury and DDT? Is the ministry taking action to warn people not to eat those fish more than once a week, as that report recommended?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the report; the report pretty well confirms our statistics. As a matter of fact, the report has some information from my ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources. It confirms the figure that we've had for about six months, specifically in relation to the trout in Lake Superior.

Mr. Foulds: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I might. Has the minister had discussions

with the Ministry of Natural Resources as to the effect that this will have, up to this point, on recovering the lake trout fishing industry in Lake Superior?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker; and also when we had the original information regarding PCB's in trout, and also information on Lake Erie and Ontario, that information was publicized quite widely and people were warned as far as the contents in those species were concerned, and to be careful as far as eating them was concerned.

Mr. Speaker: The member for St. George has a final question.

REPORT ON DAY CARE

Mrs. Campbell: A question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: In view of the fact that the Citizens Advisory Committee report on day care was presented to the minister on Friday, Jan. 30, could the minister advise when that report, paid for at public expense, is to be brought to this House and submitted for consideration by the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Might I remind the member that the committee was specifically set up to advise the Minister of Community and Social Services in connection with the field of day care. That report has now been submitted to me as the member has indicated. I am reviewing that report and in due course I will determine the distribution of it.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous estimates committee reported the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the following ministries be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Ministry of Revenue

Guaranteed income and tax credit programme	\$9,100,000.
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Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Agricultural production programme	\$9,000,000.
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Mr. Speaker: Motions.
Introduction of bills.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Snow: This bill contains a number of amendments directed toward highway safety. Some of the changes include amendments which will allow for better noticeability of motorcycles on the highway; the regulation and control of over-size farm vehicles on the highway; the use of paved shoulders for passing movements in limited circumstances when slow-moving or stopped vehicles impede other traffic; and the rule of the road respecting school crossing guards.

Other amendments respecting the suspension of drivers' licences are in response to amendments to the Criminal Code and provide for court-ordered extensions of suspensions and suspensions following absolute or conditional discharges.

Finally, a shipper who knowingly causes a vehicle to be overloaded, intending it to be operated on a highway, will be subject to the same penalty as the operator of the vehicle.

SUCCESSION DUTY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Succession Duty Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, amendments to this bill are intended to minimize the effectiveness of certain methods of tax avoidance; to remove anomalies in the payment of forgivable duty on farming assets; to increase significantly the amount that can be paid out to the family of a deceased person, without ministry consent, by insurance companies, banks and pension funds; and to promote loans of artistic and cultural property to Ontario institutions by non-residents of Ontario.

[3:00]

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The amendments in this bill extend the benefits to permanent staff members of a municipal employees association or union who hitherto were prevented from participating in the system.

The second provision expands the type of service which municipalities may include when crediting employees for service for supplementary benefits. This would include service with other municipalities or other government employers and military service.

The third provision permits the Lieutenant Governor in Council to grant retroactive application of regulation changes when a benefit provision is changed.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Grande moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Education Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Grande: The purpose of this amendment is to make it clear that it is permitted for a teacher to teach a language other than English at both the elementary and secondary school level and to communicate to pupils in a language other than English or French at both the elementary and secondary school levels.

Mr. Mancini: You are dreaming.

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day I'll recognize the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in the tradition of this House, although I'm not wearing green today, I thought I would rise, particularly in the absence of the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) I suppose, to acknowledge this day. I would ordinarily be wearing green in honour of St. Patrick's Day but the colour of the faces in the Liberal Party today will suffice.

Mr. Riddell: Look in the mirror.

Mr. Peterson: Since when did you represent the Irish?

Mr. Grossman: I can't even comment on St. Patrick Day without being controversial.

Mr. Singer: Compare apples and oranges, will you?

Mr. Peterson: You would be more appropriate on Groundhog Day.

Mr. Grossman: Suffice it to say that in honour of one of the patron saints of my riding, when there was some suggestion a few weeks ago that some members may want to recommend name changes for their ridings, in spite of the fact that I would have considered changing the name of my riding to, say, Muskoka, Brampton or Riverdale, I decided to stick with St. Andrew-St. Patrick. I might also note that of the, I believe, seven hospitals which are in that portion of either St. George or the now St. Andrew-St. Patrick riding, that were formerly in the riding known as St. Patrick, none were closed. Therefore, the luck of the Irish must still prevail.

Mr. Bullbrook: I have come here to listen to the Premier (Mr. Davis) today, not this fellow.

Mr. Peterson: How appropriate your remarks!

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before calling the orders of the day, the order paper today doesn't indicate the meeting of the miscellaneous estimates committee. Immediately following the Premier's contribution to the Throne Speech debate, the miscellaneous estimates committee will meet to consider the supplementary estimate requirements of the Ministry of the Environment and the office of the Assembly.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Cassidy: This may be the Premier's last time, you know.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will say to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that I wouldn't count on that. I wouldn't even make book on it.

Mr. Kennedy: Beware the ides of March.

Hon. Mr. Davis: However, it is not my intention to be at all provocative or controversial today.

Mr. Mancini: That is what he said the last time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Not much it isn't. However, at the outset, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating the mover and seconder of Her Honour's most excellent address.

I was deeply touched by the words and commitments expressed by my good friend, the member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), who has served in this House and his constituency so well for so many years. I know I speak for all members in this House when I say how pleased we all are that he has made such an excellent recovery and that he is able to continue in the service of this province and in the service of the people who have sent him to Queen's Park with such great consistency and commitment for many years, and I would hope for many years yet to come.

I also express my congratulations to the seconder of Her Honour's address, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) who carried on a tradition here this afternoon as he serves in a very non-controversial way, an example that has been set for him by his very distinguished predecessor in that particular constituency.

I think it is very important in this day and age, and above all important for our democratic institutions, that a member has an opportunity to cite his concerns with respect to a local matter without limiting his support for the government.

I think, in the view of any thoughtful observer, it reflects well in the strength and vitality of a government when one of its members can be allowed to present differing views within the context of the Throne Speech debate.

Clearly there will be differing views expressed today from those expressed on Monday by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), and those which appear to have been expressed by the leader of the Liberal Party.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It was pretty hard to understand what he was saying.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Where is he?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to say this at the outset and I hope the hon. House leader will understand when I ask him to convey to

his leader the very constructive suggestions I have to offer to his new leader here in the non-provocative sense that I suggested at the outset—I did receive a note from the new leader of the Liberal Party—

Mr. Breithaupt: I will even take notes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —in spite of the fact that we had arranged these debates for about 10 days that he did have a commitment elsewhere. I regret, and I don't say this critically, that in the light of his observations yesterday and the serious way in which all members of this House take them, that one would think—

Mr. Lewis: He would think!

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that he might have been here this afternoon.

There are amendments to Her Honour's address before the House, which, let's not fool anyone, constitute direct expressions of non-confidence in the government which it is my privilege to lead.

I don't really see any reason to express either shock at the decision of both parties to make amendments or sub-amendments to the address. It is rather a time, and I say this sincerely, to express disappointment.

I want at the outset, however, to lay before this House and the province some of the fundamental choices and issues which we face as a province and which are suggested by the Throne Speech itself.

I start with the premise, which was unfortunately underlined once again by the posture in this House taken by the Leader of the Opposition and his Liberal colleague, that there are some in this House who are prepared to make those choices and some who insist on running away from them.

There are some in this House who are prepared to put those choices honestly and deliberately before the people and there are some who refuse to face up to the fundamental economic reality of our time and the fundamental public responsibility we all share in this House to serve the economic well-being of future generations of Ontarians.

It is interesting to sit back, as we did, and assess the thrust of the speech made so eloquently and intermittently passionately by the Leader of the Opposition. You know, there is clearly a new angle emerging to the traditional NDP approach of claiming a monopoly on public interest, a monopoly on concern for people and a monopoly on social and economic equality.

My good friend, the Leader of the Opposition, and those whom it is his pleasure to lead, now stand before this House and want to debate the issue of economic management and fiscal responsibility. I will return to that discussion very shortly. But, of course, the Leader of the Opposition took every opportunity, during the initial part of his remarks, to make passing reference to the new leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario. And while it would be inappropriate for me to suggest that his remarks were not totally complimentary, I would point out with respect to the leader of the Liberal Party, who, as I said, I had hoped would be here, that he can probably do without that sort of praise from his colleague on his right, the Leader of the Opposition. I have had some experience with praise from the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr. Lewis: You ain't seen nothing yet.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh! I am delighted. I am delighted.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It is going to be a love-in.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have had some experience and I have come, not to take it with a grain of salt, because that would be unfair, but to consider it carefully in my mind and to seek the advice of others before truly accepting it as praise. I have to analyse these things very carefully these days. There is no question that he is well known for his tremendous intellectual and debating capacities, backed up by a researcher or two or three or four or five—how many does he have now on staff?

Mr. Lewis: Nine.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Nine?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: How many have you got on our staff?

Mr. Cassidy: We've got 50 on your side.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I offer this not as a comment but merely as advice to the leader of the Liberal Party: The Leader of the Opposition lacks no instant answer to any long-term problem. That is indeed refreshing at a time when more and more people wonder whether government is considering all the right options; at a time when we wonder whether those who have in the past claimed to have all the answers have indeed succeeded in doing anything more than creating more problems in the process.

It is reassuring for both the leader of the Liberal Party and myself to know that, notwithstanding the problems the province may wish to have carefully considered—and notwithstanding the complexity of the issues facing the people of Ontario today, whenever there is doubt or the need for review or for second thoughts, there will continue to be in this Legislature a single repository of instant answers and instant responses to all of our problems.

Mr. MacDonald: That's a cheap shot.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It's a statement of fact.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sure that our democratic system and politics generally in Ontario are made better, as I am sure the Liberal Party would agree, by the presence of an individual who has no doubts, no fears—

Mr. Lewis: Enormous doubts.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but simply simplistic and one-dimensional answers. Of course, what we face in reality today, and it is one of the problems we have in this province and one of the realities touched upon very directly by the Throne Speech is that government in real life in an open and free democracy is simply not that easy.

[3:15]

Clearly, for example, the Leader of the Opposition, if he were Premier of this province—and I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, we're going to make every effort to see it doesn't happen—would like to see the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health operate in a one dimensional, simple-minded fashion.

To follow the logic, and I listened carefully to his observations on Monday, which is not totally unrepresentative of previous positions he has taken, the Ministry of Health would sit down and decide that because there were certain individuals who may be involved in overbilling with respect to laboratories, because certain doctors and laboratories may be involved in misusing the OHIP system, because there may be meaningful losses which may be resulting in this sort of activity, and before every last possible misuse of funds was rooted out of the system, the ministry should stop all streamlining activities it had embarked upon in order to preserve the integrity of the system.

Mr. Lewis: I never said that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition may not like to hear it said that way,

but really if one follows the line of his logic on Monday that is precisely what he is saying.

Mr. Cassidy: That's not the way he said it.

Mr. Lewis: You guys should resign, is that what you're saying?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: He asked a question today to the same effect.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's right.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Where's that caucus discipline over there?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I just want to interject this observation, and I confess my personal bias, but I think we're lucky in this province of ours that our Minister of Health and our Ministry of Health is not receptive to that type of simplistic and distorted view of government.

Mr. Moffatt: He's not here.

Mr. Lewis: That's a wrong supposition.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was impressed by the degree to which the Leader of the Opposition sought to engage this government on the matter of consultation.

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I've heard this observation from him even before he became Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: That's entirely possible.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I heard the questions on consultation with the art college, with various other post-secondary institutions—

Mr. Lewis: Going back to the old days.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, and one should never forget the old days, I would say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, because we have a very good memory and we may be reminding the people of some of those observations.

Mr. Lewis: When you used to exhort the students.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: You went down to the art college to inflame the students to riot.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I certainly did. I'm interested in consultation.

Mr. Cassidy: You're really grasping for straws.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I sometimes think we do it seven days a week; never to the satisfaction, of course, of those who are directly affected. But I really ask the Leader of the Opposition, if he were to try to look at it objectively, if that's possible? In what community in this province, with what city council or town council, with what board of hospital administrators will any government find agreement with respect to closing an institution or limiting its size? I've met with some of these people and I'm going to meet with some more this afternoon. There isn't a mayor, there's not a hospital board chairman or an administrator who isn't going to make a case for his community and for his hospital; and I totally understand that.

Mr. Lewis: Does that mean you don't give them that opportunity?

Hon. Mr. Davis: To say you're going to solve these problems through the straight process of consultation only; I wish it were possible, Mr. Speaker, but I've got to tell the Leader of the Opposition he has to be somewhat realistic.

Mr. Cassidy: They used to do that in Spain.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This government has the capacity and it has the courage to face that type of difficulty—

Mr. Martel: Who created it then?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and to make the type of decisions which are in the long-term interest of a health system that is providing—and this is something that you sometimes forget over there—

Mr. Lewis: We agree.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't state to the public, and I can understand this, that it happens to be the best system of medical services anywhere in this country. And I'll be more expansive today—

Mr. Lewis: I'm sure you will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —anywhere in North America!

You know, there has been a lot of emotion in the last couple of months. But let's not forget one thing: Whatever restraint is being imposed, whatever alterations are being made in the system, the system in this province will still be the finest that can be had anywhere

in this country; the hon. members across the House know it and it's time the public had a greater awareness of it.

I have got to tell the hon. members opposite that this government, which they say is insensitive and has no feeling of humanity, this government helped create that system—and they shouldn't forget that in the process either.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly we did—and it's the best.

Mr. Cassidy: You were dragged into it kicking and screaming. Remember John Robarts? What about John Robarts and Medicare?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: People aren't flocking to Manitoba or Saskatchewan; they may start moving to British Columbia now a little bit, but they sure weren't for a while.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, to get back to the more relevant parts of my—

Mr. Cassidy: You've been studying the speeches of John Robarts, haven't you?

Mr. Lewis: So far, so good.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, don't become too relaxed; I wouldn't want that.

Mr. MacDonald: It's a pretty imaginative approach.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, I know the member for York South, with his years of experience, likes imagination.

Mr. MacDonald: Look around this enlarged caucus and you can see the results of my imaginings.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He has been imagining things for the last X years in this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can even go back to what the hon. member imagined some of his colleagues were trying to do to him at one point in time. I can remember that so well.

Mr. Lewis: Leave him alone. He imagines; you hallucinate!

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would say my hallucinations probably have greater relevance than anything the Leader of the Opposition has to contribute.

Mr. Moffatt: He imagines you were Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, I was. Those were the simple days.

An hon. member: Oh, yeah!

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't want the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) to take offence; when I said they were simple days, I meant they were uncomplicated days. She is gone; she is not here to listen to me. I am disappointed.

Mr. Sweeney: She has heard it before.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say this respectfully to the member for St. George, if her colleague would convey this impression to her: She may have heard some of this before, but anything more that she can gain from these relevant passages this afternoon will stand her in totally good stead. I say that very kindly, very objectively. I will get around to the third group here shortly.

Mr. Cassidy: Now you see them, now you don't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh no, it's worse than that, it's worse than that.

Mr. Lewis: We could have a good campaign if they could be excluded.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And I know who would win—even with them included!

Mr. Bullbrook: Do you know why Stuart Smith isn't here to hear you today?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Because he is in Windsor.

Mr. Bullbrook: He has heard you before.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He is in Windsor. Listen, I know the member for Sarnia is a very loyal party supporter; I sat and watched him yesterday during his leader's observations, and there is no question he was totally embarrassed at what was going on.

Mr. Bullbrook: Very prideful I was.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was just glad the member for Sarnia wasn't giving the speech yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I want to get back to these important passages.

Mr. Moffatt: Before somebody misses them.

Mr. Foulds: Because they have already been released to the press.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition implied—and I tried to analyse what he said—what he implied, perhaps indirectly but nevertheless very clearly on Monday, is not only a lack of faith in this government, for that's what he is paid to say—

Mr. Cassidy: He didn't imply that; he said that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's what he's paid to do; that's part of his responsibility—and that shouldn't be revolutionary or surprising to anyone in the gallery or anywhere else.

Mr. Cassidy: Not even to you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But it's his lack of faith in the people of this province and in their capacity—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: His lack of faith in the people of this province—

Mr. Lewis: Come on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —to separate their wants from their needs and to separate inconvenience from lack of service. I guess this is one of—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Premier has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This is one of the fundamental differences between the Leader of the Opposition and those whom he leads and the party it is my privilege to lead. I want to return for a moment to the question of economic management.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, you should.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is clear that the—I heard that; I'll get around to your capacity to manage. Not his personally, I would say to the member for Sarnia; I think it is tremendous.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are the author of this deficit situation we have had to endure since you became Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Be very careful.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are the fellow who built the hospitals you are now closing. Tell us about that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the—

Mr. Cassidy: Do you want a razor blade?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, we've been here for 30 years and this province, in terms of health, education, transportation, social services, any field you can mention, is the leader in this country and hon. members very well know it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's right; that's true.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The only thing we haven't got are the Olympics. We haven't got the Olympics.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are the champion spendthrift of all time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: You built the hospitals that you are now closing up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will say to the member for Sarnia that what his people promised to spend from 1967 onwards would curl his hair.

Mr. Shore: How is the German mark?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it would.

Mr. Speaker, I want to get back. It is becoming pretty obvious that the Leader of the Opposition is somewhat stealthy and quietly seeking to reach into the Liberal quiver of arrows and stones to sort of steal away the financial manager's role as he gets ready for the next campaign, whenever that may be.

I have lunches with the Rotary Clubs—which I know he is enjoying as well—and

the real estate boards across this province. They're getting to the Leader of the Opposition; they really are, and I'm not referring to any caloric intake. The fiery radical, the champion of the little people, the man for whom no injustice could be tolerated, has now discovered fiscal responsibility. What a revelation! Where did he get it from?

Mr. Lewis: It is time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly it is.

Interjections.

An hon. member: You're not getting at anybody.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In his attack on the Throne Speech, he moved a non-confidence motion which, I say with respect, it is his traditional responsibility to do. No one questions that. I assume we'll be voting on it on April 5 and I want all members to understand that the first plank in my friends campaign for sound economic management is to deny the people of Ontario a budget on April 6.

Mr. Renwick: He gave us the budget on Dec. 11.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can see the billboards now: Vote for us because we don't want a budget. That's plank No. 1.

Mr. Nixon: Your last one put us in debt by \$2 million. We cannot afford another.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's what I describe as a good beginning. It is a good start on fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Reid: You are out.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want the House leader to remind the leader of the Liberal Party that that is precisely the approach to economic management he would be supporting by joining with his friend, the Leader of the Opposition, on April 5. Don't let him think he can weasel his way out of the responsibility for what may happen.

Mr. Lewis: Offer your budget.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He's not going to be here on the night of April 5? I don't believe it.

Mr. Shore: Red herring.

Mr. Kerrio: Salvation of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: Your last budget gave us a deficit.

Mr. Lewis: He couldn't be here; he has a barbecue.

Mr. Eaton: A pool party.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to remind both my friends across the House that if it is their wish that Ontario should be plunged into an unnecessary election at this time, an election that will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars; if it is their wish that this government be denied its opportunity to present its budget simply because the leader of the Liberal Party wants to get to know the people, or some one over there has taken a poll, then I would say—

[3:30]

Mr. Shore: It cost \$500 million the last time.

Mr. Lewis: He's missing.

Mr. Mancini: We know where he is, he is in Chatham.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Chatham; Windsor—he's in western Ontario.

Mr. Lewis: He's missing this for Chatham?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, you don't get this kind of entertainment anywhere.

Mr. Lewis: Who would believe it?

Mr. Nixon: It's the most repetitious show in town.

Mr. Lewis: He's propping up the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman).

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He can't go to the Soo either.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What I want the members of the House and the public to know, Mr. Speaker, is that the calling of any election will be on their heads across the House, and it will be a critical issue they will have to answer for in any campaign.

Mr. Nixon: Do you know Eddie Goodman almost got into the wrong meeting last night?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, ask your friends in London North. I intend to be done by 4 o'clock, I hope. I'll give you a little quote later on.

Mr. Yakabuski: What has happened to you fellows?

Mr. Eaton: What's gone wrong?

Mr. MacDonald: The Premier is interrupting himself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I am, far too much. I would acknowledge that from the member for York South. I'm interrupting myself far too often.

The leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker—and I was very sincere at the opening of the House in extending my congratulations to him; I'm not going to repeat them except to say that I understand some of the difficulties of being a leader of a political party—

Mr. Lewis: But!

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, there is no "but." I do wish him well; not too well. But I would say because I've said it before, that in spite of differences, the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk—

Mr. Nixon: How soon you forget.

Hon. Mr. Davis: When he was the member for Brant I had no problem at all; it's when he became the member for—

Mr. Nixon: You used to go out of your way to call me that, as I recall.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do express my best wishes to him as well; most sincerely, in spite of the—

Mr. Nixon: Not on my retirement, I hope.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was wondering if that might take place. But whether that takes place or not, I do express to him by best wishes.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I've got some advice, now, for the leader of the Liberal Party. He really shouldn't give in so easily when his colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, seeks to steal the financial management issue from him. Please convey this to him. For while the NDP may handle it more effectively than it was handled in the last campaign, the record in government should also be kept in mind. I offer this only as assistance to the leader of the Liberal Party in his battle for retention of this issue. I think there's a lot to be learned elsewhere.

Mr. Lewis: Don't be silly; there is nothing to be learned elsewhere.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh yes there is, and you know it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, he might take a look at what was the pride and joy of the New Democratic Party of this country, the great Province of British Columbia.

Mr. Lewis: Stick to Ontario, for heaven's sake; that was in the past.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition for mentioning British Columbia.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really apologize for mentioning it. I struck a sensitive nerve.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did indeed. On Dec. 12, the day after the NDP experiment was rejected out there—and really, I should not be so hard on my friends in the New Democratic Party; they are, after all, so fair and reasonable in their criticisms of the government here, always fair and reasonable—I could mention what happened to the ICBC; but that would be unfair, I don't want to do it.

I could discuss BC Hydro; but I won't. Or the transit bureau of that province; but I don't think it really is that relevant.

Mr. MacDonald: How about Krauss-Maffei?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The people will know. Indeed, when one looks at it, especially if you get into deficits, it's really something else.

Interjections by hon. members.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But with an NDP average growth rate in spending of 28.5 per cent and a forecast record of 30.4 per cent in this past year, economic management in the terms of the New Democratic Party very simply means economic disaster.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am saying this as constructively as I can.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But it's true and they know it's true. This is the type of performance, this is the kind of direction and the policy that the leader of the Liberal Party would be supporting if he joined the New Democrats to prevent us from continuing to govern. He is supporting that type of approach to government.

Mr. Reid: I think the Premier is stretching it a little bit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Liberal leader certainly is.

Mr. Reid: We are not supporting you, that's who we are not supporting.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't care what he says in this House, that's what he is doing.

Mr. Reid: We are not supporting you and your phoney programmes.

Mr. Eaton: They didn't do anything for you up north, eh?

Mr. Sargent: Just fed up with you, that's all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It has occurred to me that there may be some other motivation behind the Liberal Party's rekindled desire to obstruct the work of this House and force an election.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know that all of us make observations from time to time and we wonder why we made them.

Mr. Reid: Yours always happens during elections, though.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know that Feb. 20 was quite a while ago, but you know, the leader of the Liberal Party is quoted in the St. Catharines Standard—and that is a very reputable paper—

Mr. Good: What happened to the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Johnston)?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —where he told a meeting of politicians in Metropolitan Toronto—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —the Grits would not vote with the NDP in the Legislature to bring down the minority government.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That wasn't long ago, but that is while there was still some degree of

leadership. But what was worse—and I think it's a tremendous quotation; this is really quite incredible—and this is directly a quote of the new leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, not too many days ago: "I suspect if we bring down the government on this issue they may win the subsequent election with a thumping majority and be in power for another four years."

Mr. Lewis: My, oh my.

Mr. Reid: That's as close as you will come to thumping, I'll tell you. The last time some of you will thump your desks.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'll tell you this much, the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk, even if he thought we would, would never have said so in public.

Mr. Nixon: I never thought you would and I don't think you will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He never would have said so. But you know, Mr. Speaker, I am a little suspicious—

Mr. Sweeney: It took him a month to learn.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —the motivation behind the amendment yesterday may be something else. They may be afraid of the April 6 budget. It may be that they are a little concerned—

Mr. Reid: Tell us about the supplementary estimates you bring in in the fall.

Mr. Sweeney: One billion dollars, two billion, three billion.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They may be a little concerned that their \$2 billion projection of the deficit will not be borne out. They may be a little concerned about that.

Mr. Reid: What is the deficit going to be?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Shore: Give us a little preview.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They may be afraid that their prophecy of gloom and doom will be destroyed by the facts; something that party has always had difficulty in coming to grips with.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They may even find facts that will discredit their approach and they may find facts that they don't want us to put

to the people. I don't want to exaggerate these things—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course not. Of course I don't. But the budget planned for April 6 would have constituted a similar expression of faith in the capacity of our people, and it's up to my friends opposite—

Mr. Sweeney: We have faith in the people. It is you we don't trust.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —it's as simple as this, to decide whether or not that expression of faith is to be allowed to proceed.

Mr. Lewis: If you want to bring it in now, bring it in now; do it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is up to the gentlemen and ladies opposite that we will be allowed to continue and allow this government to continue its battle against inflation and its battle to ensure an economically stable future for this province. From the very beginning, our party has stood alone in this province in supporting total co-operation with the national anti-inflation programme.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people have not supported it. You make no bones about it.

Mr. Cassidy: You mean the anti-wage programme.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We also stood alone in saying there would be no special cases, no inequities, no last-minute interventions by any hastily concocted provincial board.

Mr. Cassidy: You mean that anti-wage programme.

Mr. Lewis: Rough justice is what you call it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We stood alone in this country for governmental spending restraints and reducing the drain on the gross national product by too much spending.

Mr. Good: What a distortion of the facts!

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, don't try to divorce yourselves. Show me what restraints the federal government of Canada is really exercising in its own fields of responsibility.

Mr. Cassidy: Show me what restraint you are exercising.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: On April 5 we may stand alone in this House in our defence of a bright and economically viable future.

Mr. Singer: When the argument gets hot you rant and rage at Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We may stand alone in wanting to provide people with secure and comprehensive medical care by streamlining the system.

Mr. Singer: That is what it is?

Hon. Mr. Davis: We may stand alone—read the whole Throne Speech—in our commitment to reduce welfare spending and encourage more people to seek work.

Mr. Cassidy: Which is not available.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want the people in the Liberal Party to hear this because I really know that the NDP have gone beyond any hope in this area.

Mr. Shore: Tell the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) to hear it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We may stand alone in our commitment not to squander Ontario's resources or destroy free enterprise in the north. We may stand alone on all of these issues on the evening of April 5. I've got to tell the members opposite something: We may stand alone here in this Legislature, and if we do, I tell you we will be standing with the people in this province and if we are forced by the other parties—

Mr. Lewis: Yes, but out there in the great public we will have hordes.

Mr. MacDonald: What about the 64 per cent who voted against you?

Hon. Mr. Davis: We will take our case to the people and we'll let them know where we stand and we will sure as heck let them know where you people stand in the process.

Mr. Makarchuk: They have insomnia on the back benches there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not really impressed by the Leader of the Opposition's sort of sense of helplessness about the situation the Legislature now finds itself in.

Mr. Lewis: I don't feel helpless.

Hon. Mr. Davis: A little bit helpless yesterday.

Mr. Moffatt: At least he is not beside himself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He appears to have taken the view that he's been trapped by events and is a victim of some obscure Liberal plot.

Mr. Lewis: We invited events, my friend. We are not trapped by them. I'm quite happy with them.

Mr. Warner: Are you talking down?

Mr. MacDonald: It is that group down there that is upset.

Mr. Lewis: We moved the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is no question but that that amendment threatens the stability of this Parliament. So he thinks he will shift part of the blame that the fat may now be in the fire, as would the leader of the Liberal Party yesterday. But his cavalier action indicates he simply cannot. His amendment, and I say this to the leader of the Liberal Party, is as profound as his party's 1975 election platform. It really is profound. I don't know who drafted it for him, whether it was the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) or who did it.

Mr. Good: You lost the 23 seats, we didn't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: For example, he would force an election on the people because some would say they would have hospitals stay open—and who would not—and would say that this government is insensitive. He would say that municipalities and school boards who are being asked to share with Ontario the job of cutting priorities and protecting our economic future—

Mr. Nixon: Carry the load.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly they are.

Mr. Cassidy: You are passing the buck.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I've got some news for you—I think the municipalities and the school boards are going to be able to do it, in spite of the observations you people across from us make.

Mr. Singer: Not much longer. That's your fault.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Ceilings on growth in social services are being provided to ensure that this province can always afford the social services it needs for its people. This appears to be, in his mind, a cause for an election and the Liberal leader appears to have decided to use these levers of obstruction and instability. The Liberal leader apologized for any comments he made—

[3:45]

Mr. Singer: Anyone who disagrees with you obstructs or is unstable.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —which were misinterpreted with respect to Marx and the NDP. I thought that was a great observation.

Mr. Singer: The Liberal leader expressed it before.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As well he should have. The Leader of the Opposition wondered why Adam Smith or Sun Yat-sen were not cited as philosophical antecedents for certain forms of Ontario political thoughts. I have to say that Marx, Sun Yat-sen and Adam Smith are far too thoughtful ancients for the Liberal Party in Ontario and its new leader to relate to. Far too ancient.

Mr. Peterson: For you, include King Farouk.

Mr. Lewis: I also said Henry VIII.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am usually a charitable person. I really am.

Mr. Peterson: Come on; let's hear some desk thumping.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If it had been the Liberal leader's maiden speech, if this was going to continue, I might not make some of these observations but I have to.

Mr. Nixon: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a very serious matter and we are taking it seriously. Yesterday's nonchalant speech—it is the only way I can describe it—the negativism in it and the almost—

Mr. Lewis: Studied.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —casually drafted innocuous motion—I used to play a little football—they are reminiscent of the halfback who has suffered one too many tackles—

Mr. Shore: What position did you play?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and sort of seems incapable of understanding the play, let alone carrying the ball.

Mr. Riddell: You were a lot better last fall.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I believe that this Legislature has the right to know precisely—

Mr. Gaunt: Are you an Argo fan?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I used to play a little. This Legislature has the right to know precisely what initiatives and measures the suc-

cess of a non-confidence motion on April 5 will affect? Let us look at what a defeat on the Throne Speech would affect:

The steady progression toward consolidation of financial resources and the services which these resources provide—

Mr. Cassidy: What on earth does that mean?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —in the protection of the ultimate interests of the citizens of this province is something my friends are prepared to unite against.

Mr. Singer: Another \$2 billion deficit? Or maybe \$2.5 billion?

Mr. Lewis: What does that mean?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The continued reduction of government spending at all levels is something the Liberals and New Democrats appear to be uniting against.

Mr. MacDonald: Your budget will be bigger this year.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The maintenance of a healthy climate for the growth of the private sector and the generation of greater wealth for all our citizens is what the Liberals and the New Democrats are prepared to unite against.

Mr. Lewis: You make it sound like the anti-Christ.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That, my friends, is only part of the story. A programme by the Ministry of Labour to reduce labour unrest in this province through greater analysis and study and initiatives. This, too, my Liberal friends and NDP friends appear to be uniting against.

Mr. Singer: The teachers will certainly attest to that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The return to the taxpayer—the Metro members should think of this one—of unused funds due to the strikes of employees of school boards. My friends are prepared to bring this House down so that the taxpayers in Metro will not get relief from this legislation. They are opposing it. Sure they are.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They are prepared to deprive the farmers of an income stabilization programme. That, too, they are prepared to unite against. Oh, yes, they are.

Mr. Cassidy: You have no credibility at all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They might as well know discredit is their name.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, they are quite obviously against the home warranty programme as well. How are they going to explain that on the hustings to all the new home-buyers? They are opposed to it. They don't want to see it go through.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I'd be willing to pay for this performance.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Despite yesterday's motion and the posturing by the opposition members of this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, do you know what they haven't done? They haven't told the people of Ontario what they stand for.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, we have. We'll tell them more in the campaign.

Mr. Sweeney: The Premier didn't even keep his election promises.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They sure know what they stand against.

Mr. Lewis: We have told them chapter and verse.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Obviously, my friends opposite don't want to hear the development goals which the Throne Speech clearly indicated this Legislature was going to be asked to consider and support.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Clearly, they would wish this province with no goals, no development strategy and no capacity to protect its future.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, of course this would not be too surprising for those who have watched the vacillation and contradiction of the Liberal leader, on this issue, for example, since his recent election to that post. Let me offer one example in a kindly fashion to him. In my good friend's speech at the convention—I watched a portion of it—

Mr. Nixon: Excellent.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —which chose him as leader. I thought the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) made a very good speech.

Mr. Nixon: Excellent—very good.

Mr. Moffatt: Tomorrow starts Monday.

An hon. member: Chose the wrong guy again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He lamented the disappearance of farm land. He underlined the need to do something about it and then—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —later on in that same speech. You see, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is wrong in believing the leader of the Liberal Party vacillates between lunch and dinner. He can move more quickly than that. It can be in the same speech. Later on in that same speech, he called for the dismantling of those levels of government and for the limiting of this province's very real capacity to exercise any influence, to slow down the paving or the asphalt, or the reduction or the over-development of farm land. He raises the issues and then some of the vehicles that we can use to come to grips with the problems—and he then suggests in the same speech that they should be totally eliminated. Mr. Speaker, he gladly offers an umbrella when the sun shines but wants it taken away when it rains.

Mr. Speaker: I would be delighted and I will be looking forward to debating his approach to this issue in this House and perhaps across Ontario, if need be. I say to the member from the Soo—

Mr. Sargent: Why are you running scared?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —I might even ask him to join me in Sault Ste. Marie, if he isn't too frightened to go back there.

An hon. member: You mean he is prepared to go into the north again?

Mr. Nixon: I hear your member there is in trouble.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't put Sault Ste. Marie on his itinerary; not on his itinerary.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They don't like it there.

An hon. member: You don't want to go north.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But there are development goals; and these are some of the elements, along with greater assistance to the mining industry, that my friends opposite are clearly against. I am not surprised. They are consistent. The NDP has taken its stand against

assisting the mining industry—the party of nationalizing potash; the party of nationalizing the resource industries—

Mr. Renwick: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If they can't nationalize them, they tax them out of business—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The pulp and paper industry—I can recall the member for Welland (Mr. Swart) asking when we were going to nationalize it. I didn't even mention it when I was in his riding the other night. Temptation was great, but I behaved myself. I didn't mention it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: At least, Mr. Speaker, they are being consistent. They still believe in nationalization of the basic industries in the Province of Ontario. But what I am disappointed in, Mr. Speaker, is the Liberal Party. By taking the same stand on this vote, they will be voting against the Throne Speech—and they are saying some pretty basic things about their commitment to free enterprise in the north and throughout Ontario.

I say to the member for London North (Mr. Shore), who professes to be a great free enterpriser, along with the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson)—well, he's the most. Does he want to know what he is doing? That is the most. He can construe that any way he wants. Does he want to know what he is doing? In supporting that amendment he is voting against the expressed direction that this government wishes to take in assisting the development of the mining industry within the free enterprise system of the province. And they are going to have to take the consequences. We are not going to let them forget about it.

An hon. member: It will be hard to get out of.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You are as red as they are. You are red over there.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you know, Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Join together!

Hon. Mr. Davis: I've got to say this, it's not red tape; no question.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's right.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, any leader who is capable of calling the reduction of welfare costs with respect to able-bodied people, pandering to some right-wing sentiments, I think, is—

Mr. Lewis: That's not what he said when it was announced. When it was announced he congratulated you. It became right-wing after.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly he did. I just find it totally amazing. I think he used the term "red neck sentiment"; anybody who expresses that, I think, is capable of expressing anything.

Mr. Lewis: That's true. He is in the Liberal tradition.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I make this promise to the House: To no longer express surprise at the meanderings of a party which lacks any philosophy, which understands very few urban and critical issues and offers no direction for the people of this province. I express no surprise any more. Yesterday's exhibition was a clear example of the nonchalant and casual way they would choose to deal with Ontario's vital interests.

Mr. Lewis: Kind of "Trudeauesque," you might say. Come on, he's their Prime Minister; let them come with us.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Bill Stewart is out phoning the judges.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Well, they're not in Chatham, I'll tell you that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is more that could be said, of a partisan nature, but I'm going to resist. I'm going to add only one final thought to this part of my observations—

Mr. Singer: How are you going to vote?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Anyone who believes that yesterday was a total accident and that one of my colleagues opposite found himself unwillingly trapped in some chain of events, is naive and simply mistaken. Ontario is faced with an effort to force an unnecessary election on the people of this province by two opposition parties jockeying for position. Insofar as the government I lead is concerned, I offer to this Legislature and to the people of this province one fundamental pledge: We

will continue to govern, to lay before the people and the Legislature the elements of our programmes.

Mr. MacDonald: Including your budget?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If you allow us.

An hon. member: Bring it in tomorrow.

Mr. Cassidy: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We will continue with our legislative plans and programmes. We will not alter the ongoing commitment to govern this province which was sought in the last election campaign. The Progressive Conservative government of Ontario shall continue to govern until it is defeated by the opposition in this Legislature. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Singer: It won't be long.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The people shall continue to be served and we're not going to move precipitously with respect to a campaign until there is a combined no-confidence vote, such as the one that apparently is scheduled to transpire on April 5. When the opposition parties decide they will force an election, there will be an election in this province. Until that time, the people of this province have the right to know that government continues to serve and problems continue to be dealt with. The initial goals of this government—

Mr. Nixon: That's what you're being paid for.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, ask one of your members; we're going to try and deal with one this afternoon. I'll see you there in about an hour.

Mr. Warner: It is 4 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was going to try to be done by 4 o'clock but we were pretty tolerant on Monday last. We were pretty tolerant.

An hon. member: We don't mind; carry on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The initial goals of this government, established in the Throne Speeches last fall and this spring with respect to guiding Ontario through—let's not kid one another—tough economic times which are international in scope, will continue to dominate government policies; the continued commitment to underline the need for an affordable society in all government actions will continue to dominate government spending and activity. Our continued participation in

the national programme to fight inflation will also persist, you might as well know it.

[4:00]

The security and freedom of the individual from oversized government, economic breakdown at the institutional and personal level from inequity and disadvantage—these remain the guiding principles and directions of this government.

A firm position with respect to Ontario's interest within Confederation and Canada, with respect to energy, with respect to trade, and with respect to tax sharing—these will also continue to determine our posture as part of this country.

A firm position with the public sector with respect to strikes and withdrawal of services will typify the discipline that we seek to provide as an example.

Encouragement for moderate growth across this province in the interests of the economic viability of all regions will dominate our government's overall strategies and attitudes.

A belief in the need for government to provide greater safety for the consumer, for the motorist, through more effective safety regulations, continues to typify this government's concern with respect to the personal well-being of the citizens of this province. If the opposition parties persist, and if we are unable to effect the improved changes in the administration of justice, the rights of people, the blind or the homeowner with a meaningful warranty, if this is their decision—

Mr. Singer: Start by giving the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) more money.

Mr. Lewis: You have had 30 years to do that.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —this will not prevent us from continuing to fight for these things with every means at our disposal.

Mr. Lewis: You are going to have to.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, it may very well be that things have been set in motion here that preclude this government from continuing to govern. That is something ultimately for my friends across the House to determine. You know there was—

Mr. Lewis: Have faith in the public.

Mr. Renwick: They will decide.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh no, let's not kid one another.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people will be making this determination.

Mr. Lewis: Have faith in your great public.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There was a belief, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: They don't want to know. They don't want an election.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that a minority Legislature could have worked in this province; I think there was a belief.

Mr. Lewis: Not the way you have behaved.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think there was a belief that political parties would be responsible enough to give it a chance to work—

Mr. Lewis: You don't even have a Legislature.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: We gave it a chance.

Mr. Cassidy: We made it work.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and obviously, Mr. Speaker, on April 5—

Hon. Mr. Wells: They want you to work here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —it will be the date for broad public judgements of the sincerity of that effort.

Mr. Martel: Balls.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That was the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: A great contribution, Elie. A great contribution.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You just get down to work here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are a great contribution.

Mr. Lewis: Come on, that is political patois around here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As Premier, Mr. Speaker, and as leader of our party, I know that there is nothing in the present obstructed state of affairs that is the doing of our government. And I can live with my conscience, knowing that we have given minority government, and are still prepared to give it, our very best. And we will be encouraged by one thought, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and I just want you to listen to this because I think this may be relevant.

Mr. Sargent: Get off your knees. Quit begging!

Hon. Mr. Davis: We will be encouraged by one thought as we face the difficult days ahead in trying to preserve stability in government for this province—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Come on now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and quality in governmental activity on behalf of its people.

Mr. Lewis: By repeating it, it doesn't happen, my friend.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is no battle of ideology that burdens this Legislature.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, yes there is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is no battle over ideas or principles. Who is kidding one another?

Mr. Lewis: Not at all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This is a battle purely and simply over responsibility—those who possess it and those who do not. And you know what category you are in. There is a battle over those who would provide monolithic government and insensitive bureaucracy, massive tax-gobbling programmes as answers to all of the problems, even those outside the purview of government—

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: That is your record. That is what you've been doing for the last five years.

Mr. Lewis: That is what people think of you now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and those who are trying to hold the line and provide greater economic security and stability for Ontario and enhancing the real freedom, in an economic sense, of our citizens.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you know, in playing a game with our system, and that commenced again yesterday, neither on the left nor on the right, was there a statement of conviction or principle in the total address made yesterday, but purely a whim. It's a party that showed more clearly than ever before that it is a branch plant of a national party with no direction, no dependability and no policy, none whatsoever.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a party not only incapable of governing but clearly not even competent in opposition.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: You must be in worse shape than we thought.

Mr. Lewis: He shouldn't be allowed to.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If we are forced into this unnecessary election, it will be time for the people of Ontario not only to consider the economic choices that are critical to their future but the political choices that would gravely threaten their future. There is one party that is prepared to seek a means of protecting this future, its long-term interest and the freedom of self-respect of its people and do so in this Legislature.

Mr. Lewis: You are more self-righteous than we are.

Mr. Shore: You sound like the Leader of the Opposition more and more.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a pleasure for me, Mr. Speaker, in speaking in support of that very excellent address delivered by Her Honour, to lead that party in serving the people of Ontario at a most critical time in our province's history. We are a party and a government—

Mr. Lewis: Good grief!

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that sees an Ontario where self-respect, economic security and

social stability are the heritage and birthright of all, an Ontario where health care, social service and good government are given within a context that is ever-broadening and ever-changing—

Mr. Warner: Look at all the debt.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —an Ontario where the rural life is a life of quality and satisfaction, a reward and satisfaction—

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: No jobs too.

Mr. Eaton: You know a lot about rural Ontario. It's pretty obvious over there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eaton: And what are you over there?

An hon. member: Take you out of your hundred acre farm.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —an Ontario where government knows its place and where the average citizen can aspire—

Mr. McNeil: Old MacDonald had a farm.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —to any level of success and achievement, an Ontario undeterred by temporary international economic difficulties and one that is strengthened by our resolve as a society to preserve a bright future for all by making the choices that must be made now.

Mr. Lewis: This is as close to a soap opera as you have come. Good grief, get another speech writer, for heaven's sake.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't have eight researchers.

Mr. Cassidy: Just one lyricist.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is my obligation to urge all members across the House, in spite of those amendments, to support the Speech from the Throne and to reject the amendments offered.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is a privilege for me to reflect the broad scope of public opinion in this province and urge my fellow members of this House on all sides to support the vote when it takes place on April 5.

Mr. Lewis: That was a most enjoyable speech. Tamer than I expected.

Mr. Renwick moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Clerk of the House: The 22nd order, House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, before moving to the first vote, 2602, I would like to point out that in these supplementary estimates this ministry is seeking nearly 36 million additional dollars to the 1975-1976 estimates of \$855,064,000.

Just over \$27 million or three-quarters of that increase is required in support of our income-maintenance programme. The remainder is for the support of our social and institutional services programmes; some \$7 million additional for services to children; and \$1.3 million additional services for adults.

The additional funds requested in the income-maintenance area are largely to cover increases in benefits to recipients affected since the 1975-1976 estimates. An additional \$4.8 million is required to cover the budgets of the Children's Aid Societies—which, after lengthy discussions, were approved at higher levels than were allowed for in the estimates.

The extra \$2.3 million required in day nursery operating funds is due to a greater number of children being subsidized at a higher than anticipated cost. A further \$1.3 million is necessary for homes for the aged, due to higher per diem costs.

I'll ask that we consider vote 2602, item 1.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, because of the seriousness with which our party views the events that have been taking place, the actions of this ministry during the recess between sessions, I want to perhaps spend a little bit longer than one normally does on the overview.

Let me begin with the overall reduction in expenditures—the level of the restraint programme for this particular ministry, which has been set at eight per cent.

Let me remind the House, Mr. Chairman, that on Dec. 11 the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) said to the Legislature, and I quote: "Welfare spending will be held to the rate of inflation, plus projected growth in caseloads." In fact, while other ministries

have been held to a level of 10 per cent, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has been held to an overall level of eight per cent. In fact, for the majority of social service programming, and for a substantial part of income maintenance programming, the actual level of increase over 1975 is 5.5 per cent.

The explanation offered is that prior capital commitments by this ministry necessitate the lowering of service and income maintenance and transfer payments to 5.5 per cent in order to achieve an eight per cent overall. I really have to question that rationale; these capital commitments. I really seriously wonder, Mr. Chairman, how much of that is, in fact, new money and how much of that money for capital construction is, in fact, recycled from old Tory budgets. I suspect a major portion of the \$18 million committed to capital construction next year is, in fact, recycled from previous budgets. What you are doing is promising the same thing each year—year after year—with the same money, and never do you get around to doing what you said you would do in the budget.

[4:15]

In fact, your budget resembles nothing so much as your campaign promises. You promised in campaigns to do this and do that and you promised in your budgets to do this and to do that and you do nothing. For example, in day care you are spending next year \$6 million in day care capital. The fact is this \$6 million comes out of moneys allocated in 1972—\$10 million then—and moneys allocated in 1974—\$15 million then. You still haven't spent it. It has been in three budgets and it will be carried over to four.

I would ask if I can conclude my remarks; the minister may want to respond but I would like to proceed because of the length of my remarks. Could I just move through and then perhaps the minister could respond? Is that acceptable?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say that my friend, the member for Bellwoods is really dealing with the projections for the next budget rather than the current supplementary estimates. When he talks in terms of the additional allotment in the next fiscal year in terms of the eight per cent and how that reflects in terms of the 5½ per cent and the reasons for that, I feel it is more relevant to next year's estimates than the supplementary estimates we are considering today.

I would be delighted, if the Chair wishes, to get into the explanation of the additional moneys my ministry will have in terms of the various social services and the agencies for next year but I hardly think it is relevant in light of the matters for determination today.

Mr. Lewis: I would like to speak to the point of order. If that position were to obtain, the entire pattern of the debate that surrounded the Health estimates should have been ruled out of order. As a matter of fact, we spent the Health estimates discussing hospital closings for which not a penny was budgeted in the supplementary estimates.

The reality is that particularly the lead-offs for an estimate—supplementary estimates or major estimates—are always seen as vehicles for major statements which flow naturally from them. I think that that is perfectly consistent with the kind of thing which this Legislature has permitted.

Mr. Chairman: It has been traditional, from my observations, that when you bring in a set of estimates the two lead-offs and the minister in his opening remarks can sort of given an overview, having regard for income maintenance, services to children, services to adults. After that is completed you go into an item-by-item consideration of the money to be spent, at which time those speaking can address themselves to those particular items. Unless I get some other direction from the committee, that's how we will continue.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, at your pleasure, I am not objecting to what my friend says; if the Chair rules that it is appropriate and in order, of course, by all means. If you wish, and if my friend has made his overview or general remarks, I would be prepared to respond to them. If he wishes to continue, of course, I will defer until he finishes his remarks.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to caution the member for Bellwoods that we don't want a full-flowing debate as though we were dealing with a whole—

Mr. Lewis: You would never get a debate with that minister.

Mr. Chairman: It has been the practice in the past to allow the lead-off speakers of the two opposition parties an overview in keeping with the amount of money and the nature of the expenditure. The minister will have an opportunity to reply.

When we get into an item-by-item consideration of the money being expended, you will have to address yourself to that specific item. Is that agreed?

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, there is no quorum.

Mr. Chairman ordered that the bells be rung for four minutes.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Bellwoods may continue, having regard for our understanding earlier.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to continue by looking at the reality of the minister's assertion that it has been necessary to restrain social service expenditures more severely than the restraints imposed on other ministries because of the growth in his ministry over the last five-year period. While it's true there has been growth, it has not been that substantial in relation to gross provincial product or in relation to gross provincial expenditures. A good chunk of your impressive annual growth rate can be accounted for by the transfer of the mental retardation services from the Ministry of Health to your ministry.

I want to point out to the House that our research team, which causes our opposition so much teeth-gnashing, has prepared some interesting material. Using the Statistics Canada definition of social welfare expenditure, which includes items such as workmen's compensation and tax credits as well as income maintenance and child welfare, the five-year average expended as a percentage of total expenditures was computed by us for the 10 provinces. Do you know what place Ontario is in, Mr. Minister? You might guess; I doubt that you would. It's in eighth place, behind New Brunswick, behind Prince Edward Island, behind Newfoundland—

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Look at the unemployment they have there. Of course their expenditures are higher. How ridiculous!

Mr. McClellan: The minister had asserted that it was his tremendous growth rate that was the basis for more severe restraints.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Just look at the other factors.

Mr. Foulds: You keep managing the economy your way and we will have employment rates that high.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Foulds: You heard me.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, I didn't. It is probably just as well, it probably was totally irrelevant.

Mr. McClellan: The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that community and social service expenditures, as a percentage of the total provincial budget, have remained reasonably constant over the past five-year period and I suspect any increase that has taken place is accounted for, again by the addition of the large mental retardation services expenditures from health to your ministry.

I want to deal as well with the problem of the restraints imposed on capital projects for 1976-1977. I raise this now because there is a shortage of funds for capital projects in this province. Planning for future needs in both the field of day care and the field of senior citizen housing will be placed in a state of limbo by the refusal of this minister to place additional new moneys into capital works for the coming year. There are already 1,400 people on the waiting list for senior citizen housing in Metropolitan Toronto.

Day care in this province is, contrary to the minister's assertion, not adequate. It is not adequate simply in terms of the number of women with children of school and pre-school age who are currently in the labour force. The minister knows that and yet there is going to be no new money. There will be old money spent this year but there is no new money in his capital budget proposals.

The fact is that what we see is a minister who shows monumental incompetence in planning and developing essential facilities to meet present needs and has a chronic inability to translate the money budgeted into brick and mortar day care centres, into brick and mortar houses for senior citizens. Because of this ministry's own incompetence we will have what amounts to a catch-up year in 1976-1977 while the ministry scrambles to deal with the log jam and backlog of capital projects that are already on the board for which commitments have already been made. We will have a year's inactivity in 1976-1977.

What this does to the planning for future needs of this province is rather frightening to contemplate. It means, I suspect, a gap of a year in even conceptualizing and planning for future needs and so the shortages will be with us not just this year but along the pipe in years to come.

I want to comment with some emphasis on what can only be called this minister's welfare-bashing proposals. There is a qualitative difference between the restraints proposed by

the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the restraints proposed by the Minister of Community and Social Services. At least with the Minister of Health there has been presented a clear rationale, with which we can and have disagreed; but at least a version of reality was presented to us, with documentation which we were then in a position to dispute. Evidence was made available to us with which we could disagree and it then became appropriately placed in the arena of political decision.

[4:30]

This minister has not produced one shred of evidence to detail the necessities of his major changes in the welfare and social service structures of this province. This minister does not appear to deal in the domain of rational thought.

He has been engaged over the last three months in what he calls a dialogue with the social service sector of Ontario. He has met with over 2,000 people, but it is clear that the minister is playing out some murky psychological drama of his own rather than engaging in dialogue.

Let me recount to you the meeting between the social agencies and the minister in Ottawa.

The director of the Children's Aid Society told the minister that budget cuts could mean losing homes now housing 36 emotionally disturbed children. The director of Victorian Order of Nurses said that budget cuts represent 1,500 home visits the nursing service will not be able to provide in 1976. What did the minister reply by way of dialogue and listening? "I am not suggesting that everyone is going to volunteer their services", said Mr. Taylor, recalling that when he was a child his mother followed the neighbourly tradition of delivering soup and doing a little dusting for sick friends.

When presented with the clear and straightforward statement of the consequences of his actions this minister engages in huff-puffery and preposterous nonsequiturs. That has been the pattern of his behaviour since the restraint programme was first announced and it continues to characterize his actions to this day.

I ask again, as my leader asked, where is the evidence of welfare chiselling in Ontario? He told us to talk to the welfare administrators. We did so and they all told us the same thing. In Metro, a person who refuses a job, presumably with good reason, is given a second chance and then the case goes to the board of review. If the refusal is blatant they are cut off the first time;

there are about three or four cases per month out of current caseload of approximately 22,000. "We can't do much tightening up unless we find jobs"; and there aren't that many jobs going.

The Ottawa-Carleton social service administration says if a person refuses a job the welfare office will try to sort out the reason and if it's a lack of boots or hard hats, will try to supply them. People given a second chance for short-term assistance are then pointed toward a job. If they don't accept it, they are cut off. In Ottawa-Carleton the labour market is dry. "It's surprising how many people want work, not welfare."

In Hamilton, one refusal without good reason and you are cut off by the social service officials in that jurisdiction. In January, 1976, Hamilton refused or cut off assistance to about 100 cases of a total caseload of 2,100 employable people on welfare. This is the highest figure mentioned to us. They said they can do very little tightening up over and above what they have been doing all along.

In London people are cut off if they refuse one reasonable job.

In St. Catharines, no second chance is given if a job is refused without good reason. In the case of married men they go on to say there is no point in cutting people off if the family then starves; if the father deserts them the wife and kids become the recipients; or if the father turns to crime. They said very few turned down jobs without cause and they said, "We wouldn't even want to estimate what part of a per cent."

The story is consistent across Ontario. The fact is, the problem is one of jobs. There is no evidence that major changes in the welfare legislation are required to prevent the abuse suggested by the minister. There is no evidence of abuse.

The minister has said that there are teenagers on welfare—I assume in great numbers. Let me tell you what the commissioner of welfare in Metropolitan Toronto had to say about that in the Toronto Star, Feb. 18. Mr. Tomlinson said "there are about 500 Metro teenagers now in this category"—that is to say, on general assistance. Then he went on to say he did not think they should be cut off. "We screen them carefully." They will only give them welfare if the choice is between welfare and dropping out of school.

If there is abuse of the welfare system, it must be ended. But the burden of proof is on the minister before he launches a major attack on welfare recipients in this

province; and before he proposes major changes in the legislation in this province.

As for the proposal itself, to the extent that one is able to understand what this most incoherent of ministers is talking about, let us deal with his proposal for "a day in the scrap yards," as he described it in the Globe and Mail on March 10. It seems to be a proposal to require welfare recipients to take temporary, seasonal and irregular jobs, or be cut off. It might well be described as a "day in the scrap yards."

In the highest Tory tradition of libertarian concern, this denial of assistance will apply equally to women as to men; and not just to women, but to women with children. Children of what age, you may ask, Mr. Chairman? Again, in the Globe and Mail, he said, "older than two but younger than 12."

"No, no," said the Premier the next day in the Star, "he couldn't have meant that." So later the minister revises his suggestion and says he meant mothers with dependent teenagers. Well, Mr. Chairman, either he means mothers with little tots, or he means to force teenagers to drop out of school. Let us just put it on the record in the context of that same distasteful announcement; it has to be one of the most insulting slurs on women ever uttered by a minister in this province. He said in the Globe and Mail on March 10 that his ministry is promoting work activity programmes to encourage mothers whose children have gone off to school to "get up, to get dressed and be somewhere at a certain time." Apart from the sheer burlesque quality of this minister's announcement, in his brave new egalitarian world, there are some more sober considerations.

How will it work, this "day in the scrap yards"? The general welfare assistance tax-back rates are already 100 per cent. That means if you go to work you get cut off. Would you cut a man off for the sake of two days work in the scrap yards? Will you recalculate his allowance entitlement for each part-time work period? Is that kind of increase in red tape part of your savings programme?

What will you do if a woman, a mother, refuses your offer of a day in the scrap yards? Will you cut her off and let her children starve? Will you take her children into public custody? Are you really prepared to force teenagers to drop out of school for a day in the scrap yards?

Somebody was muttering about the NDP and welfare. Let me quote from an article

by Ronald Anderson in the business section of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, normally not a hot bed of socialist thought.

Mr. Mackenzie: As long as it is not too complicated.

Mr. McClellan: Well, I can't make the guarantee that it is not too complicated for the minister. I want to read it because we agree with it. **Mr. Anderson** said:

It is entirely reasonable to expect all those who are able to work to support themselves and their dependents when work is available to them. But to demand that they take the first job offered is too arbitrary. It eliminates freedom of choice for the individual and potentially places employers in a position to exploit unskilled workers who will be forced by the government to take any job, however dirty, dangerous or physically exhausting it may be.

If the government insists on maintaining the work or starve ethic, it could at least allow some degree of freedom of choice. Benefits could be cut off, for example, if welfare recipients refused the first two or three jobs offered by Canada Manpower. That in fact, of course, is the current policy throughout the province. Any able-bodied person who simply refuses to work out of sheer laziness deserves little sympathy, although his wife and children may. [And of course we agree with that.]

The Ontario government intends to apply the new rules to both men and women, even mothers of small children. This is surely one of the most distasteful measures proposed by any government in Canada for many years.

The long and short of it is that the minister's proposal is simply a hoax. The problem in this province is not welfare abuse. The problem is jobs and the issue is jobs. The failure of your government is its failure to create jobs; and the failure of your ministry is its failure to help people on welfare return to productive employment, because you've always run the welfare department as a pay wicket, as a money shop rather than as a rehabilitation service.

There's always been an absence of any serious commitment to job counselling, job training, job placement, job readiness or job creation. You pay lip-service to work and to the work ethic, but in fact you are the real destroyers of the work ethic in Ontario, with your money-shop welfare system, now with a few welfare-bashing additions, and with your positive enthusiasm for a fiscal

attack on Ontario's debt crisis which raises the level of unemployment.

You really prefer unemployment and swollen welfare rolls to tackling the hard business of making jobs and the hard business of facilitating re-entry into the work force and into productive employment. You prefer swollen welfare rolls to the creative use of public sector employment for the disadvantaged. You prefer to run the welfare office as a pay wicket instead of running a welfare office with a focus on rehabilitation.

Your office lacks, in fact, the basic data to plan a re-employment strategy. When we began to compile our statistical material, we found to our amazement that all you have is raw numbers of welfare recipients. You have no data at all on educational training levels, on work skills, on work records, on work experience. Without that data, it is utterly impossible to develop serious programmes to facilitate re-entry into the work force. Even the data you have are utterly ludicrous. The March registration shows 565 employables on general welfare assistance because of their inability to find employment. It also shows 79 employables who suffer permanent ill health.

If you really believe in work instead of welfare, you would not be forcing cutbacks in work activity projects. Our leader yesterday demonstrated, and I believe he gave a cost-benefit example of, work activity; and yet your Jan. 28 policy of restraint announced: "No new work activity projects can be approved. Current projects will be held to a 5½ per cent increase. Renewals will be scrutinized for efficiency and effectiveness."

In Toronto that has meant the work activity programme of Metropolitan Toronto—which I believe our leader used as his cost-benefit illustration—that excellent project will be cut back in the amount of \$50,000.

In Thunder Bay—I'm going to read this because this is interesting; this is from a report of the commissioner of social services in Thunder Bay to his council:

One of the most critical areas of cutbacks is that of the work activity programme in which it appears that we could suffer because of the very deliberate process on our part to ensure that the project was researched and planned properly before being initiated. We were recently visited by the top federal authority on work activity, who made the statement in which he said he felt this project was the best-planned programme in the whole of Canada. But now it is endangered because we did not, like many other centres, jump into a project

without doing a great deal of detailed planning beforehand.

[4:45]

Wonderful. The YWCA in Metropolitan Toronto has a programme called "Focuses on Change" which appears to help women develop job readiness skills and move into job training preparatory to employment. We have a cost-benefit analysis of that particular project that shows that .5 family benefit recipients a year moving successfully through the programme are sufficient to recover the entire costs of the programme and yet they have difficulty in getting serious and stable funding from your ministry.

Vocational rehab services has been cut back. You won't allow us to use the word "cutback" but when we have double-digit inflation and you allow 5.5 per cent increases, that is a cutback. Vocational rehab was cut back in your statement of Jan. 28.

The Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) indicated, in an answer to a question, that you were prepared to move into community employment strategy but it is my understanding—I hope I'm wrong—that not a single area in Ontario has been designated as a community employment strategy area. I don't think I am wrong. I don't think you have the slightest commitment to create a public sector employment or to community employment strategies in general. Frankly I think you prefer high unemployment.

A project called the human services community, funded by your ministry for three years, which proved through its own effective programme that it was possible to move people on welfare back into productive employment, is now being allowed to die now that its three-year pilot programme grant has expired.

The real problem is that you've always used labour as a factor of production to be used, dropped or discarded. You don't have the slightest concept of labour as a human resource that has to be planned for and developed and this is implicit again in what you're proposing now. I might remind you of your own commissioned report, the Swadron report, I believe in 1971. It reminded you again that:

The hard facts are, however, that most of our manpower policies and programmes are aimed at those most likely to succeed. Little action has been taken to serve the needs of the more difficult to help. Our preoccupation has been with meeting the needs of industry in a truly economic sense. Industry, at least in Canada it seems, has not responded to the needs of the disadvantaged.

More enlightened economic planning and employment industrial development policies, whether manpower and employment forecasting or closer integration of our educational training systems to meet future manpower requirements, are essential but they are not enough.

Without specific programmes to fulfil the needs of those who cannot otherwise compete, we shall continue to have a growing minority of disadvantaged persons alienated from the rest of society in thought and in action, unable to enjoy its benefits, relying on the indignity of handouts and becoming increasingly contemptuous and hostile towards a system which rejects their humanity and is oblivious to their fate.

In December, 1974, your Ministry of Labour completed a study as follows:

The most pressing need is for improvements in the way we develop and utilize Ontario's human resources, particularly those of youth, women, and minorities. Both employers and the education and training systems must be guided by longer-term considerations in their planning for manpower development. We must do a lot better job of facilitating entry into satisfactory employment for youth, women and minorities.

Facilitating entry into employment does not mean kicking people who are already down. It just doesn't mean that.

Mr. Warner: He doesn't care.

Mr. McClellan: For the one-third of general welfare assistance recipients, some 22,000 people, who are on welfare because of their inability to obtain employment—because they can't get jobs—what's needed is a serious commitment to job creation through a manpower policy which focuses on a full utilization of our human resources in an array of programmes to facilitate re-entry into the labour force. Of the two-thirds of social assistance recipients who are there by virtue of long-term need, for whom it is impossible to return to work and for whom you now provide a form of guaranteed annual poverty, what is simply demanded is justice.

Because of the shortage of time, I am going to shorten my remarks on income security and the minister's disastrous welfare policies, and have a look at an even more serious area—in many respects—than that of social services.

As in the field of social assistance, the provision of social services in this province takes place within an almost complete policy

vacuum. The management and administrative processes and procedures are hopelessly old-fashioned and inadequate.

I think our leader said you probably know more about roads than you know about the people on your social assistance rolls and I think that's true. I shudder to think what would happen if you ran the Ministry of Transportation and Communications the way you run your own ministry. I suspect we would have bridges adjacent to roadways in farmers' fields and paved shoulders and gravel median lines.

Social services in this province are characterized by almost total fragmentation; duplication—duplication within the context of critical gaps; monumental difficulty of access and confusion around entitlements for clients; income maintenance workers provide counselling; counselling agencies provide financial support. A morass is competing—centralized funding authority makes the orderly planning and development of services for human need almost impossible.

Mr. Warner: You are offering it only because you have to, not because you want to.

Mr. McClellan: I suspect that one of the reasons you have got yourself into such an incredible mess with the Children's Aid Societies is the inadequacy of your management systems. You simply don't know, despite having a \$1 billion budget, what it is you are buying or what it is you are paying for. You are still not on a uniform system of programmed budgeting across this province.

The effect of your restraint programme is to delay further the introduction of programmed budgeting to the Children's Aid Societies. You can't tell me what your unit costs are. You can't tell me, with the kind of specific detail that, for instance, the Ministry of Health is able to provide, what your dollars are going toward—when you make cuts, your cuts are as random as your expenditures.

You don't know what you are cutting. We will tell you what you are cutting. I gather you are starting to catch on but we will give you some more material.

The second really critical failure in your ministry, aside from its traditional management difficulties and, I suppose, the prior problem of just sheer indifference, is the absence of a coherent policy framework. For us, it would simply be prevention; for you, it remains as it always has over the last 10 to 15 years—an approach of crisis intervention, of Band-Aid patch-up once family breakdown has already occurred.

You still have not implemented the preventive clauses of the 1965 Child Welfare Act. You still have not provided sufficient funds for preventive services in this province. Your ministry still discourages the development of preventive social services in Ontario. I want to describe the social service crisis that this minister has created. It is a crisis of major proportion.

The Treasurer of Ontario, speaking in the Legislature, on Dec. 18, again on his restraint programme, said:

Despite the dire need for restraint by all sectors of the economy in these uncertain times we cannot expect disproportionately greater sacrifices from our elderly citizens. We must endeavour to shelter them to the best of our capacity from the rough and necessary justice of Canada's anti-inflation measures.

How you shelter them! You are bringing in restraints that require the cutback of staff in senior citizens' homes. For example in the Premier's own riding six staff in the Peel municipal homes have already been cut. You propose to confiscate comfort allowances; you cut action age grants.

You reduce the effective level of funding for elderly persons' centres, funding which is already inadequate, funding which already is complicated by a basic inadequacy of the legislation to provide funds for the kinds of services for senior citizens that are needed. Rate increases for seniors in institutions will be passed on to them. There is a freeze on capital construction of new senior citizens' homes. As I said before, 1,400 sit already on the waiting list for accommodation in Metropolitan Toronto. That is how you shelter the senior citizens of this province from the rough and ready justice of your restraint programme.

Family service associations are in an equally invidious situation. In Toronto there are four major family service associations which serve to provide counselling for families and individuals in this metropolitan area, Huntley Youth Services, Catholic Family Service Association, Family Services Association, Jewish Family and Child Service. These agencies are currently facing a total projected deficit of \$506,250. If this deficit is allowed to stand, then these agencies will have to cut 23 staff with the result that some 840 families a month will be denied service as well. They will have to close either Illahee Lodge, the camp for medically handicapped kids, or they will have to reduce the number of places at Bolton Camp from 2,250 to 1,800. They have appealed to your ministry for help, and to my knowledge no help has been forthcoming.

Within the context of the closing of hospitals and the elimination of bed space, one would expect a rational government to plan for the expansion of visiting homemaker services as one of the forms of alternate health care. That is a service whose funding is the responsibility of this ministry.

[5:00]

Let me read to you in some detail what is happening to the Visiting Homemakers Association here in Toronto. The president of the board writes:

During 1965 we provided 260,000 hours of homemaker service in 1,773 households, involving personal care to 1,258 elderly, handicapped and convalescent adults and 2,854 children, many of whom were physically and/or mentally retarded.

For the first time since the depression years of the 1930s, recruiting eased significantly in 1975 and we were able to increase our homemaker staff 18 per cent by year-end. Service in the fourth quarter was 16.7 per cent higher than in the last three months. Service is currently being provided at a level of 25,000 hours per month, compared with 21,000 in January, 1975.

They go on to say they anticipate a cutback of 20 per cent, which could completely wipe out the gains that they had managed to make in 1975. These are their projections of the effect of this projected 20 per cent cutback:

To the elderly or handicapped adult, a cut of 1,900 hours a month to at least 50 individuals and a reduction in service to an additional 20 or 30 homes.

I'm sorry, I should add that their estimate is that an additional 50 or 60 elderly people in 1976 who are refused service as a consequence of cutbacks, and who could have been socially maintained at home with part-time service, will be admitted to nursing homes or hospitals. What a marvellous restraint programme this is.

Families with dependent children: A 20 per cent cutback from present service levels is equivalent to 2,294 hours of service to 40 families each month. Even at present levels of service, we have to turn down 15 to 20 urgent applications each week during the peak period of mid-October through May.

The results of the cutbacks and denials of service: Increase admission of children to Children's Aid Society care; sole-support or breadwinner father losing time for work with lost income, and more critically, putting their jobs in jeopardy; postponing

needed medical care for mothers; delaying convalescence; impairing health of mothers. In some situations, lack of needed help or enough help will result in hospital re-admission, particularly to mental hospitals, and to the placement of children in care. There will be placement of severely handicapped children in institutions because some families cannot cope with the excessive care demands of such children without support and relief.

What you are doing is cutting precisely those programmes that serve to strengthen families, to prevent their breakdown, to prevent them coming into care at double or triple the cost, to prevent them from ending up in later years on the welfare roll or in mental institutions, or in jail—at double, triple or quadruple the cost. It's precisely the kind of programming that is being most severely hit by your mindless austerity programme; by your shifting of the burden of paying for service to municipalities and to the property tax in an election year. That's the consequence of what you're doing.

In the field of mental retardation, we're supposed to be in the midst of a massive programme to transfer care of the mentally retarded from institutions to a community-based care system. What is happening here is simply grotesque.

Instead of providing the promised community resource centres for the mentally retarded, the minister is using his massive amounts of federal assistance money to create a new set of smaller institutions around Ontario. Burwash penal institution is now called a residence for the mentally retarded. Northeastern Psychiatric Hospital is now called a community resource centre; as is Goderich Psychiatric Hospital.

The promised partnership between the ministry and the various district work groups and co-ordinating committees has been totally subverted by this ministry. Perhaps the most tragic irony of all is the 5.5 per cent ceilings on agencies and programmes means that none of the social agencies within the province have the resources to meet their new responsibilities to provide backup support to this new community-based care system. Not only can they not meet new and additional responsibility, they cannot even maintain the present level of service for the mentally retarded.

Let me turn now to what I am afraid is the most critical area, that of child welfare, and this will be the final section of my introductory remarks.

It is not unfair to say that this minister has brought this province to the verge of a child welfare catastrophe. Your intransigent stand—the minister smiles and chuckles; maybe the minister won't smile and chuckle—

Mr. Warner: He enjoys disasters.

Mr. McClellan: —when the consequences of his irresponsibility start to come home to roost. Your intransigent stand on the 5.5 per cent increased ceiling is simply beyond description. Ontario's largest Children's Aid Society, the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, I gather has finally been given a reprieve from the death sentence which you yourself issued to it, although we have not yet seen the details. This society accounts for 30 per cent of your ministry's budget. Its position is the most critical, but is by no means unique.

Fully one-half of the 50 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario cannot meet the 5.5 per cent ceiling, and I am going to list the ones that we have talked to that are in serious difficulty as a result of your restraint: Thunder Bay, Lambton county, Kingston, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Hamilton, Brant, Lanark, Niagara, Northumberland, Ottawa, Peel, Prescott-Russell, Porcupine, Rainy River, Renfrew, Simcoe, Stormont, Sudbury, Kirkland Lake, Kitchener-Waterloo, Wellington, Metropolitan Toronto CAS, Kenora, Kapuskasing. This ministry is in the process of utterly destroying the child welfare service that has grown up in Ontario over the last 50 years.

Mr. Warner: They had to threaten to resign in order to get some response.

Mr. McClellan: As my colleague has said, only the threat of resignation has appeared to bring this minister to his senses. I am not sure that it has.

The 5.5 per cent allowable increase over 1975 levels does not even appear to cover the rollover increase from 1975 ministry-approved budgets for a substantial number of societies, and I want to explain these rollover costs to the House.

Since 1968, the ministry has been requiring societies to delay and refrain from implementing budget changes, new programmes, until July of the current fiscal year. So as a result the actual budget for that past year has only enough funds for six months' operation of new programmes, and rollover is the extra six-month cost which has to be approved the following year to cover a full 12-month period.

The ministry, in 1975, approved society budgets at six-month levels which it knew could not be run on a 12-month basis at a 5.5 per cent increase. The ministry knew that so well before the 5.5 per cent ceiling was increased, and the degree of duplicity and perfidiousness of that kind of behaviour simply can't be tolerated in this province when we are dealing with the lives and welfare of the most disadvantaged and needy children in our society.

Mr. Warner: You don't care, that is the worst of it all.

Mr. McClellan: Let's look in some detail at the effects of this minister's handiwork. The Kapuskasing Children's Aid Society has responsibility for children living within a 100,000-square mile territory. Presently there are 13 social workers, five group home workers, and four administrative people and clerical people on staff. The average case-load ratio is 35 to one. In 1975-1976, the budget of the society was \$654,455.

Due to the fact that they ran a deficit of 2.6 per cent in 1975-1976, the 5.5 per cent increase for the 1976-1977 fiscal year means 2.9 per cent for them, or \$671,474. They have asked for a 30 per cent increase which, if you include the deficit, means a 1976-1977 budget of \$848,000. The reason that they ran a deficit in 1975-1976 was because of an increase of children in care.

To fit within the 5.5 per cent guideline or 2.9 per cent as it really is, the Kapuskasing Children's Aid Society would have to forego staff salary increases—but I suppose nearly all societies are doing that. They would have to reduce their staff by 6½ positions. There would be no increase in foster parents. They would have to drop their regular service, of having a worker on call 24 hours a day. They would have to drop a planned group home for the treatment of adolescents; they are presently sending kids to North Bay. They would have to drop their summer camp programme. And they would have to drop all preventive programmes.

The director wonders how bad a service has to get before it is in fact a waste of money.

The Sudbury Children's Aid Society may be dealt with by my colleague. The Kenora Children's Aid Society was dealt with, I believe, by our leader the other day. I just want to remind you again that the three group homes that they opened last year, with your approval, would have to be closed this year at your insistence. They would have to fire five staff—

Mr. Foulds: Weren't those the ones that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) opened with a big show?

Mr. McClellan: Maybe the Minister of Natural Resources can preside over the closing of the three group homes in 1976-1977.

They would have to dismiss five staff, close two full-time and two part-time offices and decrease foster home payments for those salary staff increases. This is the Children's Aid Society that probably has the most difficult caseload in all of Ontario, as the minister well knows; and yet the minister tells them to accept the 5.5 per cent increase that will cut their programme to ribbons.

The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa will be in the position, with the 5.5 per cent increase, of being in debt by \$1.25 million for 1976-1977. The minimum they need to continue functioning is a 20 per cent increase. Since your freeze, they have already closed three group homes. Fifty kids are already on the waiting list for group homes or institutions. At 5.5 per cent they would have to close six group homes and fire 75 people.

My colleague from Thunder Bay will tell you about the society there.

In the Children's Aid Society in Lambton county, to reach a five per cent increase over the 1975 approved estimate level, there are only two cost areas which could be cut—children in care and staff.

To attain the necessary further savings of \$63,000, we would have to discharge at least 31 of our current children in care for a full six-month period. That is in excess of one-quarter of our current child care caseload and is only possible by blatant refusal of service. The alternative is staff cuts in an already understaffed agency. We have only two supervisors to oversee 16 social workers, so no adjustment could be made at middle management level. At the level of line staff, it would require the immediate release of one-quarter of current complement to effect the necessary saving. Since most of our staff are still generalists, this would drastically curtail all areas of service.

If we are to be required to reduce this budget further, we would appreciate your informing us in what areas this must be done and assuming the resultant responsibility for lack of service.

Your actions have simply made it impossible for child welfare movement in this province to continue to perform its responsibilities un-

der the Child Welfare Act. More than one society has asked us: "How can the minister so violate the law?"

[5:15]

Mr. Warner: Have you an answer?

Mr. McClellan: I could go on and on. I could possibly go on for a couple of days—

Mr. Warner: It might be worthwhile.

Mr. McClellan: —giving in more and more minute detail chapter and verse of the duplicity, the perfidy and the irresponsibility of this ministry.

I want to review again the situation of the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto. The leader of this party has pointed out the way in which you tried to euchre them out of the difference between 3.1 per cent and 5.5 per cent. It's utterly inexplicable behaviour.

When on Jan. 15, president of the board of the Metro Children's Aid Society wrote to you a heartfelt letter of concern detailing what would happen to child welfare services in Metropolitan Toronto if they were frozen at 3.1 per cent, you replied with an attack on the society. On Jan. 15 you were advised by the president of the Metro CAS just what your ceiling meant.

I'm taking this out of the letter of Jan. 15. You had the information fully two months ago. Their bank overdraft situation would increase to \$47,000. They would have to bring an end to their introduction of programmed budgeting. They would have to freeze salaries. They would have to freeze foster care rates. They would have to freeze group care facilities. They would have to close admissions. They would have to reduce the volume of children in care by 20 per cent of the Jan. 1 level.

They would have to fire 90 staff and that, again, is because of the rollover. They were not approved in their budget until late in the year. They did not hire until October, I believe, for the programme expansion, and the effect of your ceiling would be to knock them back to the pre-1975 levels.

They concluded that they were simply unable, and would be unable, to perform their responsibilities under your Child Welfare Act. It took the threat of their resignation as a board to bring you to some kind of sense.

We still are not sure of the details. I just hope and pray, for the sake of the children in this city, that you have been brought to a mature and rational decision—but your initial

response was to attack the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Warner: Who forced you to do that? Have you no explanation? Do you really like children?

Mr. McClellan: You claimed they were in some sense less efficient than other societies, using dummy census statistics to prove that their ratios were higher than the CCAS. You held up to them the example of the Catholic Children's Aid Society "as proof that societies could live within the guidelines very comfortably." I think that's a direct quote.

Unfortunately for you, the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto overspent its budget in 1975 by 5.5 per cent.

One of the most amazing of this minister's statements and, I think, the statement that most clearly proves his incapacity to serve in the office he holds, is his statement that child foster care must be developed and expanded as an alternative to institutional residential care.

Mr. Martel: Strengthen the home.

Mr. McClellan: That statement is just so bizarre as to be beyond belief. Yet I assume that since the minister says it over and over again it's to be taken as the policy of the ministry.

All of the agency material that we've seen has the same thing in common, that foster rates are frozen and that they are going to experience difficulties in getting and even holding the line in existing foster care. Nevertheless, the minister is saying that it's going to be expanded at the same time, perhaps concurrently.

But that's not the point; the point is that you say it's an alternative to residential care. Residential care can be provided and is provided to children by Children's Aid Societies because of emotional disturbance. New treatment facilities can and have been provided by many societies as a desirable alternative for disturbed children, but the ministry has in fact been discouraging and even criticizing some societies for doing this.

To suggest, as you have done repeatedly, that unpaid, untrained foster parents can even cope, let alone help, the very disturbed kids, displays an ignorance and indifference to children in public care which is totally unfitting to the minister responsible.

Let me give you some cases from a large society; it illustrates the point that I'm trying to make.

Male, aged three and a half, admitted to Children's Aid Society early 1976; epileptic, suffers prolonged grand mal seizures. Shortly before admission he had been in HSC with encephalitis and was at the time of admission on an untested regime of medication. It was felt that the combination of medication was actually stimulating and provoking convulsions. A few days after his admission, he was suffering such acute and prolonged convulsions that he spent five days in North York General Hospital. Prior to admission he was so hyperactive as to be a real danger to himself and he was restrained by being tied in his crib. In his frequent stays in hospital, his limbs were splinted to prevent his injuring others or himself. The report says: "In the opinion of the doctors involved, what he needs is custodial care in a medical setting which we have so far not been able to obtain."

Male, aged 13½ years, admitted to a Children's Aid Society care as emergency in May, 1975 after physically and violently attacking his mother. Angry, extremely disturbed, violent adolescent; self-destructive, threatened suicide frequently, attempted it twice. He was in York Cottage for 19 days, during which time we tried every way we could to get him admitted to an appropriate resort. He was admitted here on the understanding that he was scheduled for admission to Lakeshore. This, however, turned out to be false. Finally, he was admitted to Whitby at the end of May, 1975.

Male, aged 15 years, ward of CAS. He was living in a Browndale camp until he was finally asked to leave for fear the whole group home would disintegrate. He's aggressive, violent and threatening. He has problems communicating with adults and difficulties working with his peers. It is felt that he can't live in a family setting. Finally he was moved into an outside institution where he is making some progress. He has a limited intelligence, an IQ around 83.

Male, aged 11 years. He was first placed with Metro CAS when he was very young. His mother is emotionally ill, a chronic alcoholic and was unable to manage the care of him. He was placed in a specialized foster home but had to be moved to an outside institution. He's impulsive, destructive, autistic; a fearful child who needs structure and affection but has difficulty accepting parenting. He is of above average intelligence, can add and subtract.

There's no place for him and no place for the other kids on my list; and this minister suggests, in the face of everything that we

know about need in this province, that foster homes represent an alternative.

The Children's Aid Society, in the same letter where they detailed to the minister the consequences of the 3.1 per cent ceiling, also indicated that the patterns of kids coming into society care have changed; that they are getting more and more kids with more severe disturbance and less and less of the kinds of kids who can be handled easily and without difficulty in foster care. Yet the minister goes on saying, despite the fact that is the pattern right across the province, that foster care is an alternative to residential treatment. It is simple nonsense. It is as nonsensical as the whole of this minister's package, his welfare measures, his whole restraint programme.

It is clear only to us in this party that this minister is unfit to be entrusted with the lives and welfare of Ontario children, and it is clear only to us in this party that to avert a child welfare tragedy of major dimensions the Premier (Mr. Davis) must replace the Minister of Community and Social Services without delay.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I respond to those opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, prior to dealing with subsequent remarks that may be made?

Mr. Cassidy: No.

Mr. Martel: That's not usual.

Mr. Chairman: The normal procedure has been for—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well it's usual. It has been done before, and while this is fresh in members minds, I would like the opportunity. I think it would be in order.

Mr. Chairman: The Chair has no objections.

Mr. Foulds: The other members, unlike you, have.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) is indicating that she gave her consent to the minister to answer these questions, and then he will answer yours on your leadoff speech. Is that correct?

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I am in your hands. It has, in fact, been dealt with that way before and I have no objection, providing I sometime get the opportunity to open for the Liberal caucus in this matter.

Mr. Chairman: I think we could do whichever will be the most expedient to hear the estimates. If the minister is going to be fairly

brief in answering, why then we'll listen to the member for St. George.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I cannot hear you.

Mr. Chairman: I would say that if the member is going to be fairly brief, then we will deal with the member for St. George following your comments.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I say that the linguistic extravagance of the member for Bellwoods is absolutely amazing. Not only that, if he manifests his knowledge of this ministry through his observations and critique, I question whether he is fit to be the opposition critic.

May I say that here we have supplementary estimates introduced into this House which request an additional \$36 million of spending to assist the very agencies and to address and service the very concerns the member has enunciated. If his thinking carries forward what he has said in terms of words, then I am sure I won't have any difficulty with the supplementary estimates, because I am here, of course, to ask for additional funding to address some of the problems you may have alluded to, although incorrectly.

You started off in terms of criticizing the amount of money my ministry has been allocated in terms of overall spending for the next fiscal year. I pointed out that in my estimation it's not relevant to the supplementary estimates to be involved in the estimates or projected estimates for next year, because they are not before the House.

[5:30]

However, may I say that in reference to the criticism of the eight per cent and the questioning of the 5½ per cent which will be an increase for most agencies in the province and in reply to the—

Mr. Cassidy: Not in real terms it isn't.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —suggestion that there will be no new growth, I would like to make a few remarks.

First of all, I have indicated that there will be additional capital expenditures in areas such as day care. And in that regard I have already indicated to this House—

Mr. McClellan: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member has a point of order.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: Are we free to interject—
Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: Anything you want.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was quiet while you made your remarks.

Mr. McClellan: I want to challenge that. That is not new money.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. McClellan: It is not new money.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. You can raise that on subsequent comments.

Mr. Sargent: Please be seated, Jim. Please be seated.

Mr. Chairman: I think the minister should continue to acknowledge or answer the comments without getting into a debate back and forth.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I am addressing the remarks that my friend made—

Mr. Foulds: The minister should continue his apology.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: He is being like the Premier, he is not provocative, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In regard to additional capital moneys, may I repeat that in the field of day care alone there will be approximately \$6 million of capital funding—

Mr. McClelland: It is old money.

Mrs. Campbell: It is not new, it's not new.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. You can say it is not new but there will be new capital—

Mr. Cassidy: Redistributed, recycled.

Mr. Foulds: What are you, a Social Crediter?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —for construction in day care in this province. As a matter of fact, earlier this week I opened a new daycare centre in the member for Bellwoods' own riding and your absence, I may say, was conspicuous.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, I was given the wrong day by your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, in any event, I am just saying that a new daycare centre is there.

Mr. Foulds: You can't even get your dates right.

Mr. Cassidy: A Conservative plot.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: When you look at the estimates that we will be considering, and hopefully are considering, you will see that additional moneys are required. As a matter of fact, there is \$2.3 million for operating expenses this year for day care, so that the operating expenses for day care in the current fiscal year are something in excess of \$27 million.

With the new capital construction in the next fiscal year we have to provide, by necessity, operating moneys for those daycare centres. I think it is ludicrous to suggest that not be provided. If we have to allocate moneys for those capital programmes, then of course it must of necessity be taken from the overall funding that will be given to my ministry in the next fiscal year.

A similar situation exists in terms of homes for the aged. Of course it will be necessary to allocate operating moneys for those new homes for the aged and the additions that will take place in the next fiscal year; and by necessity that must come from the overall funding that will be allotted to my ministry, which reduces the amount available for distribution to most agencies to the amount of 5½ per cent.

Mr. Cassidy: Will the municipalities get those extra operating costs? Will they get those extra operating funds?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The hon. member for Bellwoods has made mention of the growth of my ministry over the past five years and I would like to say that the average annual rate of growth has been 20 per cent. That is 20 per cent increase in spending over the past five years and I may say that that takes into consideration the actual programmes that are now operated by my ministry, and the transfer of the mental retardation services from Health to my ministry.

Mr. McClellan: That's just a reflection of the increase in growth of revenues.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is something I know that you have been saying, but we took the cost while it was in Health and we take the cost while it is now in my ministry.

Mr. McClellan: The percentage is constant.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It's a conflict of interest. You are a social worker. He is trying to keep his job for after next month. He wants to make sure he has a job to go back to!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You will see that the growth rate has in fact been tremendous; the effective annual increase has been 20 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Why doesn't the member make sure he's got a job to go back to after the next time out?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's all very well for the member for Bellwoods to refer to Ontario's position in Canada in terms of welfare spending, but I challenge him to travel this country, to talk with the welfare ministers of Canada and to examine the programmes of the other provinces. If he does, he will find—and he should know this, because he has spent all of his mature life as a social worker, including a stint in my ministry—

Mr. Foulds: Not while it was your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —he will find that Ontario has the finest programme of any jurisdiction in North America, let alone Canada. There is just no question about that.

Mr. Martel: Who are you trying to kid? You have been behind the eight-ball from time immemorial.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister was attentive when the previous speaker was addressing the committee and I feel that the committee has to give him the same type of consideration. The hon. minister will continue.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member for Bellwoods criticized my ministry for a lack of senior citizens' housing, and may I advise him that senior citizens' housing does not come within the jurisdiction of my ministry.

Reference was made on several occasions to the Children's Aid Societies and various programmes that were and are being undertaken by them. Before dealing with that, I would like to make mention of the criticism he has levelled in terms of tightening up the welfare system in this province.

Again, may I say that the member's remarks, in my estimation, not only today but in certain radio broadcasting that he has made, are not only inaccurate but misleading if innocently so. It may be lack of understanding and knowledge of what we are trying to do and what in fact we are doing that leads him to state that—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The minister is right; you don't understand.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am quoting now from a broadcast: "Yeah, they are cutting out again the kinds of programmes that are designed to keep families from falling apart in the first place—and that means homemakers' services."

Some hon. members: Right on!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: "Cutting out." You say it's homemakers' services they are cutting out; actually it's the marriage counselling parts of the programme that are being cut out.

Mr. Foulds: That's right.

Mr. Martel: They can't even hire them in Sudbury; there's not enough money to hire one.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: "Ah, group homes for mothers"—and I put that "ah" in there because I am quoting accurately.

Mr. Foulds: For a change!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: "Ah, group homes for mothers, to help them to be more effective in raising their own kids, are going to be cut out."

You might have—well, you know, it just goes right down across the board.

Then you go on to say: "I have always been frankly fairly critical of the social services delivery system. And I—but, you know, when it's being absolutely gutted and destroyed, one has to point out what is being done."

Now that is an exaggeration, that the social service system is being absolutely gutted and destroyed. You know and I know that the amount of government spending for welfare in this province is approaching \$1 billion; and we are here today to seek approval of this House for an additional \$36 million. To say that these programmes are being cut out is just sheer nonsense.

Mr. McClellan: You should hear what other people say about you if you think I am being critical.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You know and I know that a good many of these programmes are administered by the municipalities through purchase-of-service agreements. You also know that a good many of these programmes are operated through the Children's Aid Societies, and you know and I know how those are funded by this province and by

the local municipality. So to say that those programmes are being gutted and destroyed is not only inaccurate, but it's untrue.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Right on!

Mr. Martel: You should hear what Reuben Bates is saying about you.

Mr. Cassidy: You should see what the Children's Aid board say about you fellows—and they are all Conservatives too.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, I will get on to the response in connection with the Children's Aid Societies in a few moments.

Mr. McClellan: You'd better stop him; I'm serious. You'd better watch what he is doing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He's putting you out of work, and you are worried about it.

Mr. Cassidy: You are offending the sector of people that used to support you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I just want to reiterate that when we're talking in terms of tightening up the welfare system and eliminating certain provisions which are discriminatory on the basis of sex, it does not attempt to do the types of things you have so erroneously stated.

At present, for example, as you know, an able-bodied wife of an unemployed person is not required to seek employment even though she is both capable of working and has no child-rearing responsibilities.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you make that simple statement?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's that type of a situation that we're trying to address. Of course, you don't agree with that.

Mr. Foulds: You might create some jobs.

Mr. McClellan: Just tell us about the jobs.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: For example, a single mother with a 15-year-old child is automatically eligible for assistance even though she is fully employable and has no direct child-rearing responsibilities which would preclude her from employment.

Mr. Foulds: What are you talking about?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm talking about the existing system. What you are saying is the system we have now must be perfect because you are opposed to any changes I have suggested be made. There has been and is no intention on the part of this minister or this government to force mothers with family

responsibilities into the labour market. I've never said that; you may have said that.

Mr. Cassidy: Tell us how you are going to change it. What are you going to do?

Mr. Martel: The only way you're going to change it is make them lose jobs.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You may be responding to accusations in that regard but that is absolutely incorrect.

Mr. Cassidy: That's exactly what you're doing there, I guess.

Mr. Foulds: How many times have you been misquoted?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Every time one of you opened your mouth I've been misquoted. That's often, believe me.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member will state her point of order.

Mrs. Campbell: I did yield, as a matter of courtesy, to the minister's request to answer. It does seem to me that at least I might be accorded the courtesy of the NDP in allowing the minister to proceed so that I may exercise my right to address this particular debate. I would ask that you enforce the rules of this House and let us get on with it.

Mr. Martel: Speaking to the point of order. I don't know why you parted with tradition by allowing the minister to respond after the lead-off of the New Democratic Party. Tradition around here has it that both critics are given an opportunity to make lead-off remarks and it's at that stage that the minister makes his response. I'm not sure why you departed from that.

The minister indicated a very short response but that was 13 minutes ago. I would suggest we return to the procedures followed in this Legislature and allow the member for St. George to get on with her remarks and then we will proceed in a normal fashion with the vote.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Speaking on the point of order, the hon. members well know that while the hon. member for Bellwoods was making his presentation, the only time there was any interruption it came from the member for Sudbury East for one—while he was here—and the member for Scarborough-Elles-

mere (Mr. Warner). This side of the House sat and listened with patience.

Mr. Martel: I wasn't here.

Mr. Cassidy: No Tories were here.

Mr. Foulds: All three of you did.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As soon as the minister began his response, after the courtesy was extended to him by the member for St. George the hon. members in the New Democratic Party interrupted continually, especially the member for Bellwoods.

Mr. Martel: The hon. minister is not even speaking to the point of order.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East has already spoken. This is not a debate.

Mr. Martel: I was speaking to the point of order.

Mr. Chairman: You have already spoken to the point of order.

Mr. Martel: Certainly, I have spoken to the point of order. That was a deliberate misleading statement. It doesn't speak to the point of order at all. The manner in which this Legislature works—

Mr. Eaton: Sit down; throw him out.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege; it's been said that I have deliberately misled the House and I expect the hon. member to withdraw that.

Mr. Martel: I do not intend to withdraw, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, I expect that he should withdraw it. I did not intentionally mislead the House at all.

Mr. Chairman: The minister says that you should withdraw it.

Mr. Martel: He should speak to the point of order if he is speaking to anything and not bring in some red herring.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, I still feel that the hon. member should be required to withdraw the statement that I deliberately misled the House.

Mr. Cassidy: It's like a blue herring.

Mr. Martel: I must find out where I said that. It will be in Hansard.

Mr. Chairman: The Chair did not hear the hon. member say it.

[5:45]

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, I trust it will not appear in Hansard, is that correct?

Mr. Martel: You can change it if you want.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The point was stated by the hon. member and I expect you, sir, to make a ruling on whether it should be withdrawn or not.

Mr. Foulds: What?

Mr. Martel: He didn't hear it.

Mr. Chairman: I didn't hear the hon. member say it.

Mr. Eaton: Did he say it or didn't he? Ask him.

Mr. Chairman: I will ask the hon. member did you indicate that the minister was misleading the House?

Mr. Martel: If I did, I probably meant it. I can't recall having said it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Chairman, either he knows what he said or he doesn't. Most of the time he doesn't.

Mr. Chairman: I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement. The Chair heard that.

Mr. Martel: This is reaching the ludicrous stage, Mr. Chairman. I said if I said it I probably meant it. Now what's that mean? That if I made a statement—

Mr. Chairman: You are inferring that the minister was misleading the House.

Mr. Martel: I didn't say that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps we can check Hansard to see what the initial statement was and in the meantime the hon. minister could continue with his brief remarks.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Are you going to continue to move away from the way the House traditionally works?

Mr. Chairman: I have already ruled.

Mr. Martel: Or are you going to go on with this nonsense?

Mr. Chairman: I have already ruled on that matter. The minister said this was the

way he preferred to answer. The hon. member for St. George agreed, the committee agreed at that time and the Chair has agreed to proceed on that basis.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, if I may proceed then, I was mentioning the remarks of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in terms of the proposed changes to the General Welfare Assistance Act in terms of a variation or amendment to the regulations of that piece of legislation.

Of course, the proposal is to redefine the definition of employment. As the member knows, or should know, a person is not required now to take temporary, casual or seasonal work even though that may be available. In other words, a person may be receiving welfare assistance and continue to receive that assistance provided that there isn't a job for him which is of a full-time or permanent nature and, presumably, of a type of work which is preferred by him.

What we are introducing are changes which will enable a person to take on part-time work to help maintain himself. I don't see anything particularly wrong with that. If we can get more persons to take jobs which may be available, even though part-time or casual, frankly, I see nothing wrong with that. That may be a part of the work ethic which our friend from Bellwoods doesn't believe in, but nevertheless the changes in regulations will reflect that.

Similarly, it is incumbent now upon a welfare officer to make payments to a child between the ages of, say, 16 and 18 who has left home and who may not be going to school. That mandatory provision is being redressed so that payment of welfare to that type of person will be on a discretionary basis rather than a mandatory basis. I think that is good in that it will not encourage children of that age to leave home and to set up independent housekeeping for no good reason.

Mind you, there may be circumstances in which a young person may be better off out of the family setting because of severe home problems. It may be better for his health, physical and mental. Those cases, of course, will be dealt with individually in light of their own particular circumstances.

There are other amendments which will be made and which have been mentioned. While they are not here for consideration, nevertheless I would like to make those few remarks in response to the attack made by the critic for the opposition on those regulatory changes.

The criticism was made that the regulation should not be tightened and instead there should be more job opportunities made available, and in that regard there was an attack on the government and my ministry for not providing work activity programmes. May I point out to the member, who, with all of his research staff and particular powers in terms of scavenging material, should know that in the last ministry's budget provision was made for an expenditure of \$1,157,500 for work activity programmes.

I may say that there were 16 programmes approved in the province as a result of the provision for that type of undertaking, so to say that we are not interested in work activity programmes is sheer nonsense. As a matter of fact, the members know and should know that these programmes are developed by the local municipalities and again financed 80 per cent by the province and 20 per cent by the municipality as a part of the municipal social service programme. Those programmes are, in fact, in operation and he should have a list of those. If not, I am sure that one could be made available to him.

In terms of job opportunity, I have mentioned before and I wish to repeat that my ministry has been working with Canada Manpower in terms of placing jobs to match the people and we have set up personnel in 11 Manpower offices in this province. That is only a pilot project, I suppose, but depending on the success of the programme, it will be expanded. So far I am very heartened with the results, so that now we will have our general welfare workers in the Canada Manpower offices so that we can better match employment opportunities with persons on welfare we are servicing. I think that's a positive, constructive step that the member should be mindful of when he is criticising this ministry and its programmes.

Mr. Martel: Did you talk to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) about the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mention was made of an insulting slur on women of this province, which I certainly take very strong objection to. Again, it shows the lack of comprehension and linguistic extravagance of the member, because there was never any suggestion made by me that would suggest that a woman would be made, by this government or by my ministry, to get up in the morning and get out of her bathrobe, or however you put it.

Mr. McClellan: Direct quote.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, you can take your quote, and you know, you read and you be-

lieve whatever you want to believe, but as a matter of fact the question was asked of me by that reporter about what was happening in terms of work activity programmes. I indicated that there are some problems with persons who are on welfare for a long period of time in terms of a work discipline. In other words, the longer one is on welfare, the less disciplined one is in terms of getting up at a certain time, being punctual and adopting a regular routine. I don't think it takes one of superior intelligence to see that, but—

Mr. Foulds: It takes one of lower intelligence to see that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —I pointed out that Metropolitan Toronto had work activity programmes on that would help the people to adjust themselves for the work force. The way that came out, of course, the way that you are reading it, is that I am suggesting that the women of this province get out of their bathrobes and get to work, and that, of course, is an absolute falsehood. I particularly object to the perpetuation of that type of remark, which you know is not what I intended—

Mr. McClellan: Take your programmes to the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —what I never did say, and you, of course, are dedicated to perpetuating misleading statements.

Mr. Martel: You should withdraw that statement.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right.

Mr. Foulds: Why don't you get out of your pinstripe suit and get to work?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. This is developing into a debate. Would the hon. minister continue?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, aren't you going to make him withdraw that statement?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In conjunction with that, the remark was made that when a person does work, he or she is taxed back the money that that person receives. Again, my friend should know very well that a single person is exempt the first \$50 plus 25 per cent of his or her earnings. If a single person has dependants—

Mr. Martel: Not on GWA. Not on general welfare; or mothers' allowance. Don't mislead the House.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —then it is \$100.

Mr. McClellan: You should resign. After six months you don't even know your own legislation.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are provisions for—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member indicated that the minister was misleading the House.

Mr. Martel: On general welfare you are not entitled to keep the \$25.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am telling you that—

Mr. Martel: I am telling you that you are wrong. It is discretionary. On some general welfare—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: My friend was talking about taxing back income of persons who are getting back into the work force and I am simply explaining what that is.

Mr. McClellan: I was talking about general welfare assistance, and you know it.

Mr. Martel: Not on general welfare.

Mr. McClellan: You are ridiculous; preposterous.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, you know very well that a person is allowed to keep, as I say—

Mr. Martel: On mothers' allowance.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the first \$100 on family benefits.

Mr. Martel: That is not general welfare.

Mr. McClellan: That is not general welfare assistance, for the fourth time.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: When you are talking about general welfare assistance, you know and I know that that is administered by the municipalities and there is a discretion there on the part of the municipality as to what they keep. You know that. If you don't know that, you should know that.

Mr. Martel: Oh bull. You tell me the ones that allow it.

Mr. Ferrier: They will be looking over their shoulder at every move you make.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, as I say, sure you want to perpetuate the system. What we are trying to do is to rehabilitate. We are trying

to retrain, where possible, we are trying to match people with jobs and—

Mrs. Campbell: Oh no you are not. Don't say that. That is nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to restore the work ethic and to restore self-respect and dignity.

Mr. McClellan: That was your suggestion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And that is something that you probably don't know, if you don't agree with what we are trying to do in that regard. To suggest sending the mothers to the scrap yard—

Interjection.

Mr. Breagh: Stop saying it.

Mr. Foulds: Put both feet in your mouth and stop talking.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —again that's sheer nonsense, and you know it. It's that type of misleading statement that is doing a disservice to the people on family benefits and welfare in this province. You know, through that type of remark all you are doing is upsetting people who are in true and genuine need and whom we are trying to help. You are upsetting them emotionally and every other way by making statements that are absolutely inaccurate. I think you are doing a great disservice. You might think about it more closely. You can tear a strip off me if you wish and I can take it, but just don't pick on the people of this province—

Mr. Martel: Oh, you are preposterous. You are preposterous.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —who are actually on welfare, who are in need and who we don't intend to touch because they are legitimate cases.

Mr. Martel: You are unreal.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are trying to upset and disturb them, and I think that is terrible. It's shocking.

Mr. McClellan: By quoting you, that would upset them. You are right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is certainly shocking.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. It is now almost 6 of the clock. Before the House leader speaks, I would like to indicate that the Chair will recognize the member for St. George as the first speaker when we go back into committee to discuss these estimates further.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House may I indicate that tomorrow, Thursday, we will take into consideration the resolution standing in the name of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) with respect to interim supply, and hopefully conclude the supplementary estimates before we finish our work tomorrow night at 10:30, following which, with those two matters in hand, we will then have the mid-term break.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 537)

Answer to a question taken as notice was tabled as follows:

Mr. Williams—The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority issued a statement over the weekend to the effect that GO Transit buses should unload their passengers at suburban subway terminals rather than run into the city in direct competition with the Toronto Transit Commission. This may seem to have some sense but does this mean that the present service from Keswick and Newmarket to Toronto via Woodbine Avenue and the Don Valley Parkway would be terminated prior to or in conjunction with the startup of the Richmond Hill GO Transit rail service?

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications:

The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority or, TATO, as it is usually referred to, currently schedules approximately 290 GO bus trips toward Metropolitan Toronto each week day. Of these, about 60 trips terminate at GO stations, and a further 60 trips at TTC subway stations. The other 170 carry on through to downtown Toronto.

The policy of feeding GO trains has been in effect since 1970 and has been, in fact, an extension of the rail service at a much lower cost than is possible with trains. This type of service is well received by the commuting public to the point that about 40 per cent of all Lakeshore corridor bus passengers transfer to the GO train.

GO buses began feeding the subway system in 1974 with the extension of the Yonge subway north to Finch Ave. At that time, a full schedule GO shuttle was established between Richmond Hill and the new subway terminal in place of a service which previously continued to the downtown area. This new feeder service, too, has been well received by the commuting public. This service now is carrying twice the number it did when commenced, less than two years ago.

Just last month, two new GO subway feeder services were inaugurated; one from Georgetown and Brampton, terminating at the York Mills station; the other connecting Markham, Stouffville, Uxbridge and Clarendon with the Finch terminal. These feeder buses, of course, do not continue to the downtown core. The reception of these services is quite encouraging.

Also, last month, GO Transit introduced a new fare structure which offers a price reduction to passengers who transfer to the TTC subway system rather than stay on the GO bus for the trip downtown. Today, some 30 per cent of our Yonge corridor passengers make the transfer at Finch during the peak periods. It is expected that the price advantage will encourage more passengers to this pattern and permit a reduction in the number of through bus trips.

During the off-peak periods, when there is comfortable capacity on the subway, it will be TATO policy to eliminate most trips to the downtown area with the exception of the longer-distance trips such as those from north of Newmarket.

This overall policy of TATO has a three-fold purpose:

It benefits the passenger by giving him access to the entire TTC system at a lower fare than would be charged for the GO bus trip downtown;

It reduces competition with, or duplication of TTC services with the resulting benefit to both parties; and

It permits better utilization of GO buses which, in turn, reduces the costs of the GO operation.

I support the TATO policy. It makes good sense not to duplicate services. It makes good sense to match service to public demands. It makes good sense to have some trips downtown priced in accordance with cost, and it makes good sense to maximize the usage of the equipment available. I agree, however, that each corridor has differences and thus each corridor must be assessed individually as they have been over the preceding years.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, March 18, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

The House met at 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1976

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

RESIDENTIAL PREMISES RENT REVIEW ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, the Residential Premises Rent Review Act, 1975, requires that the Lieutenant Governor in Council determine a percentage rent increase that a landlord may charge for any period commencing on or after Aug. 1, 1976, and before Aug. 1, 1977. The Act further requires that this increase be announced not later than April 1.

Because the increase is of great interest to both landlords and tenants, the government has decided to make an announcement today to allow as much advance notice as possible.

First, I would like to say that this decision was not arrived at lightly. A great deal of research has gone into the determination of the rate. Senior officials of my ministry, led by our staff economist and supported by experts within the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, have worked long and hard to compile the data needed by my colleagues and myself in making this decision.

I would point out that our deliberations were conducted keeping in mind that the percentage rent increase allowable without review should have relevance to the general economic climate and to the overall housing situation in the province so as to minimize any deterioration in the rental situation. At the same time, it must be compatible with the anti-inflation goals of this government.

We also had to ensure that the allowable increase would permit landlords to pass on legitimate increases in cost without exceeding the limits of a typical tenant's monthly budget.

Therefore, acting on the best advice available to us, we have decided that the percentage rent increase will remain as eight per cent for the period between Aug. 1, 1976, and July 31, 1977.

I would emphasize that landlords who feel justified in charging more than an eight per cent increase must seek a hearing before a rent review officer. Of course, tenants retain the right to such a rent review hearing if they feel that rent increases of eight per cent or less are excessive.

SOFT DRINK CONTAINERS

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, later today I will table the report of the Waste Management Advisory Board on the carbonated soft drink container in Ontario.

The Waste Management Advisory Board was appointed a year ago to assist and complement the efforts of my ministry in developing methods of reducing and handling the volume of solid waste of all types now generated in our province. As part of its activities, the board is preparing the final report on the packaging of milk. I hope to receive this report shortly, at which time I will table it and distribute it to the public.

In its report on soft drink containers, the advisory board expresses its dissatisfaction with the industry's progress during the past 12 months toward increased sale and use of the refillable container.

You will recall that my predecessor, the Hon. W. Newman, met with representatives of the carbonated beverage industry and its suppliers and retailers in March, 1975. The minister alerted the industry to the growing trend toward increased sales of the non-refillable, or throwaway container as it is also called, and asked industry members, bottlers and retailers to take concerted voluntary action to increase the use of the environmentally preferable refillable container.

The board's report, based on a year's study, reflects only minor advances toward increased use of the refillable container. It indicates that progress has been limited on the whole and that response by the retail sector of the industry in particular, with one or two exceptions, has been especially disappointing. There is ample statistical evidence supporting this conclusion.

There is some daylight in the situation, however. I quote the report:

The decline in market share of carbonated soft drinks sold in refillable bottles has been halted and the trend, although modest, has been reversed for the first time since non-refillable containers were first introduced in the 1960s.

As we are all aware, the issue of solid waste and what to do with it is a challenging and complex problem in today's society.

The report of the Waste Management Advisory Board makes several recommendations for action by my ministry and I intend to give these full consideration. I will review the board's report and its ramifications with my cabinet colleagues and introduce specific legislative proposals to the House in the near future.

GUELPH ABATTOIR

Hon. J. R. Smith: Today at 1:30 p.m., on behalf of the government of Ontario, I signed an instrument of assignment of the licence to operate the abattoir at Guelph Correctional Centre to Guelph Beef Centre Ltd., a company of the DeJonge Group. This instrument will be placed before the bankruptcy court when it resumes sitting at 2:45 p.m. today.

The DeJonge proposal, received by the trustee and approved by a large majority of the unsecured creditors, is consistent with accepted bankruptcy practices. It provides for the purchase of unsecured creditors' claims at 15 cents on the dollar, with larger dividends available to small creditors.

It also permits creditors the option of waiting for six months, during which time the assets of Essex Packers Ltd. will be more thoroughly valued. They may then possibly receive a larger dividend, without losing the guarantee of 15 cents on the dollar.

The advantages of allowing production to continue in this way are many:

Unsecured creditors will receive some payment;

Employment opportunities for some 200 to 300 former Essex Packers workers will be maintained;

There will be a continuing market in the Hamilton and Guelph areas for pork and beef producers, including those who were unpaid when Essex went into receivership;

There will be no interruption in the ministry's successful rehabilitative programme.

To amplify my last point, the DeJonge Group proposes to run the abattoir as it was operated by Essex Packers Ltd., but with an increase in productivity from 900 to 1,400

head per week. The heavy emphasis on rehabilitative training will now include co-operation with Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology in a programme, the details of which are still being developed. At present, the abattoir is classified as a training centre with Canada Manpower. Inmates who seek a career in the industry on release, and who are judged suitable, will be offered employment opportunities as available on release.

Inmate wages will be at least as high as at under the new agreement. Present figures are: On commencement as trainee, \$3.15 an hour; after three months' training, \$3.50 an hour; if successful in the merit selection process for assignment to more skilled and specialized jobs, \$4.90 an hour.

The programme began last May, and the occasional inmate has remained incarcerated long enough to complete the training and to gain the civilian rate of \$5.60 an hour. Usually, however, sentences are completed before the trainee is fully qualified for the top-paying jobs.

Nevertheless, through overtime, many inmates have been able to support their families at a level of over \$200 per week, more than twice what their families could hope to receive on social assistance—and this after paying \$25 per week for their institutional board and lodging and substantial income tax deductions.

Since the start of the programme last May, an average of 30 inmates has been employed daily, despite Essex Packers' troubles, and total earnings have reached \$125,000. The best month to date was February, 1976, when 47 inmates earned a total of \$15,785. These figures, of course, will increase if the productivity rises as planned under the new agreements.

I should stress that the DeJonge Group was the only company to come forward with a total package involving not only the Guelph Correctional Centre operation, but also the continuance of the Hamilton operations. This factor was of consequence in the government's decision, since so many jobs can be saved. All other groups contacted would have seen the Hamilton facility phased out, as they were only interested in the efficient Guelph Correctional Centre facility.

For all these reasons, and after exploring all alternatives prior to bankruptcy, the government has decided not to force the bankruptcy of Essex Packers Ltd. This course, followed by the calling of tenders for the operation of the Guelph facility alone, without

reference to the future of Essex Packers' other interests, has therefore been rejected in favour of our agreement to the DeJonge proposal.

IDENTIFICATION OF HAM RADIO OPERATORS' VEHICLES

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce changes in the motor vehicle licensing system to permit the identification of passenger motor vehicles owned and operated by ham radio operators.

Currently, all passenger vehicles, including those owned by radio operators, are identified by licence plates containing three letters and three numbers.

Mr. Cassidy: Must be an election that did it.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Radio operators will now be able to purchase passenger vehicle licence plates that will include their radio call number. These special plates will begin with VE3 followed by two or three alphabetical characters—for example, VE3-AB or VE3-ABC.

These special radio operator vehicle plates will be made available under the ministry's current "own choice" licence plate programme for a standard fee of \$25, over and above any other fees payable.

This change in the licensing system has been requested by the Radio Society of Ontario, and will readily identify radio operators who can provide—and, I might say, Mr. Speaker, have in many cases provided—a very valuable public service by assisting the police or other organizations during emergencies and searches and that type of situation. I am very pleased to announce this today.

[2:15]

Ms. Sandeman: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the hon. member for Peterborough.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, I have always understood that it was a right of the members of this House to be free to receive their constituents in their offices at any time, whether by invitation or not. Could you explain to me why several of my constituents, and I believe those of other members, this morning were denied entrance to the House for a considerable period of time by the security guards; were subjected to quite in-

tensive questioning; kept standing out in the cold for periods of upwards to an hour; when I, and I believe other members, were expecting to see them upstairs by appointment?

Mr. Speaker: I'm not aware of that, but I just might restate the policy. All demonstrations are outside, but it's quite clear that if any individual of the demonstrating group or groups, or a reasonable number of people wish to see a particular member, that is arranged. There were several caucuses this morning, I understand, and they had difficulty making contact with the members. But that is the clear, stated policy. If you were in your office, you should have been called by the appropriate security person. If you were there, then there is no reason you should not have received a call. I'll check into that, thank you.

I believe there was another ministerial statement, which I didn't catch.

AUTO LICENSING AGENCIES

Hon. Mr. Snow: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, this is an answer to question No. 4 on the order paper in the name of the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid), which I would like to give by way of a statement. The question was:

Would the Minister of Transportation and Communications advise the amount of money collected by licence plate issuers which has been unaccounted for, for the past five fiscal years?

The answer, Mr. Speaker: There are no moneys unaccounted for that have been collected by motor vehicle licence issuers during the past five fiscal years.

There is an amount due from one former issuer in the sum of \$119.45. At the time of his resignation, a reconciliation and audit of his account established that \$286 was due the ministry. Payments are being at the rate of \$10 per month, albeit irregularly.

At this time, however, the Ontario Provincial Police, at the request of the ministry are investigating certain matters relating to the handling of funds in two motor vehicle licence issuing offices. It would be inappropriate for me to speculate as to the results of these investigations at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

REPRESENTATIONS BY HAULERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I first ask a question of the Minister of

Transportation and Communications? Will he meet with representatives of the Ontario Haulers Association, who put forward a rather strong position outside the Legislature today; and will he indicate to the Legislature any changes he intends to make under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act as a result of the representation made to him?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I've always been available to meet with the Ontario Haulers Association. I have met with them—not recently—but I did receive a telegram a few days ago advising me of the intention to hold this demonstration today and asking me to be available for a meeting. I have been in this building most of the day. I've not been asked for a meeting. I will be here the rest of the day. I will be most of the afternoon in the estimates committee, however, but I'll certainly be prepared to meet with them.

To the other part of the question of the Leader of the Opposition; no, I do not have any plans for changing that Act.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister indicate whether with the limited experience we have whether he is satisfied with the new regional system of permits for the truck hauling industry?

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I stated last week, I believe, in reply to a similar question, as per the legislation and the amendments that were passed here last fall as a result of the request of this same truckers' organization—

Mr. Reid: No, of this one. There are two different organizations.

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, I beg to differ. I believe this organization was very much involved in representations to my predecessor that probably had a great deal to do with the initiating of his decision to have the dump truck inquiry under Mr. Rapoport. Mr. Rapoport brought in his report and one of the main recommendations of the report, after studying the industry very intensively, was for the control of entry into the field. That recommendation, along with other recommendations of the report, was implemented last fall by changes in legislation or regulation.

We're just in the process at this time of issuing the new R licences to the truckers who presently have the F licences. Automatically each truck owner who has an F licence gets an R licence, giving him authority to operate in one of the five regions. These are not small regions, they're quite

large regions. Also, as I stated again last week—and I don't like to repeat myself, because it's all in Hansard—the chairman of the Highway Transport Board is arranging for hearings to be set up in local communities to receive applications for extension of those R licences into a second, third or fourth region. Obviously, many of the operators are going to need this additional licence. Last night I talked to one operator whose home base is within two miles of a regional boundary. He obviously operates in both regions. Of course, I advised him to apply to the board for authority to operate into the second region, permanent authority, and if he needs immediate authority to operate, he can apply for temporary authority which the chairman can grant him.

If we're going to gain the benefits that were requested by the trucking industry, that were recommended by Mr. Rapoport, then I'm sure the legislation that we have will do this.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary: Can we take it from the answer just given that the minister is prepared to look at ways of becoming more flexible under the present regulations and that he will consider any recommendations that the haulers will care to make with you when they do meet, in fact, this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The authority for granting—

Mr. Singer: Why don't you just say you are flexible and sit down?

Hon. Mr. Snow:—public commercial vehicle licences lies with the Ontario Highway Transport Board. I don't think there's any need for additional flexibility. The chairman of the board has the authority and has assured me that he is willing to deal with any situations, or any applications, as they are put before him. I don't think there's any need for me—and I'm not sure I have the authority—to suggest to the chairman of the Highway Transport Board that he should be more flexible than the legislation and the regulations allow him to be. Also, I can't give the hon. member a commitment, obviously, that I will implement any suggestions that the truckers may have, because, of course, I have no idea what suggestions they may have.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, of the Premier: Is there a backbench revolt sim-

mering in the Premier's ranks about the way in which he handled the hospital cutbacks without advance discussion with the areas affected?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You're dreaming again. You'd better go and see Stuart Smith.

An hon. member: Wishful thinking.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: What kind of a setup is that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Unlike some parties in this House, we don't have any backbench revolts.

Mr. S. Smith: They certainly have a revolting front bench.

Mr. Lewis: Oh? You have a statement to make, perhaps, Stuart? All right. May I ask the Premier a supplementary?

Mr. Reid: What kind of setup is that?

Mr. Lewis: Can I ask him this? Would he care to reflect on the following, which was elicited today? The comment says, on the paper I have: "Mr. Johnston hereby goes on record as being in opposition to health cutbacks until further consultation with the people involved. Signed, Bob Johnston, MPP, St. Catharines."

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: He is always in favour of restraint whether it is seatbelts or anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would be very surprised and disappointed if the members whose ridings are affected by any policy of government didn't register their concerns to their constituents.

As I say, unlike some parties opposite I never interpret that as a matter of revolt. In fact, within our party the word revolution is not part of our vocabulary, unlike theirs.

Mr. Reid: How about—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Evolution, yes; revolution, never.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of fact, at this point in time, evolution isn't even in your vocabulary. But immobility, paralysis, all of those.

EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Lewis: May I ask another question? Why did the Premier not accept—it's a sepa-

rate question—the first recommendation from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation in the cabinet submission that came to you on Nov. 25, 1975, to proceed with the television stations and microwave transmitters for Sudbury and Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) might like to comment on that question. I am sure he will be back here very shortly.

Mr. Lewis: As I understand it, however, it did come to cabinet on Nov. 25, 1975, and presumably cabinet said no since that was the public decision. Therefore, whoever speaks for cabinet—

Mr. Singer: Why don't we get questions instead of speeches all day?

Mr. Lewis: Who speaks for cabinet?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question may be referred to when the appropriate minister is here.

Mr. Lewis: But I don't want to ask the Minister of Culture and Recreation. I would like to ask—

Mr. Singer: You have already had an answer.

Mr. Lewis: Can the Premier answer why cabinet rejected the recommendations?

Mr. Singer: Do you have a supplementary for that? I'm sure you must have?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can only make the observation that there are a multitude of recommendations which come to cabinet from a number of ministries. I would say—I think I am right in this—that probably the majority of these recommendations involve the government in additional public expenditure.

I think it is fair to say that, in spite of some of the rhetoric here in this House in the past while, the government programme of restraint has been one that has been under way for a period of time. While I am not at liberty to divulge the discussions that take place within cabinet, I think it is fair to say that there is some likelihood that the decision to delay or postpone or find alternatives to expenditure of sums of money, whether it was educational television or anything else, would be in that area of restraining the level of government expenditure. As I say—I am sure the Leader of the Opposition knows this—I really can't tell him exactly what goes on in cabinet as much as he would like to know.

Mr. Speaker: We will have one more supplementary from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, maybe the Premier can explain why he—

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, this question period is a joke.

Mr. Lewis: —took the position he did when at the top of page 5 and throughout the memorandum it said:

Cancel, at a cost to the government of \$903,000, the planned stations at Sudbury and Thunder Bay. The government received absolutely nothing for \$903,000 in 1976-1977.

Can he explain in the context of restraint how that made sense?

Mr. Singer: That's Tory management. Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the same question really has been asked three times. The Premier said it was cabinet policy. Why does our time have to eaten up by this posturing by the Leader of the Opposition?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: Are you in bed with them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: In answer to the question—this is why I suggested, with respect, that perhaps the Minister of Culture and Recreation might answer this particular question—as we are attempting to deal with restraint we are also attempting to see if there aren't alternatives which can be accommodated within certain levels of expenditure. The ministry has been working on alternatives but quite often alternatives are not as good as one would like to see achieved basically or in the initial period—

Mr. Sargent: We didn't get our copy of that report.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —whereby there will be—

Mr. Makarchuk: Nine hundred thousand dollars for nothing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the members will listen for a moment, the ministry is pursuing an alternative that really will result in no loss to the Province of Ontario.

[2:30]

Mr. Reid: Supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: The member for Rainy River with a final supplementary.

Mr. Reid: May I ask the Premier if he doesn't feel as a matter of policy and principle that TVO or ETV, whatever he prefers to call it, should be spread to those communities far away from the metropolitan centre, where we don't have the benefit of a number of television channels and so on; that in fact ETV was set up to do that very thing, and he is punishing those very people that it was set up to bring that service to?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am delighted to have this question from the hon. member because he is, of course, right in his basic assumption on the long-range policy of the government and certainly ETV—or whatever terminology he may wish to use—contrary to the views of some of his colleagues in his own caucus; yes, I think in terms of policy and principle—

Mr. Sargent: Why is Grey-Bruce last on the list then?

Hon. Mr. Davis: In terms of policy or in terms of principle, the intention is to have it in the northeast and northwest. I don't think there is any question about that. The Leader of the Opposition was referring to a plan whereby this would be accomplished. I am just saying to the House the ministry is working on a proposal where this can be partially accomplished within the constraints and with no \$900,000 loss.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Premier: In view of the Health Minister's ill health, which we all very much regret, will the Premier postpone the hospital closings at least until the minister is back in operation again?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to lead anyone astray. This is a very important issue to the communities which have made representation to the government and to the hospital boards.

I guess now I have met with either three or four groups which have made representations based on their views of the decision of the minister and the ministry. I think it was the hope of the minister prior to yesterday to come to some degree of finality, if possible, as soon as it could be done in order to have it settled in the minds of the people affected and so on. And I think that made great sense.

I would say to the members of the House, Mr. Speaker, that with the unfortunate ill-

ness of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) that the function of his ministry will be continued. I said to the one group yesterday, or I think both of them, that quite obviously there would be a response and that it might take somewhat longer than was originally anticipated. I have assured every hospital board or community that has been in to see me that the submissions that they have made will be carefully evaluated.

I think it is fair to state, Mr. Speaker, that by and large the submissions have been positive in nature. Unlike some of the observations I have heard from across the House, they genuinely support the government's programme of restraint. They are anxious to accommodate what they recognize, unlike some opposite, as the economic realities of Ontario and Canada today. I have been frankly impressed by the constructive way in which they have approached it. I was, I hope, very honest with them and made it very clear to them. There are one or two members opposite who were present at those meetings when I did my best not to create any level of anticipation or expectation that might not be fulfilled, because I don't think that would either help the situation or be fair.

Mr. Nixon: Just created a lot of cigar smoke.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member was at one of those meetings, and I think he would agree that was the approach that was taken. It is my hope Mr. Speaker, that the ministry and those who may be assisting, can be evaluating the submissions made. I made it quite clear that while the tentative date for closing of some of the institutions was April 1, I think it was always in the mind of the minister that this might not be practical in some instances, and we are not committed to a specific April 1 date.

I can't add anything more than that at the moment, other than to say that I am sure we all regret the misfortune of the Minister of Health. But I also have to say to the leader of the Liberal Party that it is the responsibility of Premiers and governments to continue functioning. People are entitled to answers and decisions; and to say that the decisions on the alternatives that the government has been asked to assess will be postponed indefinitely because of the unfortunate situation with the minister himself, I cannot give the member that particular undertaking.

I would only add to the Leader of the Opposition—and I don't think I'm betraying any confidences—the mayor of Durham does

not really blame the government for the closing of the arena.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: In view of the very positive and constructive nature of the delegation—as the Premier himself described it—and their willingness to assist in the necessary restraint policy, was the Premier able to explain to these delegations why they were not consulted in the first place for their constructive comments, and why instead it was said that all that would do is create “a lot of flak”?

Hon. Mr. Davis: We discussed a number of matters in the course of the meetings that I attended—

Mr. S. Smith: How come you didn't consult with them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and while I recognize, and we debated this yesterday to a certain extent in the hon. member's absence, which I totally understand, in a non-partisan way.

Mr. S. Smith: That makes one of us.

An hon. member: Couldn't face the music; that's why he wasn't here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As some of his colleagues would say, he really didn't miss anything, but—

Mr. Ruston: That's what the reporters say, too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And the Liberal House leader is going to report to him very accurately.

Mr. Conway: The red Tory is a red herring.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker: I have to say this to the leader of the Liberal Party; the question of whether consultation, in that sense of the word, prior to the recommendations of the ministry or of the minister might have led to some of these suggestions prior to—I don't want to say what was in their minds, but this in itself was not expressed to me in the way that I think the leader of the Liberal Party is suggesting.

Mr. Nixon: Unkindly.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't say that unfairly, but he can look behind him to the member who was at one of those meetings. And it was interesting for an area that rather traditionally, with some help, had opposed any approach of looking at things on a regional basis, if I can say that—where it was even an issue in certain by-election periods—to have

that particular group of people come in, and the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Gaunt) was there as well—

Mr. S. Smith: The Premier put a gun to their heads and they came in like lambs.

Mr. Reid: Is this a perpetual motion machine?

Hon. Mr. Davis: To have the warden of the county suggest—and I found it interesting—that perhaps if there was a regional health council, or some structure of county council which could do this, I found intriguing—if I can phrase it that way—

Mr. S. Smith: Is this all directly pertinent to my question, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but there was no suggestion, Mr. Speaker, that this was, on its own initiative, going to occur prior to that event.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Huron-Middlesex was there.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Grey-Bruce have a supplementary to the first question?

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Premier, in view of the circumstances of yesterday; we all very sincerely regret what happened to the minister and we hope for his full recovery. But in view of the circumstances, and supplementary to my leader's question, if minority government is going to work—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Have you found a way out? Find a way out; tell us about it. Have you found a way off the hook?

An hon. member: That was the Premier's quotation.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You just snap your fingers.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He just blew the caucus confidence.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting time.

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: Quote, unquote. The Premier was pleading on his knees yesterday, begging for consideration. If this is going to work—

Mr. Lewis: It is called a leak.

Mr. Sargent: —why wouldn't the Premier, in view of the situation now in regard to hospital closings, appoint a full committee of the House to deal in the future with hospital closings?

Mr. Deans: Was he at the Liberal caucus meeting?

Mr. Lewis: We have just found out what they decided.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Hamilton West's question had to do with consultation earlier; and I think that's been asked—

Mr. Sargent: I'm talking about a committee of the whole House. Can I get an answer from the Premier?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. It's a different question completely.

Mr. Sargent: It certainly is not.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I rule it so. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since you're not prepared to permit the question to be answered, I would like to ask the Premier for clarification on the removal of the April 1 deadline. Is he going to see that his office informs the boards of the various hospitals that they need not consider April 1 in the context of the minister's announcement as the closing date? I think the arrangements in these hospitals might very much depend upon the Premier's statement in this regard.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite obvious that for those hospitals where the consideration of the briefs and the proposals will not be completed in time to bring some finality by April 1, yes, there is no question that they will be informed.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: As I understand it, every single hospital other than Chesley has been given an avenue of appeal and reconsideration. So, with the exception of Chesley, we are talking about an extended life for all the other hospital closings?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am now getting into an area where I can't give the hon. Leader of the Opposition a total answer. I don't think that that is, in fact, the case. I am only going by memory now, but I believe there is a hospital in Virgil; there is one in Kemptville; there are about 10 al-

together, those are two. I don't believe that I have had representations, for instance, from Copper Cliff; I am not sure of that, certainly I haven't met with them. Really the four that I have met with who have presented the situations to me are Clinton, Durham, Doctors Hospital, and Paris-Willett.

SCHOOL GRANTS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker: Is the province going to ensure that financial assistance to school boards will at least equal this year the amount that they received last year?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I think that question should be directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker: As a matter of fact the question was asked yesterday in the absence of the hon. member, perhaps the Minister of Education might care to answer it.

Mr. S. Smith: That's fine, I apologize.

Mr. Speaker: The question was answered yesterday. If there is a brief reply, we will allow it.

Mr. S. Smith: That's fine.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is that the grant regulations are known to the boards. The rate of support, the grant per pupil for recognized ordinary expenditures, will likely be the same for most elementary boards in this province. It may be down slightly for some secondary boards, but we have put in a floor guarantee that it will not be any less than 95 per cent of the grant that it was the year previous.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary on that—again, forgive me for not having been here—but that is per pupil; we are speaking about where enrolment has gone down, and where the regulations now say that during a time of declining enrolment that transitional grant has now been removed, according to your new regulations. That will mean that where there is lower enrolment they will actually have lower grants this year in total than they did last year, because they will not be given a cushion with which to handle that. Would the minister please answer that question?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, yes, I would be very pleased to answer that question. I think, in keeping with the programme of restraint that we are now embarked upon, that if they have fewer pupils it will of necessity

mean perhaps fewer staff, and a certain cut-back in expenditures. The kind of provisions we have had in for the last few years were becoming a crutch, a crutch to boards to not cut back in keeping with their declining enrolment, and so we removed that declining enrolment position from those boards this year.

Mr. S. Smith: That's the crutch the ministry said was never there; the fat that was not in the system.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If the member would like to talk about one of the specific boards and what money they are getting next year, I would be happy to supply him with that answer. I just want him to know that we don't think we can keep propping up boards by paying them grants for pupils who aren't there.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's called new math.

Mr. S. Smith: That's the fat in the system, which they said wasn't there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: I have a supplementary question. I would like to talk about one specific board; the Hamilton board has had to set back all of its budget meetings because it does not yet have the communication from the ministry in writing with regard—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Should have been there yesterday.

Mr. Deans: —it hasn't got it yet—with regard to the budget and the regulations. When will they be getting those in the mail in order that they can, in fact, go ahead with the meetings that they had scheduled? I asked the minister this last week too, by the way.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, well, Mr. Speaker, I have here the communications which were sent out to every board of education in this province, and they were dated Feb. 12, 1976. If the Hamilton board didn't have it they should have been in touch with our office before this to get it. That gives them all the information they need upon which to compute their grants. Now, the regular grant regulation—

[2:45]

Mr. Deans: They need the regulation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, you don't need those. You can compute your grants with everything that is in these documents here. The grant

regulations are merely the formalizing of what is in this document here, which tells you all the figures you need to compute your grants.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe this question has been explored quite thoroughly yesterday; the same question was asked and the answer was given.

REPORT ON DAY CARE

Mr. S. Smith: For the Minister of Community and Social Services: Since the chairman of the advisory council on day care has said that the minister has had the report of that council since Jan. 30, can the minister explain why he has not yet made this report public?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That has been answered.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Isn't the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) talking to her colleague?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I repeat the question that was asked of me yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: He should have been here.

Mr. Nixon: Answer, go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The member for St. George, from the member's party, asked me the precise question yesterday.

Mr. S. Smith: I am sorry.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Hamilton West have any further questions?

Mr. S. Smith: No further questions.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has an answer to a question asked previously.

NORWICH UNION INSURANCE

Hon. Mr. Handleman: On Monday, March 15, the member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) asked me a question regarding whether or not the Norwich Union Insurance group had held discussions with my ministry prior to its announcement that it was pulling out of the insurance business in Ontario.

I am pleased to report that the Norwich Union Insurance group contacted our superintendent of insurance on March 11 to inform him that their board of directors in England had decided to cease writing insurance in Canada in the property, automobile and casualty lines because of an insurance loss of over \$1 million. This group, which has operated in Canada for about 100 years, will continue to write life and marine insurance.

The superintendent of insurance has held discussions with the group's Canadian general manager and he has assured us that he is in the process of dealing with a number of Canadian insurers to take over the Norwich Union portfolio and the agents concerned. Negotiations are still continuing and I've asked to be kept informed of the progress. I have also received assurances that other companies operating in Ontario will supply the market and that there is capacity within the system to do so.

I can assure the members that my office has and will continue to provide assistance to agents, to farm markets as well as to consumers who may experience any difficulty in placing their insurance needs.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

Mr. Martel: A question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Has it been drawn to the minister's attention that there is a severe problem with the catalytic converters in 1976 GM models which apparently leave a sulphur-like odour in the car which affects people who are suffering from chronic bronchitis?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: No, it has not been brought to my attention.

Mr. Martel: Can the minister immediately have the appropriate people within his ministry delve into it? Apparently the company cannot find a solution to the problem to this date, and it should be rectified.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: As I usually do in reply to questions of that nature, if there is a legislative remedy available to me, I would certainly exercise it.

GUELPH ABATTOIR

Mr. Worton: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. In his announcement of an agreement with his institution and Essex Packers along with the

DeJonge Group, has he taken into consideration the concerns expressed by the members of both sides of the House as to whether he feels that his department is sufficiently protected in regard to the investments it has of over \$1 million in building and equipment? Secondly, is the minister satisfied that the farmers who will be selling beef to this group are sufficiently protected in regard to payment? Thirdly, has he consulted with the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) in regard to the \$1.5 million in wages, that is, holiday pay and severance pay that go to the employees?

Does he feel the ministry is getting sufficient moneys out of this firm to pay off these and has he taken any steps to protect future loss to the employees?

Hon. J. R. Smith: I would like to thank the hon. member for the number of discussions he has had with me expressing concern over a number of the firms interested in receiving this lease at the Guelph Correctional Centre, as well as other members on this side of the House. As a matter of fact, I was very pleased when the Canadian Cattlemen's Association came to see me on Tuesday afternoon and expressed their concerns about the DeJonge proposal. At that time I laid it right before them—what were basically the objections of the agricultural community to the DeJonge brothers as packers? It centres on only one incident in 1973 involving one of the brothers. Other than that, there is no substantiation—or no allegation can be proved in any way regarding this family company.

As far as protection is concerned, the background of these people has been checked out by all levels of police and so on. On payment of the employees' severance pay, I might point out to the hon. member that the employees are among the various creditors, as well as farmers and suppliers to Essex Packers. There was an overwhelming vote of all creditors to accept the proposal. Seven of the 25 objectors were beef producers. There were 22 beef producers involved in total and one of these objectors to the settlement had a claim of \$14; the others are substantial amounts.

Mr. Gaunt: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow a supplementary. The member for Huron-Bruce.

Mr. Gaunt: Would it be fair to assume that the farmers and all of the creditors will be paid off at 15 cents on the dollar which, believe, was the latest proposal made

by the group with which you have now entered into this agreement?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, the DeJonge consortium of companies has deposited with the receiver today moneys—a cheque for \$250,000—and the pledge of one of their properties as surety for the payment of \$500,000 at 15 cents on the dollar.

DERELICT MOTOR VEHICLE RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Could the minister indicate to this House the extent to which the derelict motor vehicle recovery programme is being actively pursued by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, that programme started last year with two pilot projects. I'm advised now that it involves over 400 municipalities in the province, mainly in central and northern Ontario. They've located about 11,000 abandoned vehicles and 5,000 of these vehicles were shipped to markets. It involves about \$170,000 in provincial subsidies and we hope to involve a total of about 450 municipalities by the end of this year.

SYNCRUDE PROJECT

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy. What is the reason for the delay in the negotiation of the agreement for the participation of Ontario in the Syncrude project? What effect is the delay having on the project itself?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the project itself is going ahead on schedule, all aspects of it—the main plant, the pipeline and the utility plant. There are a number of agreements involved with the Syncrude participation. If the member could indicate which particular agreement he is referring to, whether it's the utility plant agreement, the main participation agreement, some of the financial agreements or whatever, they are all—

Mr. Renwick: They're all part of the package.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —they are all part of the package and they are all proceeding, I think, pretty well on schedule.

Mr. Sargent: A supplementary.

Mr. Renwick: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A supplementary by the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: By way of a supplementary question: Referring to the Premier's statement of Feb. 4, 1975 about the urgency of the project, when does the minister anticipate that the \$100 million investment by the Province of Ontario will be made in the project? Or is the government reconsidering its participation regardless of the fact that the project is going ahead without the participation of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the project is going ahead with the participation of Ontario. Ontario is not considering withdrawing from the project. The \$100 million represents five per cent, as members know, of the \$2 billion estimate at the time at which we entered the project. Ontario has been paying its portion of the project as we've gone along according to interim agreements signed. The plant, it seems, will come into service on schedule in 1978.

Mr. Sargent: I have two points. Has the \$100 million been paid yet? Secondly, what other provinces are involved at five per cent?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think the current up-to-date figures would be about \$20 million spent as part of our commitment to the Syncrude project. Members will recall that the governments of Canada, Alberta and Ontario are participating in the project to a total of 30 per cent. The Province of Alberta is in for 10 per cent, plus an additional amount of money which they are lending to some of the participants, plus their participation through the Alberta Energy Co. in a number of the off-site facilities—well, really, they are on-site—the utility plant and pipeline. As well the Alberta government is involved in Fort McMurray and in the overall project with the provision of housing, roads, bridges, sewers, schools and so forth.

SEXUAL CHARGES

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General tell us what is going on in Ottawa in relation to—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You have come to the fount of all knowledge.

Mr. Reid: Nobody can tell us that.

Mr. Singer: He might tell us that one, too, but where he has jurisdiction in the Crown attorney's office—that is what I was talking about. What is going on in the Crown attorney's office in Ottawa in relation to those charges against certain individuals who were charged under the Code with sex offences on the basis of the evidence—or the apparent evidence—of a 15-year-old boy who was being treated for his mental condition? Some charges have now been withdrawn against people who have some public reputations, having sat there for many months, and those people—at least one of whom enjoyed a position in the media—were damned by reason of charges that are never going to be heard in court. And the Crown must have known about this.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the matter that the hon. member refers to involves a number of cases, which resulted in the convictions of, and pleas of guilty by, a number of individuals.

Mr. Cassidy: And a lot of acquittals.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: There's no doubt but that the one very key witness, on behalf of the Crown, was a very important witness in these proceedings. There was a charge withdrawn on Monday—

Mr. Singer: A number of charges.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am aware of charges against one individual that were withdrawn on Monday. The reason for the withdrawing of these charges was because it was felt that this witness was in ill health and simply unable to testify by reason of his ill health. And I am further advised that one of the reasons for his ill health was the extent to which he had been victimized by the events that led up to the prosecution of a number of individuals and which, as I have already indicated, resulted in conviction or pleas of guilty.

We were advised that if this young man had to be called upon to give evidence yet once again his health would deteriorate to such an extent that his very life might be in jeopardy. It was on that basis, and on that basis alone that those charges were withdrawn on Monday last.

Mr. Singer: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Doesn't the minister know that this young man, who was supposedly the key witness in 17 individual trials, was mentally ill two years ago when the charges were first

laid and that the Crown should have recognized that this was likely to happen? And in the case of non-guilty pleas the young man would not be available to give his evidence, and that this was all known to the Crown's office and the Crown did nothing about it?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have looked into the matter fairly carefully, Mr. Speaker, and I am satisfied that the Crown attorney in Ottawa conducted himself in the best tradition of the Crown's office in this province in the handling of that very delicate matter.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of the Environment has the answer to a question. Is this a supplementary for the member for Ottawa Centre?

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, Mr. Speaker. One appreciates the minister's concern about the witness in that particular case, but in view of the fact that not within living memory has there been charges laid against males who consort with female prostitutes in a bordello does the minister not feel any concern about what has happened to the reputation of people who were charged in this rather unusual and extraordinary case? Is he not concerned, or has he laid down any guidelines to police departments and Crown prosecutors as to what should happen in the future if material of this nature comes to their attention?

[3:00]

Mr. Singer: Shouldn't happen then.

Mr. Sargent: Pretty shaggy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: From the information which has been made available to me, I'm satisfied that the matter would be handled no differently in the future, certainly with the information the Crown counsel had available to him. If any of the members opposite have any specific allegations to make about the handling of this particular case I would like them to make these specific allegations rather than a sort of general, vague condemnation of the manner in which this was handled. If there are any facts which I do not know let me have them.

Mr. Singer: The Crown ruined several reputations by this ridiculous kind of action.

Mr. Cassidy: It ruined reputations and it led to a suicide; that is what happened.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: They are making some pretty irresponsible statements on the other

side of the House and I think they should be made aware of that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: A point of privilege.

Mr. Cassidy: I would say to the minister that if he would dig into the files of his predecessors, about six or eight months ago I gave a lengthy list of those kinds of complaints and I have not had a response.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please that is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the minister requested any specifics from members opposite by way of complaints and they were provided.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't recognize that as information being given.

The Minister of the Environment has the answer to a question.

Mr. Singer: If the Attorney General can't concern himself about people's reputations, it is a fine thing.

ACCESS TO OSHAWA MARSH

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) asked me a question yesterday about my ministry staff being denied access to the marshland known as the Oshawa Second Marsh.

I'm advised staff were denied access in June last year. Apparently work had been undertaken by the federal Department of Public Works which obstructed the outflow of water from the marsh to Lake Ontario. However, last August, my ministry staff, along with staff from Environment Canada, made an inspection of the area in question.

On Sept. 8, a letter was forwarded from my ministry to the Oshawa Harbour Commission requesting that the obstructing material be removed to restore the natural outlet from the Second Marsh to the lake. Further inspection of this marsh will be undertaken very shortly to see that our recommendations have been carried out.

Mr. Moffatt: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question.

Mr. Speaker: We have time for a short supplementary question.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary to the answer: Has the material been removed from the outflow from that marsh to this date?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That's what the further inspection will find out. I expect that will be done in time.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener presented the annual report of the Ministry of Government Services for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1974, and ending March 31, 1975.

Mr. Cassidy: We hope it is her last.

Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous estimates committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Environment be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Ministry of the Environment

Environmental control

programme \$10,000,000

Mr. B. Newman from the standing procedural affairs committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices, as published in each case, sufficient:

Mid Erie Acceptance Corporation Ltd.;

Borough of Scarborough;

Township of Wicksteed;

Borough of York;

Congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa;

City of Cambridge;

McMaster University;

Township of Nepean;

Kent County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Your committee further recommends that copies of the Canadian Parliamentary Guide be purchased for distribution to the members of the assembly.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this report be received and adopted? Carried.

Motions?

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that when the House adjourns today it stand adjourned until Monday, March 29.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the report of the Provincial Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for the year ended March 31, 1975, be referred to the standing committee on public accounts.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 2

Clerk of the House: The government notice of motion No. 2, Hon. Mr. McKeough:

Resolved: That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the Civil Service and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1976, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word or two about this. The giving of the blank cheque to the Treasurer is always something that concerns members of the Legislature and of course that's exactly what we're talking about. We don't intend to oppose it quite obviously, because it may well be that a week Monday we'll be in the midst of an election and not have an opportunity to deal with this matter again.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I doubt it.

Mr. Deans: There are rumours drifting in this direction that that might not happen. Nevertheless, in the event that it does happen, it's obvious that the Treasurer has to have the necessary funds to pay the civil service and to continue the ongoing programmes.

I do want to suggest to the minister in this regard that, until such time as we come to the individual programmes of the various ministries, there's one matter I had hoped to raise within another discussion in the House and won't have an opportunity to do so, and for that reason I wish to raise it here.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) said today that perhaps there would be a setting-back of the date for hospital closings in the Province of Ontario. We in the Hamilton area don't anticipate any hospital closings as such, but we have been told there will be some bed reductions in the area, and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has indicated those bed reductions are not necessarily for the reasons of a lack of funding, but because the beds are no longer needed for active treatment care.

There are approximately 2,100 beds in the area and the minister indicates that he might

be prepared to reduce that by 200. He handed the matter over to the local health council. They, in turn, gave it back to the Minister of Health because, frankly, they felt they were not in a position to make any recommendations that will effect any cuts at this time.

I want, therefore, to make a suggestion to the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) which he might well pass on to his colleague, since his colleague is going to have to spend some of this money in putting into operation the programmes that he intends to have in effect as of April 1 before we get to dealing with his estimates in the House.

I want to suggest to the Treasurer that just as there is approximately a \$22,000 saving to be effected by the reduction of 220 active treatment beds in the Hamilton area, there is at this point a demonstrated need for some 360 chronic and nursing-care beds. It's my understanding that approximately 20 per cent of the hospital beds currently in use are, in fact, being used for chronic and nursing-home care. It's also my understanding that the average cost is about \$100 per day for active treatment, and that the cost for chronic and nursing-home care would range at the level of about \$30 to \$40 per day, depending on the degree of care made available.

I want, therefore, to suggest to the Treasurer that when he is making his moneys available to the Minister of Health he do so in the following way; that he say to the Minister of Health, "Yes we will approve the expenditures that you are asking for in the interim supply motion, but we'll approve it subject to you sitting down with the appropriate people in the city of Hamilton and working out a new arrangement whereby, if there is to be a reduction in active-treatment beds, there will be an appropriate number of nursing-home and chronic-care beds made available to deal with people who have a great need for that and for whom those beds are not currently available."

Now let me suggest this; if we were to make available 400 chronic and nursing-home beds in the Hamilton area in addition to those that are currently there, that would take up the 200 beds that have to be taken out of the active treatment area and would provide for 200 of the additional beds that would be needed for chronic and nursing-home care.

At this point in time, the saving in doing so, just on the 200 active-treatment beds alone, would be some \$12,000 a day, falling short of the objective of the ministry of \$22,000 a day by only \$10,000 a day.

In addition to that, by virtue of setting up these 400 chronic and nursing-home beds we would be able to meet an immediate need, we would be able to maintain employment at the current level within the various hospitals that we are talking about and we would, therefore, not further dislocate the people involved in providing health care in the area.

The 200 additional beds that would be made available would be used to provide for a demonstrated need. We are not asking for all 360 that are needed, but simply 200 of them.

I want to suggest further that the Treasurer discuss with the Ministry of Health officials who must make these decisions the possibility of using the facility at Chedoke Hospital, of leaving there a small but active emergency treatment facility; leaving there all of the facilities currently used for rehabilitation purposes, and then turning the remainder of that facility over to chronic and nursing-home care.

The effect of this would be that the 20 per cent of the active treatment beds currently in use and the variety of general hospitals would be no longer needed. Those people who are currently using those \$100-a-day beds could be transferred to the new facility at Chedoke into \$40-a-day beds. The staff that is currently on staff at Chedoke would then continue to provide the care. The staff that is currently available and being used in the general hospitals could be transferred to the Chedoke facility and we would find that if there was any, there would be very little dislocation of employment, that if there was a need for a reduction in employment that could be taken care of over a short period of time by the normal attrition process, and we would have met two needs and saved approximately the same amount of money.

I want to say to the Treasurer that my concern in health care is to make sure that we provide an adequate facility, at least in the Hamilton area and in my opinion throughout the province, to ensure that those who need care can get care within their capacity to pay.

I believe it is possible, with a programme similar to the one that I have outlined to the minister, that this could be done, at least for the Hamilton-Wentworth area. I am also convinced that there are many other areas, many other regions, which could do likewise. There is no need—in fact that would be folly—for the ministry to pursue the programme that it currently has of reducing the active treatment beds without providing adequate facilities for chronic and nursing-home care and without taking into account important factors. If you proceed with the reductions that you are

talking about, it will inevitably mean a reduction in the staff. If it means a reduction in the staff it will have an overflow effect on those people in the community who may well be considering the possibility of entering health care as a profession. Those people will be diverted—

[3:15]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out that I believe the hon. member is discussing an entirely different subject?

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. Speaker: We are voting supply here—

Mr. Deans: I know.

Mr. Speaker: —not discussing the advantages and disadvantages of nursing homes, or what have you.

Order, please.

I think it is proper to exemplify the voting of supply for such things, but to debate the case of nursing home beds vs. active treatment beds, it seems to me that's another field completely.

Mr. Deans: I would, on your interjection Mr. Speaker, put this to you: That between now and the day the Minister of Health's estimates are tabled in the House and dealt with, the Minister of Health will, by virtue of this motion, be given all of the money necessary to implement all of the programmes which he has indicated will commence on April 1.

Mr. Speaker: If I might point out, I agree that—

Mr. Deans: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: —it is a matter of voting supply for whatever necessary expenditures that have to be made.

Mr. Deans: And I have said that I am prepared to vote that supply on the following conditions: That the Treasurer put to the Minister of Health and his ministry that within that area these matters I am most concerned about be considered; and I think that's quite well within my rights. I think I am entitled to put to the minister that if he wants me to give him a blank cheque to spend money from now until such time as I have an opportunity to discuss the actual estimates of any ministry, then I am entitled to suggest to him there are certain things which have to be considered by that minister and the other ministers involved.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I think the matter of the one type of bed vs. the other does not enter into it.

Mr. Deans: It does; it shows how to save money.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of voting supply. I agree you are illustrating it, so the hon. member may continue.

Mr. Deans: Thank you very much. I appreciate that very much, thank you. Now you have really done it, because I don't remember where I was. What was the last word; could you tell me?

Mr. Renwick: "But."

Mr. Deans: Which "but" was it, though? Oh dear, where was I? Maybe the Treasurer could tell me, since he was listening so intently?

Mr. Ruston: You were out of order, that's what happened.

An hon. member: Start over again.

Mr. Deans: I guess I will have to start over, because I can't remember.

Well anyway, without going into it any further, I will say this to the Treasurer: I am always reluctant, particularly since I've already indicated non-confidence in the government, to give him a blank cheque. I am reluctant to say to him: "Yes, go ahead and spend in whatever way it pleases, without any recourse to the legislative process"; at least not before the next election, assuming my colleagues from the Liberal Party proceed with their foolhardy amendment to the amendment.

I want to suggest to him that he should certainly make known to the Minister of Health that I make this suggestion in good faith. I make this suggestion believing full well that there is an opportunity for the government of the province to save money—which is what we are all interested in—while at the same time providing for all of the active-treatment bed needs; while at the same time providing for the chronic and nursing-home needs; while at the same time not dislocating the employment of so many dedicated people. I remember now where I was; thank you very much.

What I was saying was the Treasurer has to bear in mind that for a great many people who are currently either in school or in the process of entering schools related to social services and health, they may well be dissuaded, as a result of this government's ac-

tions, from pursuing that career. At some point within the next decade, he will be screaming and shouting at us, when we are in government, that there aren't enough nurses and there aren't enough people in social services. And it will be because the Treasurer and the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), have effected cutbacks which are not well thought out; they are ill-advised.

So I say to the Treasurer, if he wants this money he has to undertake these kinds of things as a possible way of ensuring that the saving he is trying to get allows the provision of the health-care delivery system that we all think is so necessary in the Province of Ontario.

Beyond that, one final point dealing with the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) and the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), it's small, but important to the area I represent. The Minister of Housing decided some time ago to build a HOME project on Saltfleet Mountain, as it was then known; it's now known as the town of Stoney Creek. The Minister of Housing built this some considerable distance away from any other built-up area and as a result there is no public transit. The city of Hamilton owns the only public transit system.

Neither the Minister of Transportation and Communications nor the Minister of Housing is prepared to enter into any subsidy programme to ensure there is public transit. I want to suggest that in the consideration of the expenditures of this government from April 1 until such time as we deal with Housing, or until such time as we deal with Transportation and Communications, some serious consideration be given to the plight of the people who are living in homes far removed from the normal routes of communication or transportation and who do not have any public transportation available to them.

With those two comments, which are parochial in nature, I say to the Treasurer he should spend this money very wisely. I hope maybe after April 1 we'll have an opportunity to look more closely at where he intends to raise the revenue in order to spend what he's been overspending and over-borrowing in the last number of years.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, traditionally the motion has been put before the House each year which gives the Treasurer the right to spend the money put into the estimates

for the next successive 12 months in the fiscal year. Complaints have been put forward by opposition members and I believe, really, they have been echoed by supporters of the government—at least in general terms—that very few Houses give this sort of a blank cheque to the Treasurer—that is, one full year's supply. In this instance it might amount to something in excess of \$12 billion.

There are, of course, remedies available to this House during the period in which we are in session, that is in the fiscal year during which this expenditure would be authorized. But the feeling is very much in the minds of the members in opposition, and surely elsewhere, that our extensive debates on the estimates are a bit futile in that this motion approves the expenditure in total. I don't know of any other House in any democratic jurisdiction where the House is asked to approve such tremendous *carte blanche* responsibility on the part of the Treasurer without some adequate, let's say more easily understood and observed, safeguards.

I personally don't believe the motion itself should be a vehicle for extensive discussions as to precisely how the moneys are to be spent. But I would suggest that I feel quite strongly that our procedures should be patterned after other Houses where the members are asked to approve supply not in blocks of one year but perhaps on a quarterly basis. Some legislatures and parliaments do it more frequently than that.

I believe, as well, there is a possibility of an election in the next few weeks and a new parliament will be back here—it is quite possible it will be a new parliament, perhaps even a new government—examining the business of the House some time later in this year.

I would hope that the minister would give some consideration to following the traditions in other democratic parliaments by not asking for a full year's supply. It's true that the voting of supply has been used in the Parliament of Canada in the past—by the Conservative Party which was then in opposition—as a lever perhaps to extract from the government of the day certain concessions in matters of policy and administration. There have been chances, I suppose, that supply would run out because an intransigent opposition would refuse to vote supply until amendments to government policy came forward.

There are, however, political balances and checks in this connection. If the opposition

refuses to vote supply so that the public service is not paid or certain pensions are withheld, of course, I believe there is a danger of irresponsibility in that connection. Weighted against that, surely, is the unreasonable request from the government that this House be asked to give them a blank cheque for what will be in excess of \$12 billion.

It is true we will have ample opportunity to discuss in detail the expenditure of those dollars during the life of this Legislature or its successor, if in fact there is an election. But still it seems an unreasonable way for a democratic government to proceed. With that in mind, I would move an amendment to the motion, seconded by the hon. member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Gaunt).

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Nixon moves that the words "for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1976," in the third and fourth lines be deleted; and the following substituted, "for the period commencing April 1, 1976, and ending June 30, 1976."

Mr. Nixon: The motion would now read:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil service and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply, for the period commencing April 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1976. Such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Now Mr. Speaker, if you will just permit me a moment or two before you put the motion. As I say, there will be ample opportunity for debate in this House, or another with other membership; there will finally be an approval of the vote of supply, usually in December of the calendar year; but I would suggest, sir, that this change, while in no way interfering with the responsibility the government has to meet its commitment, does leave a considerably greater degree of responsibility with the members of this House.

I would urge, Mr. Speaker, not only that the NDP accept the motion, but the Treasurer might well consider accepting it as well.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Nixon's motion is now before us. Any further discussion on this? The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, briefly: I am sure the member for Wentworth and officials of both the Ministries of Health, of Housing and of Transportation and Communications, who will undoubtedly read the Han-

sard of this particular discussion, will take the comments which may have merit so far as Wentworth and active-treatment and chronic-treatment beds are concerned into consideration in their plan-making.

I would simply say to the former leader of the third party that I have no objection to his amendment to our motion. I would point out, however, that the committee studying the report of the Camp committee on the Legislature is looking at exactly this. I frankly would prefer to leave that subject to their deliberations and to look at it a little bit more closely than obviously we are able to look at it here this afternoon. I am not sure when that committee will report, but that is one of the things they are deliberating on, about which they questioned the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Auld) and myself when we appeared before the committee. Perhaps that aspect has not reached the former leader and the caucus, but that is something they are looking at and it seems to me it might have been more reasonable to leave this matter to the advice of what I will call the Morrow committee.

I would simply point out that all the arguments which the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk made, have been made on a number of occasions, and I might be so bold as to say more brilliantly and more eloquently by the former member for Sudbury among others. But I was glad to have this member's contribution to this ongoing debate. When he first entered the House, certainly when I first entered the House, the budget was introduced, the estimates were introduced, and they were all passed by March 30, and this particular motion was not necessary. I think this particular motion was introduced for the first time in 1965 or 1966, when overall approval was put beyond the date of April 1 and this became necessary.

Mr. Nixon: Do you recall whether or not it passed without debate the first time?

[3:30]

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The first time? No, I think the member for Sudbury, as I recall, talked eloquently, much more eloquently than the former Leader of the Opposition, about the right of Her Majesty the Queen to ask the assembly for money and—well, let's not go into that.

It should be pointed out that if we are trying to keep things in perspective, there has been a debate going on this week—it is not yet finished, it will be resumed again this afternoon as I understand it; it has

been going on in committee for the better part of a week—which has nothing to do with the estimates for the year ending March 31 next. All that debate, as I have heard it and read about it, has to do with the following year. I am speaking about the supplementary estimates.

So that the matters raised by the member for Wentworth, and in effect by the former Leader of the Opposition, are being debated under the heading of supplementary estimates; and I might say, Mr. Speaker, being very strict about it, it is completely out of order, because it is not the supplementary estimates that are being debated at all.

With respect to the Ministry of Health, for example, it is completely with respect to a policy or policies which presumably will be given effect in spending estimates beginning April 1, 1976, rather than for the year ending March 31, 1976, which is what the supplementary estimates are all about.

I would only point out one further matter, and that is—and I say this to the former Leader of the Opposition with respect—it isn't a blank cheque. The government fully laid out on December last what its spending plans were for this coming year. Those figures have been before the public. We went across this province. We tabled in the House a figure, I believe of \$12,512 million; it may have been \$12,520 million.

Those figures do change, the percentages change, but on every occasion I have said that as Management Board has completed its studies for the estimates, as there have been appeals to cabinet back and forth, and discussions, obviously the figures have changed somewhat. I can tell the member that I think the spending estimates which will be tabled—and perhaps a set of them may be tabled, I don't know, before the budget on April 6, there may be one book ready for tabling by the Chairman of Management Board—I can tell him that the total of the four books, the total which will show up in my budget, will be within \$100 million of that figure—

Mr. Nixon: What was the amount?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It is \$12,512 million, as I recall it. There will not be a significant variation in any of the figures, I think it is fair to say, from the spending estimates which I tabled in the House last December and which have been discussed at some length across this province. I say that because, in effect, half of the budget became known on that date, and the other half—that concerning revenues and economic out-

look—will be known, the Lord willing, on April 6 in this House, at 8 o'clock at night.

I am anxious to read it and I hope hon. members are anxious to hear it. I have no trouble in accepting the amendment to my motion proposed by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the amendment moved by Mr. Nixon carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The motion, as amended, is carried.

Introduction of bills.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATE CONTROL BOARD ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to establish the Automobile Insurance Rate Control Board.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Swart: The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to freeze automobile insurance rates, effective Jan. 1, 1976. The bill also establishes an automobile insurance rate control board which would have the power to approve and adjust automobile insurance rates in recognition of the savings accruing to insurance companies from seatbelt use and reduced speed limits, and to conduct public hearings dealing with rate increases.

KENT COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD ACT

Mr. Spence moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Kent County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

TOWNSHIP OF NEPEAN ACT

Mr. Morrow moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Township of Nepean.

Motion agreed to, first reading of the bill.

TOWNSHIP OF WICKSTEED ACT

Mr. Warner, on behalf of Mr. Wildman, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Township of Wicksteed.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the minister can order parties to a strike or lockout to end the strike or lockout for a period of 60 days, during which time the parties try to reach a settlement.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to relieve Persons from Liability in respect of Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of the bill is to relieve persons from liability in respect of voluntary emergency medical and first aid services.

SAFETY COMMITTEES ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to provide for the Establishment of Safety Committees.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of the bill is to establish a safety committee which shall have equal representation from both employers and employees in the industry and that employees will have an input respecting their safety in industry.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH ACT

Mr. Leluk, in the absence of Mr. Drea, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Borough of Scarborough.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ACT

Mr. Davidson moved first reading of bill intituled An Act respecting the City of Cambridge.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 27th order, House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: On a point of order, the member for Bellwoods.

Mr. McClellan: I would like to remind the Chairman that when we adjourned the House at 6 o'clock last night the Chairman ruled that he would recognize the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) as the first speaker when we went back into committee to discuss these estimates further.

[3:45]

Mr. Chairman: I am aware of that commitment. I understand the minister hadn't completed his response to the opening remarks of the member for Bellwoods, but there was a commitment by the Chair that the first speaker, when we resumed consideration of these estimates today, would be the member for St. George. Unless I hear some very strenuous and compelling reasons why that commitment shouldn't be upheld, I will recognize the hon. member for St. George.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say that naturally I must comply with the Chair's ruling, but I want to make it abundantly plain that I had hoped to reply fully to the member for Bellwoods prior to the Liberal critic making her remarks. However, apart from the fact that now that reply will be separated from subsequent remarks, I can't offer anything more compelling than that. I am at the mercy of the Chair and, naturally, I will abide whatever the Chair rules, but I want to make it abundantly plain that I have not finished responding and I wish to have that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman: You will be given an opportunity to complete whatever comments you still had. In view of what happened yesterday in the lead-off, I would say there was a far-ranging debate on all the activities of the Ministry of Community and Social Services—far wider, I must say, than anything anticipated by the Chair. With that in mind and with the co-operation of the member for St. George, she has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I sat and listened to the statements by the critic of the opposition and I intend to take advantage of this opportunity to develop my overview in the same way as that accorded to that member. I regret the minister did not conclude

his remarks, but when I yielded to give him the opportunity, I believe he made a commitment to me that he would not be unduly long and, without meaning to be provocative, I found him interminable. That's all I can say.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I could say the same about you.

Mrs. Campbell: I am sure.

During the course of the minister's remarks, he spoke with pride of the welfare programmes in this province. I think the people of the province have had an opportunity to have some pride, particularly in the Metropolitan area, because there the creative kinds of programmes were developed by the municipal government.

I would point out to this House that this is one of the few provinces which require the municipal government to participate financially in the general welfare assistance budgeting. Of course, therefore, when the minister makes his remarks—and I don't know that anyone yet understands what his remarks are—as to just what portion he is going to pay even of that programme, certainly it means that the municipalities are going to have to cut back on those very programmes.

It has been said so many times that if you are in public life and you leave it and are gone for 10 years, you will probably come back and debate the same things you were debating 10 years ago. It is interesting to me, when I look at the cutbacks here to see the kinds of things that Metro is going to have to cut back; dental programmes, for example. I can recall vividly having before us at Metro some dentists from the University of Toronto, who indicated that what we were doing at that time was barbarian. At that point all we could do was remove teeth, even healthy teeth. We could not fill them, we could not do any correctional work. Now, apparently, by reason of the lack of planning policies of this government, we are going to be back in this same position.

I suppose, Mr. Chairman, as a simple person, I will be permitted the opportunity to draw some parallels in some of this budgeting. I am delighted the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) is here, because when one is discussing services to people and services to plants we aren't really discussing the same thing. I would like her to understand that—since undoubtedly she does not understand it—and we believe it's a matter of priority.

I refer to a Globe and Mail report which was dated Jan. 23, 1976. I recognize that

some things have changed since then, but it's interesting that at that time Godfrey—whom I take to be Paul Godfrey, not notably a radical—stated to the minister: "Your law forces us to make these payments, but when you cut back the portion you pay, you force us to increase our payments from 24.8 per cent to over 29 per cent".

So much, then, for the legal position of this government in dealing with the matter of its proper apportionment between itself and the Metropolitan municipality.

But interestingly enough in that same article, Ray Tomlinson, the Metro social services commissioner, stated that Metro may have to cut the item for dentures and dental care, which I've already mentioned. And I would like to draw your attention to an item of \$65,000 for eyeglasses. That to me is an important and vital matter; and it's interesting to me that the Minister of Government Services could expend \$67,500 to refurbish the vice-regal suite in the light of that statement.

Then we see that the \$10,000 for summer camps may have to be cut. It's interesting that again that same minister would give priority—because that's what it amounts to—to purchasing 429 tropical plants for an office of Transportation and Communications, at an expenditure of \$19,000. Then so that we wouldn't overwork any of our civil servants, we provided a programme for the care and feeding of those plants at a cost of some \$30,000 over a two-year period.

I think, Mr. Chairman, this is what it's all about as we discuss this minister's programme. It is a matter of priorities, a matter of commitment to services to people—necessary, vital services to people.

The minister has spoken about the \$6 million for new daycare centres, but nowhere has he discussed the fact that that \$6 million has been used over and over again in the estimates. It's left over because it wasn't used before. But we're going to hear about that ad nauseam, and he is not levelling with the people of this province when he keeps on using it.

He denied it yesterday—but he didn't deny the article as it appeared in the press; he did not rise on a point of privilege to correct it—and it was quite clearly stated that he said mothers ought to go to work. That's his position. He hasn't said that in the Metropolitan Toronto area there are 35,000 children, under the age of 12 who are children of single-parent families, and that there are only some 6,682 places—I believe that is the figure—

for those children in the metropolitan area. I suppose we can find sky-hooks or something for them. But this a plan; this is a programme? Forget it.

He spoke about the fact that he has 11 officers in Manpower offices. I do hope he will elaborate on that, because I would like to know whether these are additional members of his staff or members who have simply been allocated to these offices. In the course of the discussion in this House about these single parents, these mothers, he mentioned—I hope, somewhat out of context—the word “Teperman.” It’s most interesting to me. Teperman—uh huh? It’s most interesting to me that this minister believes he is going to be able to match people to jobs.

You know, when I was early in the field of welfare at the city, I had such dreams. I spent summers going down through industries trying to arrange something whereby we might match people to jobs and help people to get into the productive market. Teperman’s is one place which had jobs. I had men who were on welfare—unemployed employable men who did want to get jobs. I can recall going to the then commissioner of welfare at Metro and asking whether we could provide the safety boots, if we could get these men involved and if they were interested. We even went that far to say, yes, we would. But when those men showed up for work the problem was they couldn’t meet the physical specifications for the job. They were unemployed employables, but there were limitations to what their employability was. Yet the way this minister states it, one would think that we could just roll it out and we would have people in the job market.

[4:00]

Certainly, I don’t know where we’re going to find the jobs for these women who are single heads of families, even if we had the day care. What does this profit us if we have a mother of five children and she can command \$80 a week—what does it profit any of us? I suppose that we could take the young people out of school, as the minister seems to suggest. But what is the cost in the long run if we don’t have these young people educated? What does it do but prolong the welfare cycle?

I have an article from the Barrie Examiner: “Homes For The Aged—Fatal, Grim Year.” The article asks the question as to how we get around the increased costs for fixed items and still stay within the 5.5 per cent increase? I’m quoting Peter Laidlaw, the administrator of the IOOF home for the

aged in Barrie: “If the government is going to hold us to that, I don’t see anything else but to cut staff and programmes.”

If they cut staff they may well be in great difficulty in some of these homes, because staff is needed. These are old people, and most of them are there because they need some kind of caring. I had the opportunity not too many weeks ago to visit one of my own riding’s homes and to deliver on behalf of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and, hopefully in some respect, on behalf of myself, a plaque to a lady who was 105 years old. It is true that she had lived on her own in the community until the year before, but she’s in there and she’s very active and she’s very independent. It’s that very independence of some of these people which creates problems for themselves; and without staff we could see some tragedies in these places.

But what does it matter to a government that cares so little about these human needs and puts, as my colleague said the other day, plants ahead of patients?

Mr. Riddell: And a price tag on people.

Mrs. Campbell: There is no question that some of these programmes are costly, but let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, it may be even more costly if we don’t have the programmes.

I had mentioned day care before and I had mentioned the fact that it is a desire to have women work. I’m going to refer back to the same article in the Globe and Mail of Jan. 30, which discusses a blind lady who has no place to send her two-year-old daughter while she works, because the Ontario government cutback on Metro social services will deny her day care. She applied for day care in order to go to work for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. So she can’t go. I wonder just where this ministry feels it is accomplishing either economy or social solutions.

We hear about the possible closing of Hill-top Acres, which accommodates 200 senior citizens. What does it matter to a government which is unthinking and insensitive to the needs of these people? If you could listen to some of the older people in this community. On the one hand we want to keep people in their own homes because it is overall less costly, but let’s keep them there and cut out all the services that make it possible for them to stay. Meals on Wheels is a real off-the-top-of-the-head kind of project to remove in time of restraint. I wonder what kind of economist is looking at that kind of a programme.

I would like the minister to explain to me—correct me if I am wrong in the information that I have—why certain salaries of homemakers, for example, appear to be frozen at a time when, at least in this area, it has become increasingly difficult to get women into this field because they can earn more clerking in stores, for shorter hours, and the work is not as difficult. Why should they stay in the homemaking service? And yet surely again, that is a vital service to people in the homes, a vital service in maintaining some kind of existence for such people.

I suppose the minister will make a comment at last on his precise legal position with reference to municipalities. I would like his explanation as to why he thinks Metro should bear 29 per cent of the cost, rather than 20 per cent. I really don't think he should stand up in this House and explain that he does not think they will need the budget which they have provided for.

A welfare budget is something like a snow removal budget in a municipality. You never know. You just never know. This year I'll lay you odds there have been some problems in municipalities in coping with snowfalls which they didn't anticipate. But this minister says, "With our new guidelines we are not going to have to worry. We are not going to have to worry and municipalities don't have to worry. They won't have the kind of loads they anticipate."

Municipalities are in a position in which they have to estimate with a degree of reality because they can't get into the position of deficit financing. The thing that is so difficult at this point in time is that we probably won't know the full story about these cutbacks until, likely, February or March of next year.

It is to be wondered what happens at that point in time when municipalities present their proper, legitimate bills for their services—mandatory services to people—and the minister—I can just see this minister, can't you—would delight in saying "Sorry, old boy, you've exceeded your allocation by this ministry. Find the money yourself."

That is precisely what municipalities are so deeply worried about today. Believe me, when Paul Godfrey comes out worrying about it, you've got to know there is a real worry.

Mr. Lawlor: You're darn right.

Mrs. Campbell: Right? Yes. It is most unlikely that he would ever say anything at all that might in any little way embarrass this government. He must have been driven to it.

I am not going to cover those items which have already been covered by the critic for the opposition, just in the interests of time, but I do feel that I must speak of the children's aid programme just slightly. I recognize that the minister has apparently given a reprieve to the Metro Children's Aid Society.

Mr. McClellan: Seven per cent isn't exactly a reprieve.

Mrs. Campbell: Well, it's a little better than 3.1. The real problem with this kind of a programme goes even deeper than the financial one. What this kind of a programme does is to set agency against agency, to make them compete for the dollar instead of being in a position of trying to be supportive together. I think we saw that in the early statements coming from the Catholic Children's Aid Society. It was interesting to me, though, to find that notwithstanding their very gallant stand that they would indeed live within the 5.5 per cent, they couldn't do it. Perhaps when they were able to demonstrate that they needed far more than the 5.5 per cent, it was then that the minister was no longer able to use them as a kind of alibi in making Metro Children's Aid the whipping boy in this service.

[4:15]

One of the things that bothers me again is the economics. The Metro Children's Aid Society has a programme and it's a preventive programme. While I'm not satisfied that the costs are truly adequate, they are and have been able to provide for a child in a home at \$3 a day. That is the kind of programme that will have to be cut even now under this cutback. But if that child is taken into care the cost in care will be a minimum of \$13 a day instead of \$3. I don't know whether that strikes anybody here as making any sense at all if we're talking about restraint, but it's always that kind of a programme that gets cut.

One of the things that has bothered me for some time is the whole matter of the group homes. I suppose it has bothered me because the group homes which look after girls in our society usually work out to be more costly in dollars than the group homes for our boys because the girls are so much more damaged for the most part and because they need a more sophisticated staff and a lower, tighter ratio of staff to child. It's possible that that's the service that will be cut for group homes because if we can care for more people cheaper maybe that is

the approach we have to take when we look at services to young people.

If only the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development—that whole secretariat—could have proved its worth by taking the costs of services such as Children's Aid and looking at the cost of special education where there hasn't been any agency assistance or support; looking at the cost of correctional institutions—they couldn't ask this minister to get involved in examining that; looking at the cost to health, then maybe we could come closer to a decent approach, a human approach. Yet the only thing that counts with this government is the monetary solution. Even there, we might at least save money if we put together the services that are so desperately needed, but no.

Mention was made of family services and I'm not going into the fact of the loss of a camp for the disabled child. That's a good programme to cut, and that's the programme that will be cut. Here again is this strange dichotomy where the left hand of this government doesn't know what the right hand is doing, because they want family services to take on more of a role in the community. Of course, now there's really no excuse for it because the policy of returning the mentally retarded to the community and thus calling upon family services to assist is now in this ministry. But to cut the life-blood of that kind of an agency and expect the service!

I think the agencies should be very proud of the fact that this ministry expects so much of them, relies so heavily upon them. It reminds me somewhat of a story of a friend of mine who had had a great many problems and she said, "You know, it gets more difficult to bear these problems. People keep saying to me, 'the back is made for the burden. Your shoulders are broad, you can handle it.'" She finally said, "That's all very well but I wish the good Lord did not have so much faith in me."

I think the agencies are taking that position today, because they feel this government really has too much faith in their ability to create miracles.

It's very interesting that this government also has great faith in the municipalities. It counts on the fact that municipalities will not cut services if they can possibly avoid it, because municipalities are close to the people and they understand their needs. The inevitable conclusion, of course, is that they must increase their taxes. The people and pensioners concerned, the senior Jewish clubs, the senior citizens clubs, are saying, "Why place

that additional burden on us, those of us who own our own homes or live in rented property, because it only makes it tougher for us to live?"

Why is it that this government has never followed the example of those other provinces which do not require the municipalities to pay for general welfare assistance? I perhaps **could not expect** this province to lead, but surely it could follow, and leave to the municipalities—if that is what they want to do—the provision of those services which add, if we may call it, a more abundant living to people. But no, we mustn't do that. We must cut back and we must cut back on all those services which make it possible for people to live rather than to exist.

I could go on. I could read to you from all of these articles which I have here, but what is the purpose? We could talk on and on and on about the lack of decent nutrition. We could talk on and on and on about the disabled in our community but what useful purpose would be served?

It was interesting yesterday to hear the Premier (Mr. Davis) say the opposition parties are creating an unnecessary election, but he didn't say that he was prepared to withdraw from the intransigent position of this government in services to people.

Perhaps now the minister may reply to both of the opposition critics. I trust that his answers would be explicit and not the usual rambling that we have been hearing in this House. But I repeat that it's possibly only coming from the mind of a very simple person.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I won't make reference to your last remark.

Mr. Riddell: Don't touch it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I may say "uncomplicated" but I'll not say "simple." So if my remarks are rambling it will only be because I am following the sequence and the subject as they are presented and as they have unfolded in the Legislature. I will, of course, proceed with my reply and comments in that order.

Going back to yesterday, we left off in the area of general welfare and the question of tax-backs of moneys that would be earned or could be earned by welfare recipients. My friends from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), the present and previous critics of the New Democratic Party for this ministry, accuse me of not stating the provisions of the General Welfare Assistance Act insofar as they applied to the payment—

Mr. McClellan: It's discretionary; you tell me where it is different?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please, the hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: What is your point of order?

Mr. Foulds: There is no quorum, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman ordered that the bells be rung for four minutes.

[4:30]

Mr. Chairman: We now have a quorum. The hon. minister may continue.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I made mention of the fact that the members for Bellwoods and Sudbury East were uninformed in terms of the provisions of the General Welfare Assistance Act, and for their edification and information I might refer them to section 12 of that Act, and I'll quote in part:

The welfare administrator may exempt, (1) an amount up to a maximum of \$50 monthly for a single person or up to a maximum of \$100 monthly for a head of a family, and (2) an additional amount up to a maximum equal to 25 per cent of the amount by which his wages, salary, casual earnings or the net income from an interest in or operation of a business exceeds the monthly exemption to which he may be allowed under subsection (i).

In other words, there is that provision for exemption of income to those amounts under the General Welfare Assistance Act, as it is mandatory under the provisions of the Family Benefits Act. I thought that should be clarified in view of the contrary position taken by those members.

Mention was made by the member for Bellwoods that there is a problem of jobs and not welfare abuse. Certainly, I alluded to a tightening up of certain regulations and criteria in connection with the General Welfare Assistance Act and those regulations are expected to come forward by the end of this month. There is the dismissal of any change by my friend, who implies that no tightening up or change is necessary. I may say that the present general welfare assistance regulations stipulate that in order to be eligible—

Mr. McClellan: Have you 25,000 jobs up your sleeve?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —an applicant or recipient must be willing to accept regular full-time employment for which he is capable. I am saying that not all jobs are regular and full-time. There are employment opportunities in Ontario which may be regular part-time, periodic full-time, or simply part-time. I know that statistics were quoted by your leader to which you alluded, then adopted, to indicate that in 1975 there was a monthly average of 8,700 employable single males on the general welfare assistance rolls. They were supposedly there as a result of their inability to obtain regular full-time employment. The question to consider, in my estimation, is whether a single employable male needs to remain on general welfare assistance if the other job alternatives I have outlined are open to him.

Mr. McClellan: A day in the scrapyards.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If a part-time job is available and the applicant is able to do it, he could avail himself of that opportunity. If necessary, his earnings would supplement the social assistance until he can return to full-time employment.

I see nothing wrong with that. You object but, of course, I'm not surprised at that objection.

Mr. Warner: Where are the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Your leader also made reference, as you have, to 13,300 single females, 4,000 of whom are employable. I don't know whether you find anything wrong with the approach that these women should avail themselves of the employment opportunities for single males that I have outlined.

Mr. McClellan: A day in the scrapyards.

Mr. Warner: Where are the jobs?

Mr. Makarchuk: Where are the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The fact remains that you continue to confuse—and I think deliberately so—the requirement of full-time regular employment with the proposition of part time or casual employment.

Mr. Makarchuk: You tell us where the jobs are.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You do not subscribe—

Mr. Makarchuk: I'll send you the people and you find them the jobs.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to the work ethic and you refuse to acknowledge it. There is no way that I convince you of it.

Mr. Warner: Drake Personnel will find them jobs.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is no way I can convince you of it. You're dedicated in your opposition to the work ethic.

Mr. Burr: We don't believe in work!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, the member for Bellwoods once more alluded to the cut-backs on work activity projects. I won't repeat what I said yesterday in terms of the moneys that were allocated in the budget for work activity programmes. I cited a figure in excess of \$1 million at that time which involved something over 16 programmes.

Mr. McClellan: One million dollars out of \$1 billion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's up to the municipalities to implement those. We also have worked with three municipalities who were interested in assisting the working poor. We have those programmes, as you know, under way in Metropolitan Toronto—

Mr. McClellan: Can you force them to cut back?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in Peterborough and in Ottawa-Carleton. You call that kicking people when they're down. What we're trying to do is to assist people back into the work force.

Ms. Sandeman: There are no women in the Peterborough programme.

Mr. McClellan: Your programme is useless.

Mr. Makarchuk: You're not doing a darn thing.

Mr. Warner: Did your speech come from Drake Personnel?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, reference was made by my friend to the Children's Aid Societies. As that has come up on a number of occasions, I will deal with that in a moment.

Mr. Davidson: You don't have any friends in the Children's Aid Societies.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The accusation levelled by the opposition is that I have proposed that comfort allowances be confiscated. May I explain, as they may not understand, that in homes for the aged the payment for care for accommodation is paid by the resident if he can afford to pay it. If he has the financial resources to pay for his own accommodation, that's paid—and that is drawn down to the

sum of \$2,000. That is his money and there was never any suggestion that that money be attached in any way.

However, it has happened in this province that the moneys that have been paid to residents of old age homes have accumulated in trust accounts. May I explain that a little further? There is a separate account or trust account set up for residents for their own spending. That is usually the sum of money that is residual to his own contribution from his pension payments or GAINS' payments he may receive.

In many cases, because of such things as senility, people have not been able to spend those moneys. It is estimated that something around \$10 million exists in the province in trust accounts which cannot be spent to assist the residents or help them with his accommodation expenses.

The administrators of old age homes have suggested to me that those moneys might be paid toward the keep of residents in homes, of course provided that those persons would be allowed to accumulate the sum of \$500 prior to the attachment of those funds. That was the proposition. Of course, if a person is ambulatory and able to spend his comfort allowance, it would be spent and there would be no question about it. If he wanted to save that comfort allowance to buy himself a television set when he earned \$500, he could spend it. There is no question about that.

The question arose about funds accumulated which could not be spent because the person was not able to spend them—he was not mentally competent, and he had no need for the money.

Mr. McClellan: How could he buy a television set then?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Therefore, the suggestion was made that these moneys might better be paid toward his keep in the home rather than go to the estate of that person when he died, and possibly be distributed to his relatives. That was the proposition. There was no question of confiscation of comfort allowances in general terms—and I thought you should know that.

Mr. Warner: You put the squeeze on those who cannot afford it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is no question of putting the squeeze on those who cannot afford it—and you know it! Do you understand what it costs to accommodate people in these types of residences? Do you understand what their contribution is?

Mr. Hodgson: He wouldn't know.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't have any concept.

Mr. Warner: You directed it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere will have an opportunity later on to participate in the debate. Will the hon. minister ignore his interjections and carry on with his reply?

Mr. Riddell: Right on, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The mention was made, or the accusation levelled by the member for Bellwoods that the elderly persons centres would be cut off, or financial assistance to them would be eliminated—and that is not so at all. He should know, as a social worker for some 12 years, that my ministry makes grants up to \$15,000 for operational purposes for those centres.

Mr. McClellan: I said the action age grant would be eliminated; don't misquote me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is no question that those—

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Is there a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The minister has misquoted me. I said the action age grants would be discontinued. I said the elderly persons centres funding would be curtailed and curtailed severely. Just so that you understand.
[4:45]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, just so that you will understand, maybe my friend can check Hansard. My notes certainly refer to elderly persons status. There was no mention made of the action age grant. The action age grants, of course, are up to a maximum of \$400 that were paid to the senior citizens clubs, and we've spent something in the area of \$200,000 in the past fiscal year for those action age grants. What we're talking about are payments to elderly persons centres which may be up to \$15,000, and while I've stated that there are no new capital moneys in terms of expansion for capital projects of centres, nevertheless, the operating moneys are intact and, of course, will be paid.

Similarly, the reference to senior citizens homes or homes for the aged—certainly, there are homes under construction and there are additions to new homes that are progressing.

They will be built in the current year, but, of course, new capital will not be allocated for those four homes.

Mention was made of the visiting homemaker services, and again, these are services purchased by the municipalities and the critics should understand that. It's up to the municipalities in terms of determining their priorities as to whether or not they wish to continue on and to what degree with homemaker services.

Mr. Makarchuk: Not all of them. You should understand something—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And that is, of course, up to them. They will be getting as much money as they did the year before and an additional 5½ per cent, and you can hardly call that a cutback.

Mr. McClellan: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. If I may refer the minister to Hansard for yesterday afternoon's debate, draft copy, page 364-1: "You reduce the effective level of funding for elderly persons centres."

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. You didn't make mention of action age grants. You were talking about elderly persons then.

Mr. Martel: You said he reduced them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And as previously, we will be paying up to \$15,000 grants, as we did in the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, if I may continue, the member for Bellwoods mentioned mental retardation. The question of the whole transfer to community based boards, that system has been outlined. Reference was made to this as being grotesque and that the money was being used to add additional institutions. I would like to point out very forcefully that the institutions referred to as Northeastern, Burwash and Goderich were pointed out as just another institution, and I presume my friend was referring to schedule 1 facility. Is that correct?

First of all, your friend and colleague next to you, from Sudbury East, knows very well that it was never the intention of my ministry to create a schedule 1 facility or any other institution at Burwash.

Mr. Chairman: It may help the hon. minister to direct his comments through the Chair; then it wouldn't provoke any interjections from members opposite.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do not wish to be provocative and I hope my remarks are not being interpreted in that way.

Mr. Davison: Nothing could help the minister.

Mr. Warner: Your very presence is provocative.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The accusation was levelled at my ministry that Burwash was being used as a schedule 1 facility,—

Mr. Angus: His existence is provocative.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —as another institution. In fact, the proposal in that Sudbury area was made by the community, and the member for Sudbury East was an advocate of that proposal. It was with reluctance that my ministry would consider the utilization in any regard to Burwash as accommodation for the mentally retarded. It seemed to me that the image of a former penal institution or correctional institution was not the appropriate one to accommodate the mentally retarded. It was only after a great deal of pressure from the community and from the member for Sudbury East that I acquiesced to this extent, that there would never be an institution there, that there would be some accommodation provided in that complex at Burwash only if it was a part—and a small part—of a greater complex of developments which would provide a more normal type of setting.

In other words, if there were other residential and commercial complexes, which would really be the community focus, any housing for the mentally retarded would be in conjunction with that. It would only be an interim step from there to full integration with the community. That's something which I think should be made abundantly clear to the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), through you, Mr. Chairman.

The situation at Northeastern and Timmins again was a proposal for a resource centre. There was never any suggestion, and it will not be, an institution for the mentally retarded or a schedule 1 facility. My ministry and I sat down with the district working group in connection with the proposal for Northeastern and the concept, of course, is just that—a resource centre which will reach out and service a very broad community. There will be diagnostic and other services. There will be short-term residential care; assessment; diagnostic services; and so on—the whole concept of a resource centre as opposed to an institution. It was that concept which was agreed upon and supported in advance by the district working group. It is only on that basis, again, that we are proceeding at Northeastern.

Goderich, I must say, is a different situation. Goderich will be a centre which will, in effect, be a schedule 1 institution, the only one there is.

Mr. Riddell: Not sanctioned by the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, either.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The reason for that is very simple. There has been criticism in the past, as you know very well, of the size of some of the schedule 1 facilities in this province. I make reference to Smiths Falls and to Orillia.

If we can draw down and take the pressure off those large institutions and make a better setting for some of those residents, if we can place residents closer to their homes, I think that's a forward step. It's not a step toward greater institutionalization. As a matter of fact, it's a step away from institutionalization because our whole concept, our whole philosophy, is to ensure that we have de-institutionalization and a programme toward normality.

We want integration with the community. That is what we're doing and our whole programme demonstrates that. I think that everyone who has any knowledge in this field will acknowledge that we've made tremendous strides in the last few years in that regard.

With respect, the critic for the opposition should have knowledge of that. I think now he may have, hopefully, a better understanding of what we are doing and what our concerns are and what our programmes are in that regard.

Mr. McClellan: Tell that to the association.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not only do we tell it to the association, we consult with the association.

Mr. McClellan: You tell them—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're involved with the district working groups and the associations—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —which are integral parts of the working groups which, of course, manifest the community involvement in a large spectrum of services. You should know that.

Mr. McClellan: I know exactly what the association thinks of you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't know and maybe if you listen you'll learn. Further—

more, in terms of the 5.5 per cent increase over the previous year, as it applies to the whole area of mental retardation, it is meant to apply to existing programmes as they exist now. In other words, if there is a programme in place and there's no expansion of that programme contemplated, of course they are expected to comply with the overall parameters of government spending and the guidelines which have been set down.

Mr. Martel: Even if they went in the hole last year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: However, may I reiterate and reinforce a view that has been expressed by me and the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis)? When the field of mental retardation was transferred from the Ministry of Health to my ministry, we made it abundantly plain that because of cost-sharing we would ensure that the additional funds we received through cost-sharing were used in the field of mental retardation to expand those facilities and to ensure that we carried on with the philosophy as manifested in the Williston report.

This government committed itself to that and that is being done. For that reason, when it comes to new programming, to an expansion of the physical plant or facilities relating to the field of mental retardation, and these do not come within the parameters of 5.5 per cent, we are allowing additional funding for those purposes because of that commitment that this government made and which it respects. I think you should know that.

Mr. Warner: That's why the \$52 million went into general revenue.

Mr. Riddell: You had to justify the cost-sharing funds that you get from the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not at all, not at all. If you look at the spending on mental retardation in this ministry, you will see a tremendous increase over the last few years. Those additional funds are being put into this whole area.

Mr. Martel: Every cent of the federal funding.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You understand nothing about finance or accounting, and all you are doing is regurgitating in garbled form incorrect conclusions that other members of your caucus disgorged in the past.

Mr. Martel: Could I ask the minister a question? Would the minister accept a question?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, may I proceed?

Mr. Martel: You won't answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You will have your chance and I will answer you. You will have your chance—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

An hon. member. Come on, Elie. You are still entrenched in the school board.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You will have a chance when the next budget comes down. In my estimates, you'll see—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. minister proceed?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —what this government is spending in the whole field of mental retardation. It may shock some of you what we are doing. We are putting in a lot more money than we are getting back from the federal government in terms of cost sharing.

Mr. Deans: By the time the next budget comes down, they won't be your estimates, hopefully.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I won't make reference to that because it might touch pretty close to home. Mention was made of the child welfare—

Mr. Riddell: Are you speaking of yourself now?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, may I complete my remarks?

Mr. Chairman: Order, yes. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mention was made of the child welfare legislation. It was stated that because of the intransigent stand of this government on the 5.5 per cent ceiling that the whole child welfare system was on the verge of catastrophe. I want to say that there are 50 Children's Aid Societies in this province and we have been working very closely with them in terms of budgeting, not only this past year but for many years. You can see the escalating costs of operating those societies. As a matter of fact that is precisely the reason for these estimates—or one of the reasons. That is to seek additional funding because of the need to give additional moneys to the Children's Aid Societies in our fiscal year of 1975-1976

Mrs. Campbell: Will they get 5.5 on top of that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They have had something probably in excess of a 20 per cent increase in the last year, if you want to look at the figures. The Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society was mentioned and there seems to be some concern that the children of this province will suffer. I have made a statement that not only in this community but throughout Ontario I would ensure that, notwithstanding the constraint programmes of this government and my ministry, no one in true need would suffer. I meant that when I said it; and I still mean it.

[5:00]

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They will not suffer; and that applies to the children as well as adults.

Mr. Makarchuk: How come the Children's Aid Societies do not agree with you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't agree with me either; that doesn't make you correct. Mr. Chairman, I wish the hon. member would talk specifically instead of in general terms. The opposition critic said 50 per cent of them didn't agree with me; now he is waving his hand and saying how come they all don't, talking on behalf of all the Children's Aid Societies. And when I mentioned—

Mr. Chairman: Order please, this is developing into a debate. At this time the minister will continue responding to the critics and we will get on with the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, when I toured this province and met with all of the Children's Aid Societies—

Mr. Martel: None of them were satisfied.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I stated there were some areas of particular concern to me as they affected child care, in that added pressures may be put on those societies because of external factors over which they have little, if any, control. I said then, and I have repeated since, and consistently, that I would make every effort to ensure that where that situation occurred I would seek additional funding to accommodate those physical and financial pressures. And of course one of the reasons was the referral by the courts to Children's Aid Societies of children who might otherwise be referred to training schools.

Mr. McClellan: But there was an increase you approved last year.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I sat down, Mr. Chairman, with the Children's Aid Societies. I have just finished this week, as you know, working out with the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society—

Mr. Martel: And you were working on last year's estimates not actual—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —additional funding to ensure the whole area of child care is not disturbed in terms of financing.

Mr. McClellan: They had to threaten to resign before you would act.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And now that my critic brings up the question of the threat to resign; and he did that in his remarks, too. Mr. Chairman, I want you to know that type of action in my estimation is not very positive or constructive in terms of trying to solve the problems of this province and meeting the needs of the people of this province.

Mrs. Campbell: What else are they supposed to do?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't think it's really a step that should be taken. Furthermore, I think that type of posturing is unwarranted and unnecessary.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It has little influence whatsoever on my judgement in ensuring that the children are not neglected. No question about that.

Mr. Makarchuk: Nobody believes you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Furthermore, the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto undertook with me that it would not get involved in a confrontation or contest with the press in terms of working out our mutual problems in assisting children.

Mr. Martel: Would you do the same in Sudbury?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It was unfortunate that statement was made. However, there was nothing I could do, and I may say that if that type of situation ever did occur we would ensure there were contingency plans to ensure that the children of this province are well cared for.

Mr. Martel: You are going to do the same for every area.

Mr. McClellan: Bring them all to their knees and—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The increase of funding for the Children's Aid Societies was worked out to accommodate increases in costs of foster parent care, of group homes and of institutional care.

Mr. Martel: Why don't you base it on actual cost?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is a broad spectrum of difference in terms of the costs of all those types of care.

Mr. Martel: You are unreal.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I think you know and I know that what we try to do is prevent the problem in the first place, which means getting into the home, where we can, to assist the parents of children. Of course the cheapest type of care is foster care, when a child is placed outside the home. If we can accommodate children in a family setting in that way we think that's a positive step, not only economically but socially. I think that's a sensitive and correct approach to take.

Of course we are also mindful of the fact that it's necessary to provide for group homes with different degrees of supervision and different degrees of care, right up to the type of institutional care which, in some cases in Metropolitan Toronto, is reaching as high as \$80 and possibly more per child per day.

We think, in my ministry—and I'm convinced—that if we can try some way to ensure that we can develop a system to prevent, really, the very costly type of subsidy to institutional care, then we'll be making great strides. We're doing everything we can to assist them in that direction.

Mrs. Campbell: You are unreal.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe it?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You believe in institutional care? We do not, in this ministry and in this government, believe in institutionalizing anyone.

Mrs. Campbell: You are unreal in your statement on that point.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Will the members of the committee and the minister direct their observations to the Chair and not respond to the interjections from the hon. members?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, if you would ensure the control of the members opposite and their interjections, I'd be happy to concur with your ruling.

Mr. Deans: The minister's being provocative; he really is. I think he thinks if he's blustery and volatile—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say, for the information of those opposite, that the increase to the Metropolitan Children's Aid Society is an effective increase of 7½ per cent over the actual moneys that were spent last year.

Mr. Warner: Forced into a corner.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think that meeting was very fruitful and I believe that the society is—

Mr. Martel: Are you going to do that for the rest of the province now?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —co-operating and no doubt they will be able to—

Mr. Cunningham: How can you call that an increase?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —work with us in solving our mutual problems.

Mr. McClellan: Is that your offer or the review board's offer?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly it's an increase. You don't understand the astronomical—

Mr. McClellan: We don't understand anything you say.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —double digit figures that my friends opposite seem to want to push this government into in terms of escalating inflation and trying to push—

Mr. McClellan: We are talking about the welfare of the children of this province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —this government continually to excessive spending. That's what you're trying to do; and I can tell you—

Mr. Cunningham: But you're penalizing the efficient ones.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that the people of this province do not believe in trying to spend and spend and spend.

Mr. Cunningham: You're penalizing the efficient ones.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We must exercise constraints at all levels of government.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: One day you may realize—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: You know something? Don Irvine used to tell us we didn't understand about housing and he's no longer there.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, maybe—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Maybe you'll no longer be—

Mr. Martel: He used to tell us that every day and he isn't in that position any more.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Keep cool now.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. minister continue and will the hon. members give him the courtesy of allowing him to conclude his remarks?

Mr. Deans: Quickly.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I may say that it is the intention and undertaking of my ministry to work with the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society, to monitor their operation, their budget, their expenditures, in conjunction with the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, to ensure that everything stays on course. If there is some unexpected or unforeseen problem we will be able to catch that; and of course address ourselves to it and, I'm sure, cure it.

We've heard the criticism that additional staff was taken on by the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society last fall and that now they may have a difficult time retaining the full complement of that staff. I think—and I'm just going by memory now—something in the neighbourhood of 115 to 120 new personnel were suggested in that regard. I believe about 90 were hired and I may say that it was the advice of my staff that they go easy on hiring additional personnel at that time. However, it is a matter that I am sure will be worked out.

The members opposite, Mr. Chairman, have been playing—

Interjections.

Mr. Davison: The whole province is a game to you.

Mr. McClellan: You do that; that's your game.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the Catholic Children's Aid Society against the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The Catholic Children's Aid Society, I think, are doing a tremendous job.

Mr. McClellan: You are the one who brought those exchanges up.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't think they should be demeaned for what they are doing. I was advised by them that they could live within the constraint programme of 5½ per cent. There was mention made by the critic for the opposition that they had overspent their budget. I would like to point out to him that in fact they had a surplus of \$168,000 and have not overspent their budget. So maybe you can correct your research people in that regard.

Mr. McClellan: Can they live on 5½ per cent?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is some criticism of my suggestion that we must look more toward the expansion of foster care. I am accused, Mr. Chairman, in saying this, of being bizarre.

Mr. McClellan: Everything you say is bizarre.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Sure, that's the type of big lie you want to perpetrate.

Mr. McClellan: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Would the hon. member state his point of privilege?

Mr. McClellan: I demand that statement be withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You can demand all you like but what I am saying is when you say that everything that I say is bizarre, I think you are perpetrating a big lie. Because surely anyone with any common sense knows that what I am unfolding here are the facts.

Interjection.

Mr. Deans: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, you cannot accuse a member of lying in the House nor can you attribute to him

that he may have lied. You cannot do this in this House. I ask you to ask the minister to withdraw that inference.

Mr. Kennedy: He didn't accuse him.

Mr. Riddell: Are you telling us something we didn't know?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, with respect, I did not accuse any member of this House of lying. I would never do that. That's unparliamentary.

Mr. Chairman: It seems to me that the hon. minister said that he was—

Mr. Deans: If you say you don't accuse him, that's fine, that's all we need.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I have said that. There was no suggestion of that.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: I have been listening and I am a little confused on what the minister said originally, but I think the problem has been resolved.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am not surprised that the members opposite are confused, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kennedy: They are always confused with what they say over there.

Mrs. Campbell: I distinctly heard him say—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There was no suggestion on my part, Mr. Chairman, that foster care was an alternative to institutional or active treatment. There may be some confusion in the minds of the members opposite, but I think—

Mr. McClellan: I read that from your own press release.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that the whole area of foster care is one area that should be developed. It is being developed by some Children's Aid Societies more than others. I think it is a programme we could keep up. I think it is something we could stimulate and support. I think any thinking person would agree that this is an area that would be of great assistance in helping the young persons of this province who are not with their families.

Mr. McClellan: It is not an alternative.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There was no suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that there would not be a need for group homes or for institutional

care and treatment. There was never any mention of that.

Mr. McClellan: Do you want me to read your own words back to you again?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But there is a need in this province for foster care and I think that type of care is a much more economic type of care than other accommodation.

Mr. McClellan: But it is not an alternative and you said it was.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Children who might be as well off in foster care may be utilizing other facilities which—

Mr. Martel: You are sounding more like John Smith every minute.

Mr. Davison: Does he write your speeches? Who writes your speeches?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue and ignore interjections.

[5:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am just responding, Mr. Chairman, to the comments made by the members opposite. I'm not making a speech; I'm merely responding to their remarks.

Mr. Martel: We are reading your speeches back to you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's just a matter of setting the record straight. When I do that for some reason it seems to upset severely the members opposite.

Mr. Martel: We are just reading your speeches back to you. You had better find out what your speeches are about.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I address my remarks now to some of the comments made by the critic for the Liberal Party, the member for St. George.

Mr. Davison: Too hot over here?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think I've pointed out at least some of the contradictions, inaccuracies, misconceptions and misinterpretations of the members of the opposition. I wish, if I may, now address myself to the member for St. George, through you, Mr. Chairman.

Reference was made to cutbacks which would force the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto to discontinue dental programmes and other programmes. May I clarify again that the Province of Ontario will not be cut-

ting back in terms of the total amount of funding to the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto or any other municipality. In fact, they will be getting more funding.

As to priorities, those will be determined by the municipalities concerned. I expect the people at the local level will have the best idea, the best concept, of where to spend their money. Of course, we are supportive of that and, again, will be helping them in that regard.

As to the decoy of service to people as opposed to service of plants—I suppose the member for St. George was referring to horticulture rather than to some other type of physical or commercial plant—when you try to mix up the ministries I think that's outside the ambit of these estimates. I cannot order the priorities of the spending of the Ministry of Government Services, I don't profess to do so. I will not attempt to do that.

What we are doing, what I am doing within this ministry, is to ensure that the programmes we have, which are so excellent, are carried on and that they are the most effective and efficient programmes which can be devised. Insofar as it concerns the amount of money that Metropolitan Toronto or any other municipality may spend, of course that's an elective thing if it wishes to engage in other programmes. Some items are not all cost-shared on an 80-20 basis.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, sometimes you—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are distortions in there, of course, which establish the fact that the division between the municipality and other levels of government, or this province, doesn't always work out to an equal 80-20 basis. Surely the member for St. George knows that. If the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto wishes to enrich any programme it has or expand it with its own funds, of course it's entitled to do that. We feel that it can operate within the parameters of spending which we have indicated.

There are some programmes, I might say, such as summer camps, eyeglasses, which are being supported by other interest groups in the community. Everything doesn't have to be supported by government. I've gone around this province and I've made mention of the fact that we should have more volunteers. I've pointed out what happens—when government moves in charity moves out. We can document that.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you open a soup kitchen?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We can see what the evolution has been in terms of government involvement—the more government gets involved, the more the private sector comes out. I have said and I repeat that we're making charity a Crown corporation or making the good Samaritan a public employee. That may be the objective and goal of the New Democratic Party but it's certainly not the objective and goal of this government.

Mr. Davison: You are not as Christian as the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith).

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm convinced that we should involve the people of the community more and more. At one time, if you look at some of the social service agencies and how they were funded and what the community involvement was, not only in terms of dollars but in work—

Mrs. Campbell: You are fudging and you know you are. That's not answering my question.

Mr. McClellan: People can't eat hot air.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in meaningful contribution, you'll see what happened and you'll see the need for volunteer help and how they can help in more ways than fund raising.

Mrs. Campbell: What do they do to help the person?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But you don't believe that. The members opposite do not believe that. They think that everything should be run by government and every person put on the payroll and, if possible, become a civil servant.

Mrs. Campbell: You know that isn't true.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We don't believe that, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Campbell: Stop fudging. What has a volunteer to do with eyeglasses?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think it's sheer nonsense, bad management and bad judgement to expect government to run every social service agency and fund every social service agency. I think we should involve, as much as possible, the private sector and the volunteer worker.

Mr. Cunningham: You are an expert at that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have service clubs that are buying eyeglasses. We have service clubs that are sponsoring summer camps for children. You may deny that. You may not think that's a good idea; a good project. We believe it is. We think it's something meaningful that the community is doing. It's something we've sponsored in the community. They're doing that and you know they're doing it and you know that it's a good thing. You cannot dismiss and ignore the community involvement.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I wish that the members opposite would address their remarks to the Chair as I'm trying to do.

Mrs. Campbell: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for St. George on a point of order.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, this minister has been discussing the percentages of municipal-provincial cost-sharing, and he has been trying to drag in those services which are not mandatory and fudge the issue.

May I point out again to him, on a point of order, that the question I want answered is the question put by Paul Godfrey? It related only to mandatory services and it indicated, as I read before, that Metro will now presumably have to go to the support of 29 per cent of those services forced upon them by the government of the Province of Ontario. Will he answer that and stop walking around the bush?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm not walking around the bush. That's the member opposite's perception of what the metropolitan municipality may have to do. That's only their perception and no one is forcing that upon the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Riddell: No, you are running—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You can look at your case loads and everything else and you'll see what the trends are. It's all right to make such dramatic gestures and cry wolf. All they are doing, Mr. Chairman, is a disservice to the people of this province. They're trying to excite and to use scare tactics to—

Mrs. Campbell: It is your pal Godfrey who made the statement.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —frighten people who may be in need of these services and the tax-

payers as well. I think that's shameful and mean.

I may reiterate, Mr. Chairman, that capital money will be spent in the next fiscal year. I know we're not dealing with the estimates for 1976-1977, but nevertheless, capital money will be spent. Sure, there are capital funds that will be spent servicing projects that are under way now, but in addition there will be new capital for developmental resources. The accusation that there will not be those funds is entirely erroneous.

We talk about daycare centres. The reason I'm coming to the House in regard to these supplementary estimates is for additional funding to operate daycare centres. The costs are escalating. They've been escalating dramatically and it's for that reason that additional funding is necessary. I think the municipalities are mindful of that problem and what is happening in the whole terms of day care.

I would make mention of the reference by the member for St. George in regard to—I have the figure of 6,682 places in the Metropolitan Toronto area for day care. I think that should not be confused with the number of places there are in the Metropolitan Toronto area, which is about 16,000.

Mr. McClellan: She meant subsidized places.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And those are the number of licensed places that we have.

Mr. McClellan: Subsidized.

Mr. Chairman: Order please. We have some young visitors in the east gallery and I think we could show a little example by acting in a civil way while we're discussing these estimates. Will the hon. minister please continue?

Mr. Good: Don't distort the facts.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the facts. There are about 16,000 places which are licensed in Metropolitan Toronto for day care, as opposed to 6,682.

Mr. Good: Ten thousand of which you have nothing to do with.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have something approaching 50,000 places in Ontario for the information of the members.

Mr. Davison: That's 10 per cent of what we need.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We will be creating roughly 2,250 new places by the time we spend the additional \$6 million in capital

funds. We have proceeded very swiftly with day care in this province, creating many day-care places.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, much of the day care is private day care. I'm sure you know that there are many parents in Ontario who look after their own children, who arrange for their own day care and who pay fully for their own day care so it's very difficult indeed to estimate the total number of daycare places in Ontario. We probably know of only about 20 per cent of those that really exist. It's very difficult to criticize what we are doing really in the whole field of day care.

Mrs. Campbell: You don't know what you are doing.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would like very much to clarify something that was said in regard to single parents. The member for St. George made some reference to me referring them to Teperman's. I'm not quite sure what she means by that, unless it's one of the wrecking firms of this province?

Mrs. Campbell: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If it is then I'm sure she is more expert in the wrecking business than I. I really do not see what reference that might have to single-parent mothers.

Mr. Riddell: Not by a long shot.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Maybe she could enlarge upon her statement later because I'm sure that in matching people with jobs it certainly was not the intention of my ministry or me—

Mr. Swart: You can do better in your own confused way.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to suggest that single-parent mothers should all line up at Teperman's. It's one of the ludicrous innuendoes I've heard from the members opposite and I don't think it's fair, again, to the people of the province or to my ministry to make such inferences.

Again, I don't propose to answer my friend in terms of the safety boots programme which she might have been involved in during her service in Metro. I don't think that's relevant, again, to the supplementary estimates.

Insofar as mothers with children are concerned, a reference was made or she alluded to a suggestion that a mother of five children might be earning \$80 a week and that's uneconomic. There's been never any

suggestion on my part or on the part of this government that women with child-rearing responsibilities should be taken away from that setting and introduced into the work force. There was never that inference and I'm frankly quite shocked.

I agree that in terms of economics it doesn't make sense to put five children in day care and expect an economic operation. I suppose if a woman is in the labour market—and I'm not suggesting that anyone on the welfare programme or family benefits or GWA would be doing that; it has never been my suggestion. But if there are mothers with large families who are working, I am sure that it's a determination that they make in the light of their own particular home responsibilities and in the light of their own economic picture; and in the light, presumably, of their own health and their own interests.

[5:30]

May I reinforce the views that I have expressed only so often, that I believe strongly that wherever possible we should try and keep a family together, and not to tear it apart. I don't think government should be instrumental in terms of tugging at families. It should ensure that family responsibilities, as much as possible, be discharged by families. I can only say that I believe the basis of any society is the strong institution of family. I subscribe to that, but unfortunately it may not be subscribed to by people of other political and philosophic persuasion.

The suggestion that young people be taken out of school, as made by the member for St. George, I think is absolutely shocking. Taking young people out of schools presumably to put them to work has never been a suggestion on the part of any member of my staff, my ministry, by me, by this government. It has never been suggested that children going to school should be dislocated and introduced into the work force. I think that's a horrendous proposition and frankly should—

Mr. Riddell: You're as changeable as the wind.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —certainly be corrected; because it never was said.

Mr. Good: Quoted in the press.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It was never said. I think, again, it is a disservice to the people of this province to suggest that type of proposition and to imply by innuendo or

otherwise that a responsible minister of the Crown or a responsible citizen, for that matter, would make such a statement.

Mr. Riddell: You remember that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the members opposite will remember that. As the regulations are posted and reviewed, I think that you will see that what I have consistently been saying is reasonable and fair. It does not involve those types of weird and preposterous proposals that have been advocated or suggested by the opposition members, or sometimes inferred by them as remarks that I might have made.

Mrs. Campbell: Then you have been misquoted considerably.

Mr. Davison: See the Globe and Mail.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Some people, Mr. Chairman, may dedicate themselves to misquoting me. I don't suggest that that is the full-time occupation of the members opposite. I hope that they will be fair in interpreting what I say. If they're not sure, if there is any ambiguity, then I'm always available, Mr. Chairman, to answer their queries—

Mr. Swart: You don't have to be interpreted.

Mr. McClellan: That's a full-time job.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to explain what I have said, to explain what the intentions of my ministry are in the service of the people of this province.

Mr. Davison: The word is disservice.

Mr. Chairman: Could the Chair prevail upon the minister to shorten his answer somewhat, because he has been on his feet now for over an hour? We've got a great deal of work to cover yet, and a very limited time in which to do it in.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will try to expedite my reply, Mr. Chairman. I did not dictate the parameters of the remarks of the members opposite. As you will recall, when we started these estimates I suggested that the remarks should be confined to the estimates before us. It was determined by the Chair that a far-reaching overview might be made by the opposition critics. I conceded reluctantly to that, and I feel that I should have the opportunity to respond to the remarks that were made.

Mr. Riddell: Have you nothing more to do?

Mr. Davison: Would you like one of us to read it for you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm looking at my notes, Mr. Chairman, to ensure that those very profound statements or observations made by the members opposite are not ignored. Sometimes, I look at them as obtuse, but in all seriousness I want to ensure that I'm not interpreted as skimming over their comments.

The member for St. George made mention of neglecting such people as a 105-year-old lady. Again, I can only say that that is a nonsensical proposition and I cannot see that such posturing is really contributing to our programmes in Ontario or to her role as the critic of the Liberal Party.

The reference was made again, in terms of day care, to a blind lady with no place to send her two-year-old daughter while she works, and that is all because of the Ontario cutbacks.

Mr. Davison: Well, shame on you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I saw this article, as the member for St. George stated, in the Globe and Mail on Jan. 30.

May I say, and just for the clarification of the members, Mr. Chairman, that the fiscal year of this province is April 1 to March 31. The fiscal year of the municipalities—not most, but all of the municipalities—and I would suggest the social service agencies, is a calendar year, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Therefore, the restraint programme that we are talking about in most cases, including the homes for the aged in the municipalities and so on, commences really from April 1 of this year. Therefore, the spending that is incurred by those agencies, by the municipalities, by the homes for the aged, in the first three months of 1976 is spending that's built into the base upon which the 5.5 per cent is calculated.

So, you can see, it is somewhat ludicrous to suggest that in January a person in this province is deprived of a daycare place because of government constraints that will have no effect on the municipality until certainly April 1 of this year, at which time the Province of Ontario will give them the same funding as last year, plus in most cases another 5.5 per cent.

Mrs. Campbell: Unlike the province, municipalities plan ahead.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would like the critic for the Liberal Party to think upon that one for a while.

Mrs. Campbell: They plan ahead.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Surely there is no suggestion that a responsible municipality or a county or any other agency in this province would threaten to close a home for the aged when we know that these places are so much in need.

Sure we are trying to keep people in their homes. We think it is necessary to keep people in their homes.

Mr. Davison: You are forcing them to.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, in terms of the programmes for delivery of services to people, whether it is visiting homemaker or nursing services, meals on wheels or whatever it is, we are providing for the funding for that type of service to ensure that it is carried on.

Homemakers' salaries; again, we are not freezing homemakers' salaries. As a matter of fact, I understand that homemakers' salaries in this area have been approved for an increase of about 10 per cent across the board.

What we are saying in terms of a municipality is that we have to live within the overall global budget that we approve and finance. We are talking an additional 5.5 per cent.

There has never been any suggestion by my ministry or this government or by me that the homemaker services salaries be frozen.

I won't take time to go over some of the smaller matters; again, the Liberal critic mentioned the increases to the Children's Aid Societies and Catholic Children's Aid Societies. Again, I think Children's Aid Societies are responsible bodies. They are trying to do the best that they can in partnership with the province. As you know, they are really 100 per cent funded by government in most cases; 80 per cent through the province and 20 per cent at the local level.

Of course, that has happened in a very few years. As you know, at one time it was only 40 per cent provincial funding and 60 per cent at the local level, and then it became 60 per cent at the provincial and 40 per cent at the local level, and then more recently 80 per cent at the provincial level and 20 per cent at the local level. These are government-funded organizations and we feel that we are in partnership with them. We have to work with them, we have been working with them, and we will continue to work with them to fulfil the needs of the children of this province.

Mr. Davison: If you don't destroy them first.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is that kind of irresponsible talk that engenders bad will, misconception and misunderstanding throughout

this province and does a disservice to the people of the province.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again there was some repetition on the part of the member for St. George in regard to the mental retardation facilities. I won't repeat what I have said or enlarge on what I said in reply. Our philosophy has not changed and the progress that we are making has not changed in any way. I concur that the Province of Ontario has great faith in the municipalities, as the member for St. George has said. We feel that they are responsible institutions. They are local governments elected by the people, close to the people whom they represent. I am sure they are sensitive to the needs and can determine best their priorities. Therefore, I subscribe to local involvement in terms of financial participation as well as effort and administration.

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question, Mr. Chairman. There are many members who would wish to speak on the votes under these estimates. Could we ask that the minister reply to all of us when we finish so that some other members of both opposition parties may have a chance to speak?

Mr. Chairman: Unfortunately, that wasn't what was decided upon. It was decided that the remarks of the two critics for the parties would give far-ranging dissertations on the estimates and, after the minister completed his response, we would deal specifically with the items in votes 2602 and 2603. Unless I get some other direction from the committee, that's the way we will have to proceed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, thank you for that ruling. I would very much like to listen to as many members of the Legislature who wish to speak on these estimates. I feel that I will conclude my remarks now to give them that opportunity and I would be happy to respond to any of the questions that they may wish to put to me.

Mr. Riddell: Best news we have heard all day.

Mr. Burr: On a point of order, from now on at the end of each item can we have the minister reply in total rather than individually, because the minister is so fluent and articulate that he speaks at great length?

Mr. Hodgson: You cannot take it.

Mr. Chairman: It has been the practice in committee of supply that when an individual member raises a particular item he can elicit a response from the minister. That seems the

best way to do it, because there is no way that a lot of the questions will get answered when we reach the time for adjournment.

We are dealing specifically now with vote 2602, item 1, income maintenance. It tells you on the right hand side, on page 15, what it refers to in particular. That's the way we will proceed unless the Chair is directed otherwise.

The hon. member for Peterborough, item 1.

Ms. Sandeman: Although I feel provoked into answering some of the points raised by the minister, I will make a very strong effort to restrain my remarks to item 1 on the list. In this party we do not believe, as the minister implies, that everything should be run by the government but our business here is to discuss those items which are the responsibility of the government. The item under discussion at the moment is the income maintenance programmes of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

I would first like to complete, if I may, a little unfinished business which I raised during the discussion of the Community and Social Services estimates last fall.

[5:45]

Very briefly, I referred then to the case of a gentleman who was totally disabled but not receiving any support from the government, and who in error was sent a disability cheque for September. He went to an appeal; the appeal was turned down; he is still totally disabled, still has no income of his own, and now he is receiving letters from the ministry asking him to return the cheque which was sent to him in error. He naturally wrote to the minister and explained as he had no income, and as he had spent in good faith the money that was sent to him, he was unable to return it.

He offered to sell his only liquid asset which is his wheelchair, and the latest response from the ministry is a final notice demanding that he repay that money as soon as possible.

I would like to bring to the minister's attention some examples of anomalies in the income maintenance programme. The minister believes we on this side of the House are dedicated to excessive spending by government. On the contrary, my aim at the moment is to point out to the minister that there are many, many instances in the income maintenance programme when not only do we not have excessive spending, we have spending at such a low and insulting level that it is ludicrous in the extreme.

I would like the minister to consider, for instance, what happens to families, mother-led families, where a mother is receiving mother's allowance or a GAINS payment on her own behalf, and has a child at a school for the deaf. Such women do not, if they are on mother's allowance, receive the regular allowance for the child. They receive \$15 per month for that child, and out of that \$15 they are expected to support the child, who is required by the school to return home every weekend and at school holidays.

They are required to supply an extensive list of clothes provided for them by the school. They are expected at all times to maintain a level of \$20 in the child's spending account at the school. They are expected to pay for the meals, the general housekeeping expenses of the child, from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. They are expected to launder and mend the child's clothes; a normal duty for a mother, but some expenses are involved. They must, out of that \$15, supply Kleenex, and toothpaste, and shampoo, and toys, and towels, and face-cloths, and all the other small things that a child might need.

Naturally enough, a child at a school for the deaf will be wearing a hearing aid; an expensive hearing aid. There is no allowance for repairs or batteries for that hearing aid. All of these things—clothes, maintenance—must come out of the \$15.

We have recently discovered that such children are not covered on their parents' OHIP payment. The school for the deaf believed that the children were covered under their parents' OHIP payment, but because a mother receiving family benefits and getting the \$15 for the child is not in a sense receiving a regular mother's allowance for that child, she does not get the child covered under her own OHIP payment. I would ask the minister to consider plugging that very considerable loophole in the protection of the health of these children.

In connection with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out a further anomaly that came to my attention around mother-led families with children at the school for the deaf. Not only are they required to support their children for a good percentage of the month, plus all their other expenses, on \$15. If I may just for a moment take two families with children at the school for the deaf and compare what they are given by this province under our income maintenance scheme, some very extraordinary anomalies show up.

I would ask you to consider the case of two mother-led families. In one of these families there is only one child and the child is severely deaf. The mother too is severely deaf, and because she is, and she is a single parent, divorced, she is receiving the GAINS payment from this province, which I believe is now around \$260 per month, to support herself because she is totally disabled and her child is at the school for the deaf and for her, she gets, if the ministry has caught up on itself, because for a while she wasn't getting it, but for the child she should be getting \$15 supplement.

Just a few blocks away from that woman lives another mother who, again, is divorced, bringing up the children on her own. But she has two children, one deaf child and one child with hearing. Because she chooses to support her child at home on the mother's allowance, she doesn't feel that she should be in the work force at this time. She is in receipt of mother's allowance for herself and the one child who is living at home. She receives less per month for herself and one child than her friend does who is only required to support herself on the GAINS payment. For her deaf child at the school for the deaf she gets the \$15 supplement.

I would like the minister to tell us just what sense it makes to expect a mother and child in this province at this time to live on less than one woman on her own is expected to live on. I'm not sure that there is any very credible answer for that and I think that the minister must review seriously the levels of income maintenance payments, the anomalies in the whole system, and the fact that indeed, as I said before, there is not excessive spending, but in some cases an incredibly low level of spending.

One could go on to itemize case after case where this kind of ridiculously inadequate level of income maintenance is supplied, but I see that we are approaching the hour for adjournment and I feel that I have to return to some of the comments the minister made earlier, while we're talking about income maintenance programmes for women, particularly for mother-led families. I know as well as the minister knows there are many women heading mother-led families who are prepared to go back to work, who feel that their children are established in school and who would be glad of the stimulation, the extra money and the interest supplied by a decent job.

I would ask the minister to meet with me next time I have a delegation of women on

mother's allowance coming to my office and asking me: "Where can we get jobs, and is the Ministry of Community and Social Services going to help us to get back into the work force?" always coming back to the point that if there were jobs they would take them. I hope the minister understands that what is holding these women back from the work force is not some dedication to lying around the house all day in their bathrobes but a total inability to find work.

The minister also made reference to the ease with which qualified professional women can find work. He stated as examples, I believe, nursing and teaching. Again I would ask the minister to visit with me the nurses in my riding who graduated from community colleges. The member for St. George has some unemployed nurses too, I believe. We have women across the province who are experienced nurses, have been at home perhaps for a while, supporting families or bringing up children, and are ready and need to return to the work force. But there are no nursing jobs.

We have young women who graduated from community colleges last summer who have not yet been able to find nursing jobs. We have young women who are about to graduate this summer and I suspect there will be no jobs for them. Of course, we have the women who are qualified nurses being thrown out of work by a restraint programme in another ministry. But I would urge the minister, if he is so keen, as indeed he should be, that qualified women who are receiving support payments should get back to those nursing and teaching jobs, to point out to us where those jobs are.

Mrs. Campbell: Precisely. In Nova Scotia.

Ms. Sandeman: I would like him, if he could, to supply me with a list, detailed or general. It would be extremely helpful to me.

Mr. Burr: In Detroit, if you can get a visa.

Ms. Sandeman: Yes.

Mrs. Campbell: They are coming up from Nova Scotia to find nurses here right now.

Ms. Sandeman: The problem, of course, that many women have—and the member for St. George is making allusion to this—is that while there may be jobs available in another part of the country, women traditionally are not mobile. If they are being supported on an income maintenance programme it is no good, firstly, saying to them, "Get up off your backside and go to work" if there is no job

in their area; secondly, if the only job is available in another province they cannot possibly afford to move there. They will continue to have to be supported by government programmes until those jobs are available here.

Perhaps I could ask the minister to reply to my question in the few moments he has left unless we've decided to postpone answers until the evening?

Mr. Chairman: No, if you've completed your remarks, the minister will reply. The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, there were some examples given, of course, of special cases. It's very difficult to speak in a general way in regard to the items or allowances made for those individual cases. I can only guess.

I can suggest to the member for Peterborough that, for example, there may be a difference between one family and the other in terms of the one with the child who is deaf receiving GAINS. The two payments are different. When you get into the GAINS programme, of course, the flat rate is based on the disability. When you get into the family benefits payment, your need is tested and they have a base set on the family unit.

There may be some rationalization necessary there. I'm just saying that the way the system is set up it may result in that anomaly. I would have to take the two cases to explain specifically, in those circumstances, what the payments would be.

For example, the \$15 differential, as I understand it, for the child in the school for the deaf has been revised now. I think that for a child in the school for the deaf who

would be living away from home, it is half the payment the child would be receiving if he were actually home. I believe that's the way it is now handled. Again, I would only say that we'd have to take the two situations and go over them point by point to determine exactly what the payments might be.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Peterborough indicates she has a point of order.

Ms. Sandeman: Yes, a point of order or a question for the minister on a point of order. The last information I have from your ministry is that the support for a child at the school for the deaf—I quote from a letter I received from the ministry. "At the present time, the support a mother receives is \$15 a month for a deaf child's maintenance."

Mr. Chairman: That's not a point of order.

Ms. Sandeman: The question is, could he tell me when the change came into effect? This letter's dated February.

Mr. Good: It's a point of interest.

Mr. Chairman: It's not a point of order. The hon. minister may continue.

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you respond to the question?

Ms. Sandeman: When did the change come into effect?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As I say, it's my understanding that was changed to one-half. I can get the precise date if you wish, possibly over the dinner hour.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, March 18, 1976
Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (concluded)

On vote 2602:

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. When the committee rose at 6 p.m. we were still dealing with vote 2602.

Mr. Kennedy: There were more than three NDP and three Liberals here too.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister wish to speak before the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden)?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, just in response to the member from Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman).

Mr. McClellan: Could you wait until she returns, by any chance?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I had some information, and I thought I might provide it—now or later, it doesn't matter.

Mr. Kennedy: Put it in Hansard.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Ms. Bryden: I just have one question to ask the minister, so it may not take very long. It is with regard to mothers on family benefits. After the minister made his proposal that they should go out to work, I think he has been backtracking, as to whether he meant all mothers; whether ones with several young children would be required to go back to work or whether he recognized that mothers in that category perhaps had a full-time job at home. I am not clear whether he felt they did; and also, whether he would take into account the availability of subsidized day care; the availability of lunch hour programmes; after 4 p.m. programmes and so on.

But assuming that he would and that mothers with small children—two or three

children and without adequate facilities—would be permitted to keep on family benefits, what I would like to ask him, in the interest of men's lib, is would he also consider a father, who is a single parent and has two or three children in the home, would he consider him eligible for family benefits?

I have a case in my constituency of a father who lost his wife last July and there are children four, seven and nine. He would like to stay home and look after those children. He has tried homemakers and it has been unsatisfactory—so unsatisfactory that he himself became ill from depression and headaches worrying about his children. He has applied to welfare to be able to stay home with his children instead of going back to his job after he finished his sick leave from unemployment insurance. The welfare agency has refused him.

I would like to know if he would be accepted as eligible for family benefits in order that he may look after those children in the home?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say initially, just in clarification, Mr. Chairman, there is no question of belittling or demeaning in any way a woman's household duties. I think it is admirable for a housewife to be at home and to attend to those duties; and it is not an easy job, it is a tough job. I think if there are any unsung heroines, they are the mothers who do stay at home and raise their families. I know they don't get enough credit, and there has never been any suggestion on my part that we disturb in any way that family unit. I want to clarify that; and that's not backtracking. I'm saying what I have said many times.

Mr. Haggerty: That is a switch. You know it is a switch.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's no switch, I will tell you. In terms of mothers who have child-rearing responsibilities — and I will repeat again as I have so frequently — there was never any suggestion that mothers with child-rearing responsibilities be separated from their children in order to ensure that they are in the work force.

Now as to the point the member raised, as you know, in the past where we have had difficult problems—where there is a single male, say, who has children and we may encounter some unusual difficulties—we have handled that by order in council. I think there probably would have been half a dozen passed here.

There was some change not long ago which enabled a male person to receive general welfare assistance on a temporary basis under certain circumstances. If I am not mistaken, those cases must be reviewed within six months. There is that regulation there now. If there is any rejection—and you have mentioned a specific case—then that's the type of case that could be appealed to the review board.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Minister, may I ask, then, is there one policy for male single parents and another for female single parents? Apparently the male ones have to be dealt with by order in council?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was saying it has been customary to deal with them by order in council. There was a change in regulation to obviate the need to go through order in council so that it is done on a discretionary basis at the municipal level. That inherence is at the discretion of the local welfare administrator, and if the applicant is not satisfied with that ruling, there is an appeal procedure.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Minister, if a person now applies for family benefits, would it still be of a discretionary nature or would the person be treated the same way as a woman with the same number of children?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, there still is a distinction. There has been no attempt to make it similar for men and women. In other words, there isn't the same opportunity for a male with children to qualify for family benefits as there is for the female, so there is still that distinction.

Ms. Bryden: Can you justify this, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I suppose it is a matter of philosophy, to some degree. Should we encourage fathers to stay home with their children, or when their children are in school, and to look after the household duties, or might it be better to have the father gainfully employed and obtain the necessary day-care facilities or satisfy the household needs in some other way? We can argue this. It hasn't been the policy of this government to

encourage the husband to stay at home with the children.

There are special circumstances, of course, where there isn't any alternative. There may be a difficult child or the child may be disabled, either physically or mentally in some way, and emotionally involved to a degree. Then it could make good sense for the father to be with those children at home—certainly for a period of time—because he may not be able to get any satisfactory alternative. I think that's the type of situation you have to deal with individually. The regulation was changed to accommodate that situation but not to make it universal on a permanent basis.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, there are just a few points I wanted to try and raise with the minister, and I'll try to avoid being quite so pugnacious in this session. I was wanting to know whether the ministry or the minister have any plans to rationalize some of the longstanding discrepancies between various benefit levels, in the different forms and categories of social assistance paid to people in need in this province, people on general welfare assistance, people on family benefits.

Let's focus on the distinction between the so-called permanently unemployable and the disabled in the family benefits programmes. There appears to be no coherent distinction by virtue of definition, and yet there's a substantial difference in the rate of benefits paid as between permanently unemployable and the disabled. I understand as well, from looking at the March registration, that there are people on general welfare assistance who could probably be considered to be in the same physical condition, although they may be awaiting a transfer.

Nevertheless, we have a continued kind of hodge-podge of inequity in terms of benefit payment levels, and I wonder whether the ministry has plans to try and rationalize these discrepancies. That may, in fact, lead into a broader discussion about long-term changes in income security legislation that we may not want to get into too deeply here, but I would appreciate some indication of your general direction around this.

Just to conclude, I want to ask again what the rationale is for paying foster parents substantially higher benefits than are paid to natural mothers on family benefits. If you look at the pre-added budget allowances for children, you find that the allowances made for children in care in foster homes are substantially higher. That seems to be really

pretty inexplicable; maybe the minister can comment on that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As the member for Bellwoods has mentioned, Mr. Chairman, it's a very broad field. When you get into the whole field of income support and income supplementation there are many elements and many factors involved. The programmes are at all levels of government; municipal, provincial and federal. I do agree there should be a rationalization of the system and it's something to which I'm turning my thoughts. I have been considering it for some time.

I know the definition of a permanently disabled or disabled person as one who has a physical or mental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged period of time, and which severely limits his activities in normal living, is a definition we're stuck with, as we are with the definition of permanently unemployable as a person unable to engage in remunerative employment for a prolonged time. These are definitions that, as I say, we're stuck with. Because they go to the substance of our cost sharing with the federal government we're compelled to comply with those definitions.

[8:15]

We feel there should be some rationalization of that. I personally do, because I think it's often difficult to distinguish the two. I would be the first to admit that I think this whole area should be reviewed. I hope it is and I hope it's rationalized.

I don't know that I can add too much more without prolonging the debate, except to mention the comments the member for Bellwoods made in terms of support of foster children as opposed to the support of the natural children. I think, again, there is a distinction between a family which takes in foster children and a family which may be looking after their own children. Certainly there is difference in terms of payment. I think family living has differences, no matter what your economic needs may be—for example you may be passing along clothing from one child to another and that may seem acceptable within the natural family; it may be that foster parents feel that the clothing shouldn't be passed from one foster child to another foster child; there could be expenses such as that that would account for the difference. There may be some other philosophical differences as well that we could discuss. The fact remains that certainly there is a distinction and it may be that that will remain.

Vote 2602 agreed to.

On vote 2603:

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine. Just a moment. I assume that on vote 2603 I deal with it item by item? Item 1, services for children. We'll deal with that first, or do you wish to deal collectively?

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Will there be separate votes or one vote?

Mr. Chairman: We would carry each item as we deal with them.

Mr. McClellan: So there will be two votes in this item?

Mr. Chairman: That's right.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: So we will deal with item 1, services for children. The hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Ms. Bryden: Does day care come under this, Mr. Chairman? That is what I want to speak on.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, would day care come under the services for children, item 1?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Day nurseries come under item 1, yes.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say a few things about day care. The minister has been telling us about the vast sums of money that he is putting into day care—something like \$26 million—but the fact remains that a great deal of this is money that has been committed over the past three years and the bills are just coming in now.

In spite of this sort of increase, the fact is also with us that there is still only about 15 per cent of the estimated need being met. There is an estimate that we need at least 300,000 daycare spaces, but we are far short of that target. So for the ministry to sit back and say that we are doing very well in day care is really just being smug about the situation.

The need is growing, there is no doubt about that. More and more families are having to have two people go out to work in order to meet mortgage payments today, in order to meet the rising costs of living. There is a growing number of single parent families. There is a growing number of women who wish to have equal opportunity

with men and to work outside the home if they so choose. There is need for women in the home to have part-time day care so that they can get some relief from homemaking. This is done in a lot of the Scandinavian countries but we haven't even started to scratch that particular need. The daycare programme is one that we must not dismiss as something that we are doing well on. The fact that the three-year programme of 100 per cent funding is closing this year means that the minister's commitment to try and overcome the backlog is also running out, unless he brings in a new programme in the coming budget for a new set of 100 per cent funding projects.

All through his comments in reply to the critics, he argued that he was not cutting down because there was a 5.5 per cent increase in grants for daycare subsidies but when wages are allowed to go up eight to 12 per cent under the Anti-Inflation Board rules, how can he say that does not mean cutting down? I find it hard to believe. If wages go up 10 per cent and total provincial aid for subsidies only goes up 5.5 per cent, there are going to be lower subsidies and most daycare costs are wages.

In my riding, every daycare centre has a waiting list. New housing is being built in some areas and the waiting lists will grow. There were plans for a new daycare centre at Dawes Rd. and Coleman. The land is there; it is owned by the city. The need is there but the funds are not there.

The social planning council of Metropolitan Toronto recently did a study of the cost of maintaining a single parent with one child on welfare, and the cost of providing her with subsidized day care and letting her go out to work and become self-supporting. The cost of keeping her on welfare was \$1,508 more than providing her with subsidized day care.

The social planning council concluded that if you looked at the total number of single-parent mothers with one or two children, who were on welfare and who could be enabled to get off welfare and go out and become self-supporting with subsidized day care, there would be a saving of up to \$4.6 million in Metropolitan Toronto alone. That would build a lot of new daycare centres or provide a lot more subsidized space.

There are the additional benefits that those mothers would be self-supporting citizens and not feel they were second-class citizens as so many welfare people unfortunately do. I don't believe they should be made to feel that way but we are tending to make them

feel that way and their children tend to grow up in an atmosphere of being considered welfare kids. Day care is not only a necessity for families, it is also a money-saving project in the long run.

I would appeal to the minister to consider that day care is an exception; and to take the recommendation of the special programme review report, which is sometimes called the Henderson report, that day care should not be cut back but should be considered an important part, really, of the whole educational system, an integral part of our society. Therefore, I would ask him to reconsider his rate of assistance to day care and make it a special case.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I wasn't sure of the number of spaces that the member for Beaches-Woodbine indicated were necessary. I wonder if she could clarify that?

Ms. Bryden: There are various estimates, Mr. Minister, but 300,000 is what I have heard we need.

Mr. McClellan: One of the problems, if I might say Mr. Chairman, is quite simply that there has not been an adequate need study done in this province. We are forced to try to make projections of day care needs based on material we take from the Ministry of Labour about the number of women in the workforce with pre-school children or children of school age. When we say 300,000, we're talking about, probably, the total child care needs, not just day care but after school, lunch care, child care facilities as well as group and family day care.

Your ministry has the responsibility, among other things, for planning for human need in this province. It really is about time that a serious study of daycare needs in Ontario was undertaken so that we would not have you saying 50,000 and us saying 300,000, but would have some rational basis for planning for the needs of the people of this province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are certainly some wide differences of opinion in terms of need. I believe the member for Bellwoods at one time mentioned 400,000 places.

Mr. McClellan: Well, let's not play games. I am asking you to do a serious study, not to engage in that sort of numbers game.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't want to get involved in a numbers game either, but whether it is 300,000 or 400,000, we may say that we are playing a numbers game. We found the average cost per place of day

care in Ontario is something over \$5,000. If you are talking 400,000 you are talking maybe \$200 million. If it's 300,000, it is \$150 million for capital for day care. And of course the capital money is often the cheapest money that you will spend because we found the operating costs are so high.

Ms. Bryden: You are going to save \$1,508 a year for each child.

Mr. Davidson: Where did you get the 50,000 figure?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The 50,000 figure is the figure that we have already put into place. What I am saying is that we have 50,000 places in Ontario now.

Mr. McClellan: May I say to you again that I don't understand your reluctance to undertake a serious needs study.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am not reluctant. In fact, I think we made a grant to a Metropolitan Toronto group of something in the area of \$45,000, if I am not mistaken, to carry out a study in the Metropolitan Toronto area. It is not a question of not being concerned. But as the members know, there are many types—

Mr. McClellan: That's just one area of the whole province. It would be good to have some good hard clear data. Then if you and ourselves want to disagree on the question of priorities, that's fine and it becomes more appropriately a political discussion. It shouldn't be a political discussion as to how many places are needed in Ontario. That is simply a matter of factual material that so far has not been made available.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is not factual material. You've come up with your figures of 400,000. It's not that simple because probably most day care is private day care which is fully funded by the user and of which we don't have a record. We've had, as you know, our own internal studies. We've had an advisory council on day care. It's one thing to say that we need X number of places based on working mothers with children under, say, six years of age.

Mr. McClellan: You don't want to do the study.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of the actual need, I suppose whatever there is will be used. What we are trying to do is to ensure that publicly financed or subsidized day care is used on an income or needs test base to ensure that those people who cannot fully

afford day care themselves are able to have day care. The study in the Metropolitan Toronto area, I understood, was costing \$110,000 of which the province's contribution is \$45,000, as I mentioned.

Mr. B. Newman: I wanted to solicit some information from the minister. The individual is on mother's allowance and has a child 15 years of age who turns 16. Does that child still get benefits under the mothers' allowance? At what age is that child cut off. Is it 16 or is it 18?

[8:30]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think it depends whether the child is going to school or not, if I'm not mistaken. I believe it can be up to 21 years of age.

Mr. B. Newman: So even though the child may have just turned 18 and be attending a post-secondary institution, your ministry will still provide benefits to that child, through the mother, under the Family Benefits Allowance—as long as she's attending school. Am I right?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I understand, yes, there could be support for a child over 18, if that child is attending school.

Mr. B. Newman: Even if the child were to continue on to get a degree or do post-graduate work.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, I would assume so.

Mr. B. Newman: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I just want to deal with one small part of the ministry's programme, or perhaps lack of it. It is not because I think that there are problems only in this one part of the programme. As my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) has pointed out, there are problems in almost every area of your ministry. But I think this one is very apparent. It is one in which I think even you, Mr. Minister, must have some concern.

Both the federal government and provincial government in recent years have given some recognition to the fact that our elderly citizens, who have contributed so much to our economy and our society over the years, should have a relatively decent minimum standard of living. Therefore, we have the federal programme and the provincial GAINS programme. This provides, or did at least until the recent increases in gas and other things, some reasonable degree of minimum income, compared to many others on the income maintenance programme.

But there is one aspect of this programme which, to put it mildly, leaves a lot to be desired. That is the situation where you have a man who has reached the age of 65 or over, where either he or his wife—or both of them prior to that time—were on family benefits. He suddenly receives the GAINS supplement and finds out that the family benefits that they had been receiving have been cut down to the exact degree of the increase in the old age supplement and in the GAINS programme.

I could tell you of a family in my area, a man who is now 72, who has a wife who is partially disabled and is much younger than he is. She was on family benefits and receiving a certain income, and he went on the GAINS programme, and she still continued to receive some—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I wonder if the Chair could interrupt. We are dealing with item by item, and I believe you are speaking on the services for adults. That would be item 2. I don't know whether the minister wishes to respond; but I think for an orderly discussion we should stay with the items as they are listed.

Mr. Swart: I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I will abide by your ruling, of course. But I only have three or four more sentences. Do you want me to finish now or do you wish me to speak just a little later?

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps we should deal with the services for children; and the Chair will recognize you as the first speaker when we go to the services for adults.

The hon. member for St. George.

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, Mr. Chairman, when we were dealing with the services for children, and we were dealing with another minister, there was a commitment given to this committee by this minister's predecessor that there were to be funds available for a study to be undertaken of the suicides and suicidal attempts of young children in our community. Is this study now provided for? I don't know that it is within this vote that that would be permitted, but it does seem to me that we ought to have that information. I think it could shed a great light on the present status of services to children.

I believe that the former Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Brunelle) was concerned about this then, and did give this commitment to us—he's nodding his assent. It is a very serious situation. I don't know how serious it is across the province but I can tell you it is serious in the city

and in the Metropolitan Toronto area. May I know whether that kind of a report is covered in this vote in the moneys allocated to this purpose?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, it is not, Mr. Chairman. I may say that I have a copy of the letter which my predecessor wrote to the member for St. George Aug. 1, 1975, stating that:

I am replying to your inquiry during the ministry's estimates concerning a study of suicide among young children. At this time I am pleased to advise you that the ministry will give serious consideration to including such a study in its research programme for 1975-1976. The staff of the Children's Services Bureau have been directed to review this question and to explore the formulation of a research plan for implementation by the ministry's research staff. Thank you for your continued expression of concern for problems respecting children.

I did want to put that in the record because I know the member for St. George is concerned about that. I may say that to my knowledge a research programme isn't being carried out. It's certainly not included in the supplementary estimates. Again, without being in a position to make a commitment in the estimates for 1976-1977, I will certainly give renewed consideration to the member's request.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the response of the minister. It seems to me that this is something which has to be done so that we can understand what is happening to children and what we are lacking in services to them.

I don't really know whether it has anything to do with the moon or the time of the year or whatever, but from my experience I can tell you that the month of March in the courts was always a very dreaded month. I'm speaking now only for the Metropolitan Toronto area, but I say this because of the incidence of these attempts and in some cases the incidence of very successful attempts of children.

My experience is not statistically valuable—I recognize that—but it would seem that for the most part the children who are involved in this kind of activity are children who have not had the benefit of any kind of assistance from any agency whatsoever until suddenly they appear in the courts. I'm not going to give the facts of a certain case here, because it could be identifiable, but when you face a

child who is under eight years of age, who is in the court and who has tried three times in three different ways to commit suicide, and when you know that child has had no support services anywhere along the line so that the court becomes the first social service for that child, then I believe we have to look at this kind of situation.

I have to tell you that a judge in a family court does face the very fact that on occasion a child who has been before him or her has been successful in this attempt. Believe me, it stays with you for the rest of your life. It really does. These are children and when we recognize that these children find nothing in life for them, when they find that the alternative is to end it—and they are really babies in our eyes—then surely we must—someone has to plead for this kind of a study.

I know the minister finds me over-dramatic on occasion but I would like him to understand that what I am saying tonight comes from a very real commitment to an understanding of this problem and a very real commitment to get at the reasons for this kind of activity.

The other thing that I would like to ask is: In these funds is there any provision for what again I understood—it wasn't as firm a commitment and I don't want to be inaccurate in my statement—but indeed there was a sense of direction in this ministry in the area of child abuse. Is there any funding here for the kind of project which we discussed at a meeting which, again, was convened by the then Minister of Community and Social Services to try to understand the problem of child abuse? Is there anything in here for that activity?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In response, may I say again I fully appreciate the points the member for St. George made in the estimates earlier, last year and, of course, has repeated.

In regard to the child abuse programme may I say that there is nothing additional in these estimates for the child abuse programme although we did budget for \$275,000 in the current fiscal year in that area.

As the member may know, we have conducted seminars on this. We are proceeding in that area. I would anticipate—it is certainly my view—that the estimates of this ministry, when they come forward for 1976-1977, will contain considerably more for child abuse programmes.

I personally feel that is an area in which we can do much more than we have been doing and I think it is something my min-

istry should address itself to. I think the member will find that out when the estimates for 1976-1977 are tabled.

Mrs. Campbell: I appreciate the minister's response. May I ask one further question?

Is the programme which has been undertaken by Sick Children's Hospital funded through this ministry or the Ministry of Health? That is the programme whereby the hospital has taken into its care, if you like, a child who is disturbed. It has taken the parent in with the child so that there can be a concentrated kind of investigation of the problem of the child in its relationship to the family.

[8:45]

I have never understood whether that came under the Health Ministry or whether it was a part of the Community and Social Services function. These children usually go to Sick Children's hospital as a result of a court appearance, where there have been some very bizarre incidents surrounding the child's relationship to a parent. The Sick Children's hospital—and I am most grateful and I am sure there isn't a judge in Ontario who isn't grateful for their effort in this area—have in fact embarked upon this programme to take the child in with the parent with whom it seems to be in conflict, or where there are some very bizarre kinds of acting out.

Now would that programme be covered by your ministry, would it be covered by Health, or would it be covered by Justice in some way? I have never been able to get an answer to that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the programme the member for St. George speaks of, Mr. Chairman, is funded through Health. There may be some involvement in my ministry in terms of, say funding through a Children's Aid Society the worker who may be involved as well, but that is only incidental.

We do work, I know, with the Hospital for Sick Children in conjunction with Surrey Place, certainly in the MR field. We are working again with the university and we will be developing a resource centre there, probably the provincial resource centre in that area. But I think it's a Health matter that the member speaks of.

May I, Mr. Chairman, make one clarification in response to the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman). I mentioned the continuing of family benefits for persons taking post-secondary education. Community colleges are covered and trade schools, but

the clarification I wanted to make was that it does not as yet cover degree courses. We are considering that; the change has not yet gone through in terms of degree courses. I did want to clarify that, it is under consideration.

Mr. B. Newman: I appreciate that, Mr. Minister, because of all the people we should be helping it's that type of individual—to get out of the syndrome that they happen to be living in and be a real benefit to the community and to their family later on.

Mr. Davison: Now that an election is more or less imminent, there are a great many things we can all look forward to with pleasure. I suspect I speak for the majority of members on this side of the House when I say that one of the things we look forward to most is the removal of this minister before he manages to destroy his own ministry.

This whole restraint package of his that we have all heard so much about is a charade and it's a sham. I wouldn't be surprised to find out that a large portion of this programme will end up costing us considerably more than any of the alleged saving. The minister has been able to get some very cheap headlines with his welfare-basher approach, but to claim—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I don't wish to get involved in confrontation here or that type of dialogue. If we are going to comply with the Chair's instructions to deal with this particular item, then I would request the Chair ensure that the member's remarks are confined to this particular item. I am prepared to take him on on any issue at any time in connection with my ministry—

Mr. Bain: We listened to you. Why don't you listen to him?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But I think it would be an abuse of the time of this chamber if we get into a tirade in general terms such as that.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: I would ask the hon. member for Hamilton Centre to direct his remarks specifically to item 1, services for children.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Well, I hadn't noticed, up to this point, that he was dealing with that.

Mr. Foulds: You haven't heard anything.

Mr. Davison: I will endeavour to become less provocative.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Just objective, for a change, will be fine, instead of objectionable.

Mr. Davison: I think the claim that the programme is designed to save money and get people off welfare is, at the least, a gross misrepresentation and, furthermore, I think that this package is a direct and brutal assault on the most vulnerable people in our society.

Consider though the effects this minister's sledgehammer approach has had on the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The 5.5 per cent limit placed on that society threatens the society's very capacity to fulfil its responsibilities under the Child Welfare Act of Ontario.

The society has been losing foster resources over the past five years at a high rate. Under the limits of this ministry there can be no appreciable increase in the rates of board paid to foster parents, with the exception of a slight adjustment in the age categories zero to five years and six to 11 years, which is simply to bring the society up to the base level of the Catholic Children's Aid Society in the area. There will be no increase paid to the foster and group home parents who care for children 12 and over. This is where the very greatest pressure is in the Children's Aid Society in the city I represent, because over 50 per cent of their children are 13 years of age and over. If the rate of support cannot be increased to a level at least equal with the cost of living increases, the whole programme will be very seriously jeopardized. Let's not play games about that with the public.

No increase is possible for the outside specialized institutions which care for about 14 per cent of the more troubled or disturbed children in Hamilton. Further, the number of children under such care will be frozen at 65, which is the level that was set at the end of last year, and there will be no possibility of admitting so much as one extra child. Mr. Minister, I would ask, what becomes of that child? Where does that child go? The responsibility for what happens to that child is yours, and I hope you have a very serious answer for that, because the people of Hamilton want to know about it.

If the society loses staff or has to reduce it, if the society loses fostering group homes and the use of its institution, what do they do? Where do they go? What are they supposed to tell the court when it refers children to them through a transfer of guardianship and

the society has either no money to care for the child or no resource in which to place the child? Mr. Minister, what can you tell the child? What's your answer? I want to hear it.

I hope that the minister is not inclined to suggest to us that everything will be all right, because he predicts no appreciable increase in the number of children who will require the services of the society. I say that because the 5.5 per cent limit will very seriously damage the protective and preventive services of the society. Without these services, many more children will be in need of in-care assistance.

I hope that the minister isn't unaware that at any given time the society in Hamilton-Wentworth is working with about 1,000 children in their own family home environment. All of these children are potential candidates for wardship, and the minister's restraint programme could and quite probably will force many of them into an in-care situation by causing the society to have to curtail large parts of its protective and preventive services.

On Jan. 16 of this year, Jack Finlay, the managing director of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, wrote the following in a brief:

One of the most significant areas of concern is with respect to staff salaries, wages and vacancies as they occur throughout the year. . . . As staff leave the agency of their own volition, it is very unlikely we will be able to replace them, which will add a further burden of responsibility on the staff thus reducing their effectiveness.

Staff have taken a very mature and responsible approach to their salary requests for 1976. In fact, they agreed to abide by the federal guidelines, if necessary, and without complaint. However, to provide nothing whatsoever by way of salary adjustment in 1976 is asking far too much of its staff and it is grossly unjust.

I would like an answer to that too.

Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely any further staff training and development? Is he aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the self-help telephone line which—if he doesn't know—is a recorded message to single or unmarried pregnant girls advising them of the services available through the society. Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely foster parent development?

Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely after school and lunch-time supervision programmes on or before June 30 of this year? Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the allocation

of a qualified and experienced staff member to a community child abuse team on a full-time basis? Is the minister aware that his restraints will rule out entirely the summer programme involving upwards of 400 children and of families as part of the operating budget?

I would also like to know if the minister is aware of some of the services that will have to be reduced over the 1975 expenditure pattern because of his restraint programme.

Ward sundries will be reduced. Those, if he is not aware, are the moneys paid to children directly or on their behalf over and above spending allowances. These will include athletic equipment, bicycles, birthday and Christmas gifts—how cheap can you get to get votes?—school trips, moneys used to subsidize foster parents when they wish to take foster children on vacation trips.

Among the casualties are pre-adoption expenses which include the taking of pictures, of children being considered for adoption and for circulation throughout the province to other agencies. This item also includes their share in joint Children's Aid Society social get-togethers of prospective adopting parents and children.

The minister's restraints cut into the funding for the foster parent association. In the past the society in Hamilton-Wentworth has budgeted a nominal amount to assist the foster parent association executive to strengthen the whole foster parent programme and to assist foster parents in getting to know one another and to further broaden their knowledge and develop their skills in caring for children.

The various client assistance programmes will also suffer under the axe. These include help in emergencies such as rental arrears, hydro, food, clothing, transportation, home-maker services, craft or self-help treatment in therapeutic programmes designed to strengthen the self-image of individuals in their roles as members of the family.

The minister's restraints will cut out—I hope you are listening to this—volunteer programmes. You're really big on volunteers but they're going to be forced to cut back on their volunteer programmes because they're not going to be able to provide assistance to volunteers for help with transportation costs in working with adults and children. This also includes the cost of transporting children to a play school operated by the society and staffed entirely by volunteers.

There will be reductions in a number of things in spite of increased costs. For example, there will be a reduction in mailing

capacity. There will be reductions in legal fees to cover the cost of wardship appeals. There'll be reductions in publicity and advertising for foster homes, missing persons, etc., reduction in association fees and the elimination entirely of membership in the Ontario Welfare Council and the Canadian Council for Social Development.

[9:00]

The foregoing are offset by costs over which the society has no control, nor has the minister any control, or very little, such as heat, light, water, unemployment insurance, telephone, workmen's compensation rates, Ontario sales tax—could you maybe fix that for them so they wouldn't have to pay any sales tax?—committed costs, such as leases and operations of business equipment. In addition, a cost over which the society has no control is the retirement of the debenture debt with respect to the acquisition of their new facilities.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to close now. Let me say to the minister in all sincerity, I would be very, very happy to support a programme that would end welfare abuse if only this minister could propose one, but to masquerade a vicious and unprincipled attack on defenceless children as a programme to end welfare abuse is a disgusting and cheap political trick and it is worthy of no one other than this minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I don't know who the speechwriter for the member for Hamilton Centre might be, but I don't think he can be a very responsible one.

Mr. McClellan: You had better hire him fast.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I've never heard such a nonsensical tirade in my life as the utterings of the member.

Mr. Bain: You don't listen to yourself then, do you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's absolutely nonsensical. If you direct yourself to this particular item of this vote you will see that the request is made for \$4,779,000 to assist Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Davison: What's going to Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And I may say, Mr. Chairman—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The minister didn't interrupt when the member for Hamilton Centre was speaking.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that the additional moneys are necessary because of some workload increases, some inflationary increases, and of course the financing of preventive services.

In regard to the inflationary increases, I may say that the cost of foster homes has increased 29.3 per cent; group homes, 44.3 per cent; and paid institutions 12.6 per cent. Because of these increased costs—

Mr. Davison: Give us the reasons why.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —it has been necessary to adjust upward the budgets of the Children's Aid Societies of this province, to ensure that the children of the province who are in care of Children's Aid Societies are being well looked after.

I may say, in response to the member for Hamilton Centre, if he's interested in statistics and caseloads, that the number of children in care of Children's Aid Societies in Ontario between the ages of zero and nine years—

Mr. Davison: Let's talk about Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —were 5,747 in 1973; 5,123, or a decrease, in 1974—

Mr. Makarchuk: He groans on and on.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and a further decrease to 4,998 in December, 1975. In the age group 10 to 17, in December, 1973, the numbers were 8,038; in December, 1974, 8,092; in December, 1975, 8,386. In the group of 18 to 21, in December, 1973, the total number of children in care were 484—

Mr. Makarchuk: Are you reading the odds at the races tonight, or what are you reading?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in December, 1974, the number was 503; and the actual for December, 1975 was 521.

Mr. Davison: Is that for the province or Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am talking about the province—

Mr. Makarchuk: You make a bloody mess of it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and I will talk about Hamilton in a minute. You are interested in the welfare of the children of this province, surely you have that in mind; if you haven't you should have.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are making a mess out of it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I want to give you some facts—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and all you are doing is stirring up a storm. You are creating a lot of upset without facts, and I think you are doing a disservice to the province by doing so.

Mr. Davison: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Does the member for Hamilton Centre have a point of order?

Mr. Davison: I would think so. If the minister is accusing me of talking without facts, then if he will simply ask me what facts it is he wishes to know I will gladly give them to him.

Mr. Chairman: That is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, if I may give the totals for 1973, 1974 and 1975 of the number of children in care of Children's Aid Societies in Ontario: In December of 1973 there were 14,269; in December of 1974, 13,718 a decrease; and in December of 1975 13,905, which is a slight increase.

Mr. Makarchuk: Why don't you get the public accounts books? There are a lot of figures you can read out for ever and ever.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And may I say that the number of staff employed by Children's Aid Societies in December of 1973 was 2,710; in December of 1974, 2,839; and December of 1975, 3,169. There was a greater increase in staff than there was in the number of children coming into care.

Mr. Davison: They were finally getting the care they needed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If we look at all of the Children's—

Mr. Davison: Can we take a break until your speech writer gets here?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —Aid Societies in Ontario—and I wrote all of them earlier this week stating that I would review their special problems with them in the spirit of my meeting with the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Societies, because I am not discriminating in regard to any Children's Aid Societies in Ontario, we are going to ensure that no children do suffer because of the restraint programme. I specifically said

that since the beginning and they have all been notified of that fact. So there may be options that the Hamilton Children's Aid Society will exercise in the adjustment of its services. It has that built-in flexibility, but it will be treated like any other Children's Aid Society, including those of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Davison: Is that the answer?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if in the 1976 programme there will be money available and assistance for a daycare centre in the town of Dunnville? Does the minister have to make this study or can it be promoted from local study groups?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if there was an application from Dunnville.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Yes, a request has come in. I wonder if there are funds available?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There will not be any new capital funds apart from those already committed for day care. I am not sure whether the Dunnville one has been approved or not. I would have to check the list. If it was approved I would assume it would have been processed. If you wish I can check on that particular application. We have about 56 that will be proceeded with in this year but I can't say at the moment whether that is one of the 56 or not.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Chairman, is my understanding correct then that unless there is an application in, it wouldn't be considered for 1976?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There'll be no new capital funding. If it hasn't been approved now, then you won't see it approved in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, speaking to the services for children, I'm not going to take very much time at all, but I want the minister to know that the excellent presentation made by the member for Hamilton Centre (Mr. Davison) listed in detail some of the cuts, some of the vital services that the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton-Wentworth is not going to be able to provide. They are very definitely damaging to the programmes for children in that city. I

don't know whether you heard them or not, but I never heard one iota of an answer from you on the questions he raised.

Now let me deal with a couple of things. You've had letters from the society. You've had letters from the managing director and from the president of the society. They've outlined in detail—because I've had copies of them too—their problems and where they stand. I think you owe them the courtesy really answering them and not waffling, as you do, all over the area.

Let me just read from one of their letters.

What we would like to draw to your attention are those areas in which we believe the intensity of the proposed restraints will significantly jeopardize our capacity to deliver services under the Child Welfare Act, and may seriously affect the welfare of children and families in our area, even if we were freed from such legal responsibilities.

There are two main areas of concern. The first is simply the effect of the rollover of various budgetary items. This rollover is composed mainly of expenditures reflecting increases in salaries and boarding rates to foster parents implemented in September and July 1975, respectively, and approved staff additions at various intervals through 1975 and yet applicable to the whole of 1976 in terms of costs.

According to our current projection, the rollover factor alone would require a 5.4 per cent increase in our 1975 approved estimates, based on a projection of our current level of spending as of December, 1975. This would then make no provision whatsoever for any adjustments in rates of board to keep pace with the cost of living; or modest adjustments in salaries for staff we must retain to provide basic services. Nor would we be able to cope with already publicized percentage increases and rates charged by Hydro, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, postage, fuel and the Bell Telephone Co.; to name but a few areas of specific concern.

Mr. Minister, as it stands you are allowing, 5.5 per cent. The rollover costs that they've got no control over at all are 5.4 per cent. This agency is one of the most efficient in the province. I've never seen a more dedicated group of people.

My colleagues and I have now met with them three times—the entire staff of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton—and let me tell you, they've done a job that I don't think they should have done in terms of looking at

their budget for the coming year and cutting it and paring it. They got it down, originally, to 9.4 per cent. That's below any cost of living increase.

Let me tell you also they were ready to forgo—and it's something I wouldn't accept—any salary increases for their staff whatsoever.

After running into a blank wall with your ministry in terms of any increases, they cut it even further, to nine per cent. That cuts out all of the programmes that my colleague was talking about. That's their figure based on their cuts, and you're not prepared to say that you're going to give them that. How could they budget or plan their services for the year without knowing where they stand?

Mr. Minister, I don't know whether you understand anything that's going on here at times. I'm sorry, but let me tell you very clearly that you make Scrooge look like a piker. That simply has to be changed and these agencies have to be told what they can have to operate on; and it's got to be at least that kind of a figure. I think you owe it to them to get back to the society and tell them what they've got. If it's 5.5 per cent then you are a disgrace to the ministry and you should resign your seat.

Mr. Davison: Resign.
[9:15]

Mr. Makarchuk: In the interests of humanity, would you kindly leave?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I simply do not accept the statement the member for Hamilton East has made.

Mr. Mackenzie: Are you saying they are lying at the society?

Mr. Davison: You don't accept the figures of the society?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. I didn't interrupt you. I don't accept that statement because I don't think it fully reflects the facts. If the member was current regarding the situation, he would know budgetary review is now under way with that Children's Aid Society in conjunction with my staff. That review is in line with remarks I've made over the past two months, and more particularly in terms of—

Mr. Mackenzie: Not in line with the pressure.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —my current statements in regard to assisting Children's Aid Societies

in those areas where they're suffering particular hardship.

Mr. McClellan: Because of you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is under way, so I'm convinced the matter will be resolved to the satisfaction not only of the Children's Aid Societies but the constraint programme; and in such a way that it will accommodate the true needs of children.

Mr. Cunningham: I don't want to berate you—you've had your fair share of that—but I wonder if you'd indicate—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Don't be timid about it. Don't worry about berating me.

Mr. Cunningham: Oh, no, that's not my function here. My predecessors here and my associates from Hamilton have very clearly indicated the concern that I too share with other members from Hamilton about the future provision of services in our area.

I would like to ask you about these services and possibly get an indication from you for the people back home. I'm very concerned about the provision of these services and the requirement, not only the moral requirement but the legal requirement, that we have to provide these services to the children of our area. I'm just wondering, in that light, what is going to be the attitude of your ministry, and more specifically of your government, to a bill that I'm sure you're going to receive from the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth with regard to the cost—at least 80 per cent of it likely—that is going to be required by law to provide these services? I'm just wondering, in the light of that, what is the attitude of your government going to be?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Is that the question?

Mr. Cunningham: That's the guts of it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In response to the member, when I receive that communication, I will consider it in light of the circumstances at that time. I'm not going to anticipate any communications or try to resolve in a vacuum problems that may be there.

Again, I'd like to repeat that I have already indicated a potential for flexibility in regard to those areas where there is undue hardship or pressure because of physical and financial resources. That review is currently under way and I'm convinced we'll resolve the problems.

While I'm on my feet and while the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman) is now in the House, may I merely say that the date

of change in regard to the increase in the cost of the support of the child who was resident in the school—I don't know whether it was Belleville or not—

Ms. Sandeman: Belleville—or any of the schools.

Hon. Mr. Taylor:—Belleville or any school in any event was increased in February of this year. It may increase, as I indicated, to half the rate, which I think was about \$18. A review is also under way in terms of a further increase.

In regard to hearing aids—that issue was mentioned, as to financing for hearing aids—from July last year to March 16 this year, 149 hearing aids were supplied for a total cost of \$24,561.07, plus 18 repairs at a cost of \$530.95, for a grand total of \$25,092.02. As I mentioned, that was started in July, 1975, and I thought the member might like that information.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Chairman, if I may, on that point: If I thought that some vituperation would aid in getting more money for the Children's Aid Society and the various agencies in my area, you would enjoy it from me.

I don't think that is going to accomplish anything, but if I could suggest, on a non-partisan basis, that you meet with three individuals. I think your associate the member for Oriole, (Mr. Williams), having met several of them just yesterday, might agree with me that it might be of benefit to you, to the government and of course to the people we serve.

The three people I speak of in the Hamilton area are Mr. Vedell, Mr. Mac Carson and Mr. Finlay, who was mentioned earlier. I think a further meeting with them would be of benefit to us all, because I think they will very clearly indicate to you that we cannot continue to provide the services which are morally and legally required of us under your present fiscal restraints.

I am afraid that what we are going to see is some very anti-social tendencies and some severe dislocation of these services which we require if we don't look at this problem today.

I would suggest to you very sincerely that in the next 10 days somehow a meeting be arranged with these individuals, who I assure you would be willing to meet with you at any time, at any place, to discuss these restraints. I can assure you Hamilton is going to need this and we just can't provide it on what you are talking about. It is really

cheap and stupid to continue the way we are going right now.

Again, the names of the individuals are Mr. Vedell, Mr. Mac Carson and Mr. Jack Finlay. It is going to save us all a lot of aggravation in the long run.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the member for Wentworth North has indicated the approach I have demonstrated in the past and am demonstrating. Of course, I think it is a sensible approach, once the staff review has been completed, to sit down with the directors of the Children's Aid Societies and ensure that the budget is worked out to see that these problems inherent in them are resolved.

Certainly I am prepared to do that, as I am with all of the Children's Aid Societies. As I mentioned before, I don't pick and choose. I think we have to be fair and equitable. There are 50 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and I don't propose to deal with one any differently than I do with the other. Certainly I will be prepared to meet with the society.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the minister if he has decided to scrap this 5.5 ceiling?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am sorry; did you say have I scrapped it?

Mr. Foulds: Have you decided to scrap your 5.5 per cent ceiling for the Children's Aid Societies?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, Mr. Chairman, in response I've—

Mr. Foulds: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Please don't try those tactics.

Mr. Foulds: You answered the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was asked a question. In terms of the ceiling, we accept the overall parameters of the government's increased spending in the area of Children's Aid Societies and the instructions that the guideline of 5.5 per cent be adhered to. Implicit in those instructions, of course, was the undertaking to deal with pressure areas.

About half the Children Aid Societies, I would expect, have come within those guidelines. I am prepared to address the special problems. As I said, there is a potential for flexibility because of the added burden on certain Children's Aid Societies. I am prepared to resolve that; so that, in my estimation, that doesn't attack the integrity of the

guidelines, and it is certainly not intended to. However possible, we want to see that they are adhered to—within, of course, the reasonable approach that we want to ensure there will be no children in this province who will suffer because of those guidelines and budgetary constraints. So, by necessity, there have to be certain exceptions made where the need is demonstrated.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister, I want to speak for a few moments, if I might, about one of those pressure points, and that's the Thunder Bay District Children's Aid Society. I assume that you know it is responsible for a territory of 114,864 square miles, give or take a few, and that the society was formed back in 1968 at the urging of your ministry out of the old Fort William and Port Arthur Children's Aid Societies.

When it was finally formed at the urging of your ministry, it developed a five-year plan which eight years later still has not been implemented—once again at the urging of your ministry, because every year the society has realistically and responsibly cut back on its budget, postponed and delayed some programmes, and particularly has used the device of delaying the implementation of certain costs until June of the year to spread the costs over 18 months.

It is not particularly important that you are going to impose a blanket 5.5 per cent increase on their estimated budget, because their current budget, based on the expenditures of the tail ends of the last year, simply cannot come in under your guidelines. In fact, the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society, just to maintain the same level of programme as established for the last six months of 1975, would require \$156,274 in addition to the 5.5 per cent increase you are presently saying is permitted.

I know they have written to you asking to set up a meeting with you to discuss this particular problem. I would like to know if you have set up such a meeting with that Children's Aid Society and when they will be meeting with you. In order to prepare you for that meeting, I would like to tell you some of the things that society is going to have to do—some of the very damaging things that society is going to have to do if you impose the blanket 5.5 per cent on them.

Just in the area of what they call administrative costs, they figure they probably could save \$20,000. They could. Do you know what that would mean, though? It means cutting out summer camps; that's an

administrative cost. It means cutting out staff training programmes; that's called an administrative cost. It means nobody in the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society will be able to go to any of their professional conferences or upgrade their knowledge or specialty in their area, and it means reducing the allotment to the foster parents association; those are administrative costs, those are controllable costs.

However, the real pinch comes on those areas that directly affect children or the families of those children. To meet your imposed ceilings, the Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society will have to reduce the number of children coming into its care by 10 per cent. That can only be accomplished in a couple of very destructive ways.

[9:30]

One of them is that they will have to leave children in their own homes in circumstances which the community will not accept and which, if I may say so, the legislation of this province does not accept. It means returning disturbed and turbulent children, delinquent children, to their own homes long before the problems in those homes and the children's problems have been overcome. It also means the return of some very troubled children to the community; children who, at the present time, are in treatment centres costing up to \$900 per month per child.

Do you know what else it means in Thunder Bay? It means they will not be able to open a group home which has already been paid for and contracted for. It is set to go but they will not be able to operate. In other words, it was contracted for in good faith. It's an eight-bedroom home; it is presently standing empty and will continue to stand empty unless you raise the ceilings.

It will mean the closing of one or two of the branch offices which the district of Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society has opened. Do you know what it will mean to have to close the branch office of the Children's Aid Society in Armstrong, Ont.? Do you know what that means in that community? Do you know that the three branch offices are more than 200 miles away from Thunder Bay in each case? If you have to send social workers or case workers up in the long run it will probably cost just as much and you will be providing very much poorer service, because it will not be on the spot in that 110,000-square-mile-plus area.

It will mean the the restriction of dental work for children under the care of that society to only essential extractions and fillings.

Devastating in my view, and one that is money foolish—that is, penny wise and pound foolish—is that they will have to cut out adoption services for children who could be placed outside the community in other areas of Ontario. The average cost of an adoption to that CAS is about \$2,000.

Let me tell you a little story. Just before the Children's Aid Society in Thunder Bay had its annual meeting that society was able to place six children in adoption with one family outside Thunder Bay somewhere in eastern Ontario. I don't know if you understand the geography but Thunder Bay happens to be 1,000 miles away from Toronto. Unfortunately, Queen's Park is 10,000 miles away, but that's another story.

If that adoption is to take place and take place smoothly—these are older children over six, under 16—you have to do the field work with the family. You have to do the field work with the children. You have to make sure that the social workers can get down here after the placement has taken place so the children have the security of the people they have been in contact with, that is, the social worker.

This illustrates what we are talking about when we say that the emphasis must be on preventive care. By making the placement of that one family unit the Children's Aid Society saved your government and the municipalities \$60,000. That's what the cost would have been, in dollar terms, if those kids had had to stay under the continued care of the Children's Aid Society until the youngest was 16, which is their obligation by law, it would have cost \$60,000—just in dollar terms. In human terms, think what it means for those six kids to be together as one adoption and one adoptive-parent family. That's the kind of money that cannot be cut back. That must not be cut back—no matter what your 5.5 per cent or what your Management Board tells you.

Finally, I want to say to you, Mr. Minister, that this policy is not a policy. One of the things that we have to understand about public spending in this province is that the attack that you and your government are bringing to bear on public spending is an attack on certain freedoms that have been hard-won in this province: the right of the pensioner to live in dignity—the freedom of the child to be brought up in a humane and human condition. That's what you are attacking and that's what we object to most strongly.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's interesting that the party whose members seem to be so sup-

portive of the Children's Aid Societies was the party, as I understand it in British Columbia that wiped out the Children's Aid Societies when it came to power. Let me say that we in this government have been supportive of Children's Aid Societies and of management at the local level.

Mr. McClellan: British Columbia has had provincial child welfare for over 15 years.

Mr. Davison: Let's hear fact, not fantasy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And in response to the member's request in connection with the Children's Aid Society in which he is interested, that is one of 10 societies in Ontario from whom I have not received a budget. When I have received their budget and when we have reviewed it, then like the others, I will be happy to sit down and meet with them.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, does the minister deny having received a letter requesting a meeting with him to discuss their budget? Does he deny receiving the details that I have outlined to him from Harry Lang, the director?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I believe I have written a letter stating that I would be happy to meet with them after I have received their budget.

Mr. Swart: In reply to theirs.

Mr. Foulds: Have you set a date for that meeting?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I'm still waiting for the budget.

Mr. Davison: No wonder; 5.5 per cent.

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Mr. Foulds: How do you expect them to establish the budget on a 5.5 per cent basis?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right, we have 40 Children's Aid Societies which have submitted their budgets. I'm looking forward to the receipt of all those budgets. We will review them. I'm sure they will reflect those areas where they feel they need additional funding. I've already written to all of the Children's Aid Societies indicating a potential for flexibility in certain areas. Let's have the budgets and I would be happy to sit down with them after I review the budget.

Mr. Angus: Would you like a budget of 10 per cent?

Mr. Chairman: Order please, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Erie and then

the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) who has been waiting very patiently.

Mr. Haggerty: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the minister a question as it relates to the daycare centre programmes in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Davison: You won't get an answer.

Mr. Haggerty: Has the minister sent out any directives to the different daycare centres, particularly to the Niagara regional daycare centre, informing them of an increase in the cost per day for daycare service and what the increase would be?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I can't recollect any communication that I have sent out to them. Certainly in terms of day care, my general instructions were that we will be expecting a needs tested programme for day care that is subsidized by my ministry. That involves a revision of Form 7 of the Act, which is under way, and it also involves a sliding scale of charges for day care in accordance with the needs of the family in terms of what their income or needs happen to be. We feel that we must go that way to ensure that those who have the most need of day care receive it.

Mr. Haggerty: I have a note here before me. I tried to get more information on it tonight but I was concerned about what was brought to my attention by this person. Apparently she is a working mother and has a daughter enrolled in a daycare centre in the Niagara region. The cost of this has increased from \$5 per day to \$11.50 per day.

I was just wondering, because of the minister's statements in the past to the press and to the legislative assembly about single-parent mothers or working mothers who want to go back into the work force, whether this may penalize that person as a working mother and discourage her from becoming self-employed when raising a family.

If you're going to increase the cost of day care by almost 100 per cent, that is quite an increase considering the source of income, especially when we talk about the anti-inflation programme which says you should stay within the limits of eight per cent. You've already set one limit there of 5.5 per cent. When you're talking about a 100 per cent increase, is this not against the principle of the anti-inflation programme? How does one appeal it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I gather from what you say that you're talking about an increase to \$11.50 a day. Our examination of actual daycare costs, and we're talking about actual

costs per child per diem, indicate they run to about \$20 a day and probably most of the centres are figuring on something in the neighbourhood of \$13 a day. We're accepting that \$13-a-day figure as actual costs, even though they may be considerably higher. Even though \$13 may be the actual cost, if the charge is \$11.50 a day, a person who can afford to pay the full cost of day care would be expected to pay that \$11.50 a day. If that person, after being tested, cannot afford to pay that full cost, then that person would pay anything up to that full cost.

I've had letters from people complaining about having to pay the full cost. I've had it from a couple who are professional people, and I'm sure are making in excess of \$30,000 a year. They were complaining that their daycare costs had doubled. Frankly, I don't feel too sympathetic to persons who earn a fairly high income and have to pay the full cost of their own day care. I think what should happen is that the person who should be subsidized is the one who cannot afford that kind of payment. Of course, if those persons who pay full day care feel they have to take their children out and make private arrangements at a lesser cost, then that will open up, presumably, more accommodation for those who cannot afford to pay their full cost.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to pursue this a little further. Last Saturday I had a working mother come into my constituency office and bring to my attention that she was working and trying to raise a family. In my particular area I don't think there is anybody who earns around \$30,000 a year.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You will if you have two people working.

Mr. Haggerty: The average income of a male employee there would be about \$8,000 a year. For a working mother, and taking this person as an example, take-home pay would be about \$160 every two weeks. That works out to about \$80 a week. If you look at that \$11.50 per day, speaking in round figures, you're talking about \$60 a week and that's \$240 a month. If a person has to pay that for enrolment of her child in a daycare centre, I don't know how you're going to get working mothers to stay in the work force.

[9:45]

Your programme, your thoughts and your views are that you want to get single-parent mothers off the welfare rolls into the work

force. Based upon the case I outlined, you're going to discourage them. Even at \$5 a day, if her income is only \$80 a week, that is going to cut into her income. And there is the increased cost of heating homes today. For example, in many cases the cost of natural gas in the Niagara Peninsula has increased almost 50 to 100 per cent. People on low incomes are seriously affected by this.

I think you are going to have to take a serious look at the daycare programme and what you are charging people. I don't think people earning \$30,000 a year should have their children in daycare centres, because they can find other means to look after their children.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, I would think the example you gave is a case where, certainly, that person would be paying the minimum charge—not the maximum charge as you have indicated. For example, if you look at municipal day care in Metropolitan Toronto, I think the rate is mostly 25 cents a day. When you talk about accommodating those at the lower income spectrum, we have that type of a rate. In the example that you've given—again I would think whatever the minimum rates are would be more in line with the example than the maximum rate.

When I mentioned the complaints I have had, of course, it is in this area. I have very vividly in mind quite a strong letter from two professional people; both of them working. I would say they each make more than \$15,000 a year—substantially more—and who were quite upset because the rate had increased from \$6 or \$6.50 a day. Again, I don't think that the community should be subsidizing persons of that income.

Mr. Haggerty: Maybe one of the reasons for the high cost of daycare services are the professional groups you employ. You can go to a hospital, for example, where babies are born, and perhaps one nurse looks after about 30 babies. But in a daycare centre—I forget what the ratio is. If you go above five children you have to have two more employees. If I can recall one daycare centre they had maybe four persons employed to look after 25 children.

I was born and raised in a large family and my mother raised nine of us. Good Lord, if we had to go back to those days and my mother had to have somebody else come in and look after us, we would really have been in the poorhouse. So I think you can over-stress the need for the professional help. In

kindergarten in an elementary school you don't have two teachers looking after 20 or 30 students in a class; you have one teacher. Maybe you are overloaded.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. Now, we are getting into ratios between the children in the centre and the staff and employees. That's what you are talking about. If you are in a nursery business then, of course, the ratios are even greater. That's why it becomes more expensive.

We are talking about three staff to every 10 infants. When we get into the older groups, from ages two to five, then that ratio changes. You can have twice as many children for the number of staff. Built into that are the professionals that you speak of. Once you introduce the professionals with the higher salaries, you build up a very expensive system.

Frankly, this is something that concerns me when we hear talk of requiring 300,000 day-care places in Ontario. If we are going to develop them in that way, with that kind of staffing, then I think that the operating costs could be horrendous. And especially if you have to address the problem of day care for infant children; and there is pressure there as well.

I believe the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) made a statement some time ago which you probably subscribe to in terms of staffing. We are trying to maintain a high level in terms of the day care that we subsidize, and at the same time I think we have to look at alternative types of day care, probably a more economical type, where that may be appropriate.

Mr. Burr: Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Hamilton Centre (Mr. Davison) has given a detailed account of the programmes that the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton will have to abandon, or eliminate, or reduce. I should like to speak briefly about some of the highlights of the effects that the minister's 5.5 per cent ceiling will have on the increased work of the two Children's Aid Societies in Essex county. The Essex County Children's Aid Society had anticipated that only 25 of their children would require care in special homes in 1975. Because of the increase in the numbers of uncontrolled teenagers in 1975, their average for the year turned out to be 35 and not 25, and as the minister is aware, the cost of the special homes runs anywhere around \$800, \$900 or \$1,000 a month.

This year their amended budget, as ordered by the minister, calls for only 20 children as an average throughout the year in the special homes. So far, during the first 2½ months of

this year, the number of children requiring special care has averaged 34. To achieve the year's average of 20 for 1976, it will be necessary to withdraw children continually throughout the year, until in the last two or three months of the year there will be only nine left in special care homes.

Most, if not all of these children should not be allowed to return to their own homes, at least not until either their own attitude is changed or their home environment is improved. At least 10 of them are at present in the best home suitable for their particular problem. The Essex County Children's Aid Society may end up developing a local residential care programme of its own, possibly at some small saving. But to do this, expertise must be acquired or developed or hired.

While I'm on that subject, what is to happen to some of the small special homes that have been built and organized and developed to provide for the special needs of various children under the Children's Boarding Home Act? Several homes in southwestern Ontario—such as The Inn in Windsor, Glengarda, Ambassador Youth Services, Renaissance in Glencoe, Craigwood in London, Ausable Springs in Kitchener, to name a few—have enabled the Children's Aid Society to cope with some considerable success with the very difficult problems of children in distress, problems that land on their doorstep week in and week out.

The minister has boasted of Ontario's social service system, and with good reason. These homes are part of that system, and what I and many people who are closer than I to the whole situation fear is that the government's restraint programme will have a domino effect, a domino or ripple effect on these small homes, these components of the system that lend such a great support to the troubled children in our society.

There's some concern that some of these special homes will have to close and, once closed, it will be very difficult to get them reopened again. In the Essex County Children's Aid Society's budget, the 5.5 per cent increase allowed for 1976 was based on the figures for the first half of 1975, not the second half. In the second half of 1975 there was an increased caseload of children, especially in the difficult teenage section, and salary improvements were implemented for the staff members. Therefore, as far as the second half of 1975 is concerned, the 5.5 per cent increase is no increase at all. It's a decrease.

This Children's Aid Society needs \$2.24 million for 1976. The ministry has authorized

not quite \$2.047 million. The Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society in Windsor and Essex county needs \$1.746 million, but the ministry has authorized only \$1.617 million. These budgets can be met only by cutting staff and overworking those staff members who are kept on. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that I understand the provincial average caseload is 22 for Children's Aid Society workers, but in Windsor it's already 30, so they are already working overtime without extra pay in the Windsor area.

The budgets can be met by denying children the help to which they are legally entitled; by allowing, for example, no automobile replacement, and by eliminating professional conferences, training sessions and workshops. The two societies will probably survive the year, although the possibility exists that at least one board may tender resignations and leave the ministry to pick up the pieces. There is a limit to which volunteers—citizen volunteers—can be pushed.

I should like to refer also to the only rural rehabilitation centre—at least in our part of Ontario—at which teenagers escaping from the drug scene can find effective help. In the five years that Crossroads has been operating in Essex county, about 400 teenagers have passed through it. Just how many have failed to benefit no one can tell, but large numbers have benefited and been restored to their families and to society. Yet this centre faces closure. In fact, this week—I'm not—

Mr. Bounsall: It closed this week.

Mr. Burr: It's closed? I'm not going to dwell on the loss that this will mean to those teenagers who can no longer be referred to Crossroads by various hospitals, by various doctors, by the Children's Aid Societies and other social agencies.

I'm not going to dwell on the fate of the 13 or 14 teenagers now at this rehabilitation centre, almost all of whom have resumed their formal education courses at various institutions of learning. Some will be sent back to the supervision of the Children's Aid Society or to the judge who was instrumental in sending them there in the first place. In one or two cases, treatment may have been sufficient to enable them to return to their own homes. The prognosis for others, however, is: (a) the street; (b) the hospital; (c) a jail; and (d) the morgue.

Mr. Lewis: That's justice.

Mr. Burr: If the minister has any compassion, and I'm convinced he has, the plight of these teenagers, present and future, needs

no further comment from me. I should like, however, to point out something that obviously is not being considered by the government as a whole. Crossroads was started about five years ago. It had very difficult times in its first year. In particular the rural neighbours were understandably alarmed by what they thought might be happening in their midst. To make a long story short, Crossroads eventually became accepted for what it was, a reclamation centre for young people trying to return from the drug scene which our society has produced.

[10:30]

The Windsor city council investigated it and eventually approved. The United Way or the community services investigated it and approved. The provincial government investigated it and approved. A board of directors, consisting of many socially-concerned, solid citizens, has steered Crossroads through all its trials and tribulations, the greatest of which has been the bureaucracy of the provincial government, especially in the minister's own ministry.

Crossroads did have auditing problems; it had various problems, but these have finally been cleared up with the help of chartered accountants. Its board has recently been strengthened by the addition of more professional people. Everything was finally looking better, about three months ago. It appeared the countless trips and telephone calls to Queen's Park would no longer be necessary and that the minister would be paying its account promptly rather than three months late, as had often been the case.

With the benefit of time, the expertise of the Crossroads staff was increasing; but today or tomorrow, I am told, ministry officials are going to Windsor to close down the operation. Austerity will triumph, but society will lose, not only this valuable rehabilitation centre but also—and this is what I think you have not thought about—will lose the contribution of a group of concerned citizens who will think long and hard before they again volunteer their services to the social needs of the community. They will not easily be persuaded to be local volunteer leaders for worthy projects that are ill-supported by government agencies. They will take the attitude, I fear, that the government can accept all the responsibility at double or triple the cost.

Mr. Bounsall: We will send them all to your farm.

Mr. Burr: Our modern society, which more and more people are agreeing is sick, can ill-

afford because of government action to alienate that important body of citizens who donate their services as board members of socially concerned organizations such as Crossroads and the Children's Aid Society. The government should be grateful for this free support from community leaders and should not burden them with monthly crises which are becoming a way of life for all too many organizations.

This afternoon at 5:20 the minister came out with a remarkable quotation—almost a proverb I felt. He said: "When government moves in, charity moves out." Crossroads and the Children's Aid Society are examples of the very opposite. It is when the government lets them down that charity is likely to move out.

Crossroads is a case in point. The ministry has failed this organization. The ministry has let it down and forced it to move out of the charity field. Crossroads was taking teenagers from the court, from Children's Aid Societies, from hospitals, and from other crisis centres, simply because these other organizations had not the time or the space or the expertise or the financial resources to offer treatment.

Crossroads provided a fine service that no other organization was willing or able to provide. Crossroads asked only financial support from the government. Crossroads operated out of a sense of compassion and charity. As long as the government was willing to provide the funds, Crossroads, out of that sense of charity and compassion, was able to perform this duty for society. In such an arrangement, when the government moves out, charity is forced to move out, too.

We don't want the government to run everything, just to support private groups, community groups, in their efforts. Government's role should be supportive of private charity. It should not form a bureaucracy to run everything. Children's Aid Societies are private voluntary groups doing great work despite the financial restraints put upon them by the government's austerity programme.

When government originally moved in, charity, as represented by the Children's Aid Societies of Ontario, did not move out. The societies blossomed. They developed into a great organization doing great work. It is only when this government threatens not to move out but to retreat that charity, in the form of Children's Aid Society boards, has threatened to move out. Mr. Chairman, in the interests of time, I shall let it rest there.

Mr. Davison: What have you got against children? Let's hear it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, may I very briefly say that I have already indicated in the House that the increase in caseload for Children's Aid Societies is because of their concentrating on the older children, from 10 to 17 years of age.

I appreciate what the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) has said in regard to an increase in that age range; those children are often the more difficult and more expensive to accommodate than younger children. This is one area which concerned me particularly and, of course, is one of the reasons for my expressing, as I have, the willingness to accommodate in any way possible—and I am talking about financially—the added burdens of the Children's Aid Societies in that regard.

Again I invite a meeting with your Children's Aid Society to help in any way I can in that regard. I want to say that for the record.

In regard to Crossroads, I won't dwell on that. The member for Windsor-Riverside knows that my ministry did make an investigation or study of the situation at Crossroads. There was a fairly lengthy report submitted on it. We were particularly concerned in regard to the accounting practices. We were somewhat concerned with the programme and facilities there.

It was because of certain deficiencies that we felt we would not be able to continue our funding—we had been funding—until there was some change made. It has been indicated to me this evening that Crossroads has closed down or will be closing down very shortly.

Again, may I say there was no austerity programme that dictated or suggested in any way that Crossroads not carry on with its particular programmes. I think it was really a matter of the quality of service and some of the accounting problems which brought about the closure, if that has happened. I want to make that clear, because it is not because of the budgetary constraints that that decision has been made.

Mr. Chairman: The government House leader has an announcement.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I understand that by arrangement this would complete the consideration of the estimates of this ministry in the House.

Vote 2603 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I think we also have to complete the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Health.

Municipal roads programme..	2,200,000
Municipal transit programme	17,745,000
Total	29,945,000

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
(concluded)

On vote 2903:

Vote 2903 agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I think that completes the consideration of the supplementary estimates in committee.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Stokes from the committee of supply reports the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the government ministries named be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Ministry of Community and Social Services	
Income maintenance programme	\$27,432,100
Social and institutional services programme	\$35,793,000

Ministry of Health

Treatment and rehabilitation programme	\$103,500,000
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Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous committee reports the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Assembly and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976:

Office of the Assembly	
Total	\$ 1,239,000
Ministry of Transportation and Communications	
Provincial roads programme	10,000,000

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolutions for supply for the following ministries were concurred in by the House:

Ministry of Government Services;
Ministry of Housing;
Ministry of Revenue;
Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
Office of the Assembly;
Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

SUPPLY ACT No. 2

The following bill was given first, second and third readings on motion by Hon. Mr. McKeough.

Bill 33, An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Additional Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1976.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate the programme for the week beginning March 29? As you know, we will sit that week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and we will also sit on Wednesday, in order to provide a fairly full week for the Throne Speech debate.

We will then sit on Monday, April 5, all day as well, and we'll have the vote on Monday evening, April 5, at around 10:15.

On Tuesday, April 6, in the afternoon we'll—

Mr. Lewis: It will conclude more quickly than we had thought earlier today.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On Tuesday, April 6 in the afternoon, we will start some consideration of legislation which appears on the order paper and in the order that it appears there. On Tuesday evening the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) will have some remarks for the Legislature.

Mr. Lewis: I guess you are back to budget No. 1 now.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, March 29, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Oral questions.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Lewis: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources, if I may. Can I ask him to table with the Legislature the recent readings at the United Asbestos Mine in Matachewan, to which he has publicly referred and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has referred, but which readings I don't think are yet posted in the mine nor are they known by members of the House?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I'll be glad to table those readings. I can say to the Leader of the Opposition that in my recent visit to Matachewan the report had not reached the union or the mine as yet when we were there but we did leave them a copy of our report which we had with us, and they were instructed, I believe, to post those reports. I'll certainly check into that and make sure that the readings are tabled in this House.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. Did the minister realize that United Asbestos is advertising, even today, about "immediate opportunities available" for electricians, fabrication welders, sheet metal workers, mill shift bosses, all of them available at Matachewan? Did he know they say, "Our employees enjoy good competitive wages, a good benefits programme and an outstanding home ownership policy"? Might he advise them to recommend as to the hazards of working in such an environment as well as the joys and the money?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This is a matter that we went into in some detail with the company itself. I'd have to admit I was not perfectly satisfied, myself or my staff or other members of the various ministries, with the way that the company handled new employees. I think I might say we were very firm in suggesting that the company get on immediately with some employment information and training

programmes so that the men really know what the dangers of asbestos and asbestosis can or will be in the future.

RESIGNATION OF CONSERVATION OFFICER

Mr. Lewis: I have another question of the Minister of Natural Resources, if I may. Because of the controversial resignation of Pierce Plato, whose name he will know in the Chatham district conservation office, he instituted, I gather, an inquiry into the problems of commercial fishing in Lake Erie and the enforcement of the law. Can he indicate to the House when that inquiry within his ministry will be over and when the results can be tabled with the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, this was an internal request I made to my assistant deputy minister for southern Ontario, Bill Foster. He was at the meeting. I was not totally pleased or satisfied with the information reaching me; I asked him to do an in-depth study and report back to me. He has done that and I would be pleased to give the hon. member the results of that particular study.

I might say that Mr. Plato has resigned, as a result of certain differences. I might also say that he has already applied for a position in other parts of Ontario with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We are certainly considering that because he is an excellent conservation officer.

Mr. Lewis: Yes; you described the situation as disgraceful, as I recall, at one point.

Might I ask the minister, in the process of the investigation, did he look into the material coming from his ministry on the state of commercial fishing generally in Lake Erie; and the remarks from Mr. Gage, which were supported by Mr. Fortner, the district manager in Chatham. Mr. Gage said, some months ago, and I quote his memo to the government:

The government will likely be going to the electorate within the next six months. In the interval, any law enforcement officer

who embarks on a law enforcement crusade into an area where he has not been a strong presence will indeed soon learn that there is a fine art in timing the initiation of new plans.

Has the minister discussed with his ministry the election orientation of much that takes place? It has happened before.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, Mr. Speaker, there was no reference or discussion within my ministry about an election or the possible enforcement of any laws at that particular point in time. I have never done that. This is certainly not a point. We have a responsibility to manage resources, regardless of any political overtones that may or may not be around. That doesn't enter the picture at all.

I will say to the member with regard to fish management for Lake Erie, that is an area we have gone into in some considerable depth. In fact, very recently I have indicated to the commercial fishermen on Lake Erie that there will be some very strong corrective measures taken. Recent reports reaching me indicate they have accepted this, knowing they have to protect the fisheries of Lake Erie or their future is in jeopardy.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the acting Minister of Health, if I may. How is it that the minister immediately to his left, the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith), knew three weeks ago of the government's intention to close the acute part of the Chedoke Hospital, and said so publicly yesterday, when that information was in fact not shared with other members from the Hamilton area; nor was it shared with members of the community in advance of the closing?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that I really don't know; except that I would anticipate that perhaps the minister discussed it with the member for Hamilton Mountain but I didn't find out about it until Friday.

Mr. Lewis: That's just not the way to work.

Mr. Deans: Can the minister indicate whether the commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) about a week ago that the hospital closings were subject to discussion and subject to reappraisal means there would be an adequate opportunity given to the citizens of Hamilton, either through the health council if they chose to act now or through some other appropriate

body, to re-evaluate the government's position as it is put forward in the most recent letter and to come up with a proposal which may be more satisfactory and deal in a better manner with the health care delivery system in that area?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from the opposition knows that this afternoon I am meeting with representatives of Chedoke Hospital and other interested citizens, including some members of the NDP caucus and the Liberal caucus, to discuss this problem. We have also been informed by the Hamilton District Health Council that they intend to hold a meeting on April 7 to receive briefs and papers on this subject. We are about to relay to them the information that we will be delaying any decision regarding this until after we have heard from them, after their April 7 meeting.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary. Could I ask the minister, when she talks about delaying until after the government hears from them, is she talking about hearing from them on April 9, as was indicated in the letter; or is she prepared to give them a sufficient period of time in order that they can re-evaluate?

Let me ask a further supplementary: how can it be that the Ministry of Health and the health council, together, could approve expenditures in excess of \$2 million within a 12-month period in that facility, including the hiring of an architect to build new facilities for the very purpose of active treatment, and then turn around and make a decision to close the facility?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that money has been spent and is in the process of being spent at that institution. I understand it was for the purpose of extending and improving the chronic care and rehabilitation—

Mr. Deans: No, no.

Hon. B. Stephenson:—area of that hospital and the emergency unit of that hospital. That I shall explore and get back to the member.

Mr. Deans: X-ray and operating facilities.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Is the ministry now determined to insist that the regional health council in Hamilton take on its proper responsibilities and make the decision instead of in fact abdicating its responsibility and giving it back to an altogether too-eager ministry, delighted to have its centralizing tentacles reaching out once again to Hamilton? Will the minister insist

that the regional health council make the proper decision there and take its responsibility seriously, or else dismiss them?

Mr. Lewis: You just order local autonomy to work; don't play around with it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the leader of the Liberal Party could give me some direction about how this might be done, I think this is a manner which might be considered.

Mr. S. Smith: If they won't do it, you get rid of them and put in people who will.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Hon. B. Stephenson: In fact, the former district health council did make recommendations which are very much in line with those which the ministry has suggested. The present district health council, I gather, disagrees with those. I would hope they would assume their responsibilities; that's the role of the district health council.

Mr. S. Smith: Insist on it. Tell them they have to do it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if I may, these are voluntary citizens who function on behalf of their community, in the area of improvement of health care services. As volunteers I think we should welcome their assistance and, indeed, ask for their assistance at every opportunity.

Mr. Sargent: They will have a lot to say.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We should welcome their assistance.

Mr. S. Smith: Oh, come off it! Let them resign if they won't do the job.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Given that there are over 400 jobs and a great deal of money involved here, does the minister think that two weeks is a sufficient amount of time to make an intelligent appraisal as to the efficiency and the effectiveness of this hospital in that area?

Mr. Deans: Didn't you say no?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think we should await the meeting this afternoon and the report from the meeting on April 7, and then we shall be able to give the members much more specific dates regarding this problem.

Mr. Lewis: In relation to this continuing matter of hospitals, may I ask the acting

Minister of Health, has she had a chance to examine carefully the growing controversy in Perth, I guess it is, in Lanark county at the Great War Memorial Hospital where the cutback originally started at over \$300,000, is now over \$200,000, and still involves the loss of the obstetrical ward? Can the minister explain why that hospital was chosen in the fashion it has been, given the amount of money it saved each year coming in under budget for the last several years? The people of the community are perplexed by the action.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the degree of cutback in bed service in the Great War Memorial Hospital in Perth is not of the magnitude that was first suggested. In fact there will be 53 beds available for active treatment in that hospital.

As far as the obstetrical unit is concerned I have not investigated that specific aspect of it, but I shall and I shall report to the member.

AIR STANDARDS

Mr. S. Smith: Would the acting Minister of Health be able to tell us, with regard to the standards of maximum allowable exposure for arsenic in air, whether in fact the standard for ambient air has remained in Ontario 25 micrograms per cubic metre, given the fact that in the United States the maximum exposure permitted is four micrograms of arsenic per cubic metre and that is for factory workers over an eight-hour period? Normally, as you know, factory workers are supposed to be exposed to standards much—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Question.

Mr. S. Smith: The question has already been asked; I'm helping her answer it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have news for you; she doesn't need your help.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: We will see that in a moment. Could the minister explain the government's excuse for allowing the Ontario standard to remain at 25 when the standard in factories in the United States is only four micrograms per cubic metre?

[2:15]

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would have to ask whether they were using the same sorts of monitoring devices and the same standards in

terms of the equipment used. But I really am not sure that they are not equal at the moment and I promise that I shall investigate that and report to the member as well.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: While this minister is investigating that—and perhaps the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) could help her on this—it has been reported that Canada Metal—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary question?

Mr. S. Smith: Yes. It has to do with arsenic.

Mr. Yakabuski: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Well, state the question then.

Mr. S. Smith: The question is, is the minister aware that Canada Metal's stack will be putting out 460 lb of arsenic a year over the surrounding neighbourhood and can she assure us that this will fall within the Ontario standard and within the American standards, especially for the surrounding neighbourhood?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall find that out as well.

Mr. Germa: You don't know very much.

FOOD REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Williams: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In 1970, the ministry introduced a food replacement programme to replace over \$5 million worth of imported foods into this province in the late 1970s. Could he advise what the status of this programme is at this time?

Hon. W. Newman: I can't give the member the total programme but I know part of the programme. We have a replacement programme for baby pickling onions which is about a \$2-million industry that we are developing here in the Province of Ontario to replace imports. We are doing some experimental work with what we call baby carrots to replace imports of baby carrots into the Province of Ontario. We've done a great deal of work with corn, but we are now on an export basis with corn in the Province of Ontario.

An hon. member: That's your field.

Hon. W. Newman: We're also doing considerable experimental work with growing peanuts down in the tobacco country as a

replacement for tobacco. We had a very successful year last year in our experimental work with peanuts.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, those peanuts are excellent. I am serious. They are excellent. I tried them in Guelph.

Hon. W. Newman: Great.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: It's a multi-million-dollar business. We import them and we want to develop them here, and we are doing a great deal of work and research in that area. I can't remember what other products we have on but those are four of the major products we have on right now.

STATUS OF ONTARIO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS EMPLOYEES

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware of the concern of employees of the Ontario Psychiatric Hospitals that should they be moved under control of local boards the 9,000 employees involved across the province would come out from under the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act and be under the Labour Relations Act and, as there are no automatic successor rights, they could lose all of their accrued benefits such as sick leaves, vacations, seniority and pension credits? Is the minister prepared to guarantee successor rights and protect the benefits, should this happen, and not treat them as employees of a new company or concern?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am aware that there is a very active committee functioning on behalf of those employees at the moment which is making every effort to ensure that they will remain within the same status, and every effort is being directed toward that end at the moment.

SYNCRUDE PROJECT

Mr. Sargent: A question to the Premier: In view of the government's gesture to give Syncrude \$100 million and that \$90 million is still outstanding on this, and in view of the fact that the acting Minister of Health tells us there are still 24 hospitals on the list to be closed, etc., what is more important, the fact that the government has cut back on hospitals or Syncrude? The \$90 million left to pay could be put in the pot—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked.

Mr. Sargent: —to keep 5,000 jobs and keep the hospitals open.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Yakabuski: Is this a speech or a question?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Trudeau said, "Put it in Syncrude."

Mr. Sargent: Do you want it again?

An hon. member: Sure.

Mr. Speaker: No, Order, please. The hon. minister heard it, I believe.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, you've got to get a better system than this. We can't hear you down here. Get citizens' band radios.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't hear that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think I was able to hear the member for Grey-Bruce without any need to resort to a citizens' band radio or any other form of communication. I think the question was, would we re-evaluate our investment in Syncrude? It is not a gift to Syncrude, the investment being made by the public of this province in an undertaking which will hopefully add to stability of supply for the consumers of Ontario, which we think has significance for every person in this province as well as having, I think, some national importance also.

On the basis of that re-evaluation, would we do something about some 24 hospitals that are still on some list? I would only say to the member for Grey-Bruce, I don't know of any other hospitals on a list where the government is contemplating closure and I make that abundantly clear.

Mr. Sargent: A supplementary question: In view of the fact that the Syncrude project is a \$3-billion next-generation project, doesn't the Premier feel that his government's \$100 million is only a gesture and it is more important—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; that is not a supplementary question. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sargent: Just a minute, Mr. Speaker; I want an answer!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is persisting in a debate and that's not the purpose of this period.

Mr. Sargent: Give him a chance; he can look after himself.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

LICENSING OF LAY PREACHER TO PERFORM MARRIAGES

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Further to my letter of March 10 regarding Sanadius Fiddler, a lay preacher in the town of Sandy Lake, has the ministry decided whether or not it will license this lay preacher to perform marriages in the native community?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the letter has been referred to the registrar and we will be getting a report from him. We have made no decision on it yet, and as soon as the decision is made the hon. member will hear about it.

Mr. Angus: Supplementary: Is the minister or his staff aware that the licensed preacher, who must come from Thunder Bay at a cost of \$300, must have his sermon translated simultaneously by the native lay preacher?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: No, I am not aware of that and, as far as I can recall, it wasn't included in the hon. member's letter either.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Misleading the House.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Education, a question of the Premier: In view of the report released last week of a \$75,000 study by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, which showed that standards are definitely lacking in this province, can the Premier continue to justify the \$500,000 study being conducted by the Ministry of Education?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't give the hon. member details with respect to any study by the ministry as it relates to the quality of education in this province. I would think that the hon. member asking the question, with his own knowledge of the subject area, would be the first one to encourage any ongoing evaluation or study within the ministry that would assist us in maintaining what is one of the highest-quality educational systems anywhere in this country and I would be sure that he would be in support of it.

An hon. member: Oh, come on.

Mr. S. Smith: A waste of taxpayers' money. It is only taxpayers' money.

Mr. Bullbrook: You don't really believe that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I do.

Mr. Bullbrook: You don't believe it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sweeney: In view of the response given by the minister in the estimates last fall, that there is nothing wrong with the standards of education, would the Premier be prepared to admit now that in fact there is something wrong with the standards of education in the Province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to become involved in a lengthy discussion as it relates to the quality or standards within the educational system, but I could be provoked into doing so.

An hon. member: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the hon. member that if the recent study conducted by the OSSTF indicates some concern on the part of the profession that is more directly responsible than any other single group as an organization or as individuals, including administrators, for the quality of education in this province, if they themselves are suggesting now that there should be some improvements or alterations, I find it most encouraging. And I would remind the hon. member, because he was very directly involved, that a good deal of the alterations or some of the directions for change that took place within the secondary school programme were at the initiation and insistence of the secondary school teachers here in the Province of Ontario.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And what's more, you know that it is true.

Mr. Nixon: That's the way to get into the cabinet, kid.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's how Lorne got in.

Interjections.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the question.

RACIST LITERATURE

Mr. Leluk: A question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister advise this House what progress her ministry is making regarding the recent distribution of racist literature in the Toronto and Ottawa areas on the letterhead of the fictitious Canadian Society for Commonwealth Relations?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, a letter has been sent to the Hon. Robert Andras and to the Hon. Bryce Mackasey, asking Mr. Andras's help in attempting to trace the source of this racist literature and asking Mr. Mackasey to do what he can to ensure that the mails are not used for this kind of activity.

HOSPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Lawlor: My first question, Mr. Speaker, is to the whole world. Has it ever occurred to the government the so-called rationalization programme would turn out to be irrational—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, direct it to a minister.

Mr. Lawlor: The particular minister, in terms of irrationality Mr. Speaker, is the acting Minister of Health. What conceivable justification has the ministry, or does it pretend to have, with respect to the splitting and destroying of the child care and adolescent units at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think we have a great deal of justification. As the hon. member for Lakeshore knows, the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital contains a multiplicity of services, including child psychiatry, adolescent psychiatry, in-patient and out-patient services, a very good psychiatric ambulatory unit for children and for adolescents; and it also houses a rather large institution which deals with adult psychiatric problems. Within that institution there are no provisions and no facilities, for recreational purposes, for children, nor is there any area in which they can be provided. At Thistle town there are such facilities and there is one entirely unused cottage; therefore the children, only, are being moved. The in-patient children are being moved from the Lakeshore psychiatric institution to Thistle town. There will be a unit remaining at Lakeshore for adolescents.

The separation, in fact, may be entirely useful and of great benefit to the children. It may be of even more benefit to the small children to be separated from the adult psychiatric unit. The out-patient service, for both adolescents and children, will be maintained exactly as it is, and in fact enhanced, at the Lakeshore psychiatric institution. I think that is justification enough.

Mr. Conway: Could the minister tell us the cost of this reorganization? Is it true that new construction will have to take place at Thistletown to accommodate them?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, no new construction will have to take place at Thistletown. The cottage is there, already built—it has, in fact, been remodelled—and the recreational facilities are there.

Mr. Lewis: I have a supplementary, if I may Mr. Speaker: Why does the minister not speak, in this whole discussion, of the different approach to treatment that Dr. Marcilio brought to Lakeshore and what the ministry is doing to a whole mode of child and adolescent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: —care at Lakeshore in transferring it to Thistletown.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition is carrying this to the status of a debate. Is there an answer to his question?

Mr. Lewis: I would think so.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would say that Dr. Marcilio's programme will still be functioning at the Lakeshore institution if Dr. Marcilio remains there. The children who require in-patient treatment will be treated at Thistletown.

REDUCTION OF CHARGES BEFORE COURT

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General: Tomorrow in the Supreme Court of Ontario two men are going to be sentenced on a charge of robbery, after charges of attempted murder and kidnapping were withdrawn. I have here a petition signed by over 560 people—

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question? That's all we need; we don't need an elaboration, just the question thank you.

Mr. Stong: Is the Attorney General prepared to intervene in the course of justice,

to make sure that the proper course is followed in view of this petition—which I now present to you, Mr. Speaker—so that the two people charged and to be sentenced will be properly charged and tried on the charges which best fit this crime?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member I am not going to attempt to interfere in a matter that is now before the courts.

Mr. Lewis: The member wants the minister to speak to the judges? A Liberal asking someone to speak to judges?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The facts of this particular case are well known to me. For the hon. member for York Centre to suggest that the plea of guilty to robbery with violence was not proper in the circumstances, just indicates that he is very misinformed as to the facts of this particular case. I have reviewed the matter in some detail and I'm quite satisfied that the plea of guilty in the circumstances to robbery with violence was a proper plea, and that the Crown attorney conducted himself, again, in the best interests of the public. As to what the disposition of the matter will be, we'll simply have to await the verdict of the trial judge tomorrow.

[2:30]

PUBLIC LAB CLOSINGS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, a question to the acting Minister of Health: In view of the trend of referring at least some of the hospital closings to health councils and also the referring of the community facilities for the retarded to health councils, is the acting Minister of Health prepared to hold the closing of the public labs in abeyance until she has a report from the health councils or the health units on the closing of these public labs?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, no.

HOSPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health: The Peterborough Civic Hospital has been cut back by \$552,000 approximately, and the Ross Memorial in Lindsay, a much smaller hospital, by \$59,300. Could the minister tell me what criteria are used in hospital cutbacks and in the Ross Memorial cutback in particular? How do they arrive at these criteria?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it depends primarily on the number of beds necessary for the population in the area and on the number of hours service per patient which is necessary for the treatment of patients in that hospital. If either of those figures is over the reasonable average for an institution of comparable size in a comparable community then the cutbacks are suggested.

Mr. Bullbrook: Why did you build the beds in the first place?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member is asking a supplementary.

Mr. Eakins: Could the minister tell me if the large summer population has been taken into consideration in this case? Also, does this now mean that the Bobcaygeon Hillcroft Hospital will remain open?

Hon. B. Stephenson: To answer the second question first, it does not mean that. Secondly, the summer population has most definitely been taken into consideration in all areas in which cutbacks are suggested. The information is that, in fact, the vast majority of patients treated who are summer visitors to the area do not require hospital inpatient treatment.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr. Sargent: Will the Premier tell me how many—

Mr. Speaker: Oh no; order, please. That's not a supplementary to this ministry.

Mr. Sargent: Will the minister tell us the number of cutbacks made in the riding of Peel and Brampton?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a supplementary. The hon. member for Cornwall has the floor for a question.

Mr. Sargent: Do you know or don't you know? It's a hell of a good supplementary. Are there any cutbacks in Brampton or Peel?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will take his seat, please. The member for Cornwall.

Mr. Sargent: Right on target.

CONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. Samis: A question, Mr. Speaker, directed to the Solicitor General: Can the minister inform us what action he's taken to

ensure that there won't be a repetition of what happened last week in Alexandria regarding their police force and some of the things they did?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I hope there will not be a repetition, but, contrary to the editorial in the Globe and Mail today, there are regulations governing this, and one of the regulations requires that any time a service revolver is used there must be an investigation by the local commission. That commission will be investigating the shooting in Alexandria, and I hope to have a report in due course, sir, but I can't guarantee that it will not happen again. We draw the regulations, and I might refer my friend to them; it's regulation 679 under the Police Act, and he will find it all set out in sections 9 and 10 of that. I suggest that he take a look at them. I don't know how we can do more than those regulations provide.

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: Would the minister be willing to table a copy of that report when he receives it?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, not knowing what may or may not be in that report, I hesitate to—

Mr. Deans: That is why we are asking if you will table it.

Mr. Lewis: Give it to Sid Handleman. He can put it through his shredder. A bunch of paranoids over there. You all need help.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Let's get on with the question period. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Occasionally, Mr. Speaker, there are matters of procedure which we don't regard as being in the best interests of the public to make public. In other words, if it was a procedural matter and we let the criminal element of our society know all the details about it, it might not be in the best interests of all of us. I do not suppose that there will be anything of that nature in the report, and really I can see no reason why that report should not be made public, but subject to that—my friend is telling me to be careful—subject to that, though, I expect I will be able to make it public.

CHARGES AGAINST TORONTO POLICE

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General advise whether or not the Crown attorney in Toronto has reviewed the provisions of the federal Bank Act in relation to

the unusual actions of two Toronto police officers a day or two ago which led to their being charged with theft and public mischief? The particular section of the Bank Act I am referring to is one which makes it an offence to destroy or mutilate paper currency. It would seem much more appropriate if the facts are as they were related in the newspaper.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I understand that the matters—the charges—referred to by my friend are now being reviewed by the Crown attorney in the county of York, and I am quite pleased to have his helpful suggestions in that regard.

SMOKING AND HEALTH REPORT

Mr. Godfrey: A question to the acting Minister of Health: Will the minister tell us when she is prepared to release to the general public and interested organizations the report of the task force on smoking and health?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who asked the question I gather did not receive the copy that was sent to him. In actual fact, although I think we would like to release the task force report, it's a perfectly dreadful report and I am not sure that anyone is going to learn anything from it. However, the member for Durham West will have a copy and I am sure that he will distribute it to the members of his caucus.

Mr. Godfrey: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Do I take it then that there is no intention of implementing such recommendations as the report recommends—that all billboard and newspaper advertisements of cigarettes no longer be permitted in Ontario, etc., etc., nor sponsorship by tobacco companies of athletic meets, cultural presentations and the like?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Since those recommendations are obviously in the realm of the desirable rather than the dreadful, why doesn't the minister release this report, and as a matter of fact, tell us how much it cost?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it was not the recommendations which were considered dreadful. It was the body of the report which was considered dreadful.

Mr. Lewis: Can anybody else make that judgement?

Mr. S. Smith: Will the minister release the recommendations, then?

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, those recommendations are in fact being considered, and I am sure there will be a report regarding this in the near future.

Mr. Lewis: What is this? You make a value judgement on its contents. It is a public document.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, order.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Riddell: A question to the Premier: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—and with due respect to the acting Minister of Health, cognizant of the fact that she didn't participate in the meetings we had with the Premier—is the Premier prepared to make a decision on the proposal by the Huron county delegation in connection with the continued operation of the hospital in Clinton?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that prior to the mid-term recess I had indicated to the members opposite that there were, as I recall, four appeals or four or five delegations that made personal representations to myself and the Minister of Health and that these are being evaluated. Some decision obviously is going to be made and when that decision is made the hon. members will be fully informed.

DOCTORS' FEES

Ms. Sandeman: A question for the acting Minister of Health: Is the minister aware that many doctors in the province are now charging a fee for filling out forms from the Workmen's Compensation Board, Ministry of Community and Social Services, etc., and that that fee is not payable either by OHIP or by welfare departments where that would be applicable?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I know that it is against the law to charge a fee for completing a workmen's compensation form, and if the hon. member will give me the names of the physicians involved I shall be pleased to pass them on to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Sandeman: Is the minister perhaps aware that one reason why the doctors are doing this is because of a sense of frustration at the complexity and the multiplicity of the forms, and they are charging a fee of the patients in many cases because they find that the Workmen's Compensation Board is asking them—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a true supplementary.

Ms. Sandeman: —three or four times for information that has already been obtained? Would the minister speak to herself in her capacity as Minister of Labour and ask herself to simplify the forms and streamline the procedure?

Mr. Reid: If she finds herself answering back, she's in trouble.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I really don't talk to myself very often, although there are times when I find the conversations with myself are much more interesting than those with some others across the floor.

Mr. Lewis: It's a good thing.

Mr. Sargent: You would get some crazy answers if you did.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There's the old Lone Ranger over there.

Hon. B. Stephenson: None the less, as a practising physician of not too long ago, I am very much aware of the frustration of physicians regarding the multiplicity of forms. I think the hon. member should know that it is not workmen's compensation forms which drive them mad; it's insurance forms and return-to-work forms required by various unions and various companies in order to allow the workmen back to work. Those are the forms which are, in fact, most troublesome to them.

Mr. Foulds: The insurance companies are the villains.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Windsor-Walkerville with a final supplementary.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if I may ask the acting Minister of Health a supplementary, can the doctors charge for exemption certificates for seatbelt use?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I should think they may decide to. I know that it is not included within the OMA fee schedule, because it is just a new piece of legislation.

Mr. Bullbrook: They have already decided.

Mr. Speaker: That was hardly supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Would you believe the legal fees you guys charge cause heart attacks?

TOBERMORY PARK

Mr. Good: A question of the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the fact that the restraint programme has been in place only a few months and could not have any bearing on this, why is his ministry's Fathom Five park programme at Tobermory, the underwater park, three years behind the schedule that was proposed by the minister's former colleague, the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle)?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It is underwater.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, this is of course one of the parks, in light of our restraint programme, we had to look at very carefully. I would say to the hon. member we are working very closely with the local people and with the Ministry of Health in setting up a decompression chamber for the assistance of those divers who may want to use the park. It's still on our list, but I have to say in all honesty we will do very little until further funds become available.

Mr. Good: Supplementary: After the unfortunate accident there about a year and a half ago, the minister promised at that time in connection—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. What is the supplementary question?

Mr. Good: What steps have been taken even to begin to get the medical clinic, the administration building, the decompression chamber—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a question?

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, he is asking it.

Mr. Good: —and all the necessary things that are required to make this underwater park what it should be?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we are working very closely with the local people and with the Ministry of Health in bringing this needed facility to fruition at the earliest possible point.

Mr. Good: A year and a half and they haven't done anything.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. The executive co-ordinator for women's programmes, in the report which was tabled last fall—

Mr. Good: You are not even listed in the yellow pages under water.

Hon. Mr. Bernier. The whole thing is under.

An hon. member: We can't hear the question.

Mr. Speaker. If there was less noise, you could hear better.

Ms. Bryden. —drew attention to the fact that 38 per cent of the Ontario public service is women but there are no women managers in the civil service and only four per cent of the 778 civil servants designated as senior executives are women.

Mr. Yakabuski: Question? Question?

Ms. Bryden. I would like to ask the Treasurer if he is prepared to implement the recommendation of that report that there should be specific and separate budgets in each ministry for affirmative action to correct this imbalance?

Hon. Mr. McKeough. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a question which more properly should be directed to the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Auld). He is not here today but I understand he will be here tomorrow.
[2:45]

EDUCATION GRANTS

Mr. Conway: In the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells), I will direct this question to the Treasurer. What, in general terms, would the minister be prepared to commit in the area of public policy by way of compensation or special consideration for those areas like Renfrew county, which, given the economic disparity they suffer, find it very difficult, for example, to meet the education restraint demands in terms of taxation? Is the Treasurer prepared, and is the government prepared, to give special consideration to compensate for the economic disparity and difficulties they face?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Is the hon. member speaking of the education grant system?

Mr. Conway: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That is a question that I think properly should be directed to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Deans: I wonder if the Premier could tell me who has taken the place of the former member for Hamilton West with regard to manpower policies so that I can direct a question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think if the hon. member would direct that question to the acting Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour she might be able to help him.

Mr. Deans: Oh, you are a biggy.

Mr. Nixon: The lady with the answers.

Mr. Deans: Now that she has that problem—and very appropriate, incidentally—I wonder if she could explain to the House what policies she is prepared to introduce in the Province of Ontario to provide employment for the 5,000 or more people who will be unemployed as a result of the cuts the Minister of Health is currently making in the health field?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I cannot explain in detail at the moment the policies which the Ontario Manpower Co-ordinating Committee is in the process of developing with the federal government. As a matter of fact, we meet with Mr. Andras tomorrow morning in the hope that community employment strategy will be one of the areas which we can explore with some benefit in two specific areas in the province.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: All right, one supplementary, then we'll switch off.

Mr. Deans: Would it be possible for the minister to give us but one example of one policy that is either in place or about to be put in place in this province that will provide employment for any of the 5,000 who will be unemployed as a result of the cuts the government is making in connection with her portfolio in health?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The policies of the government regarding assistance in readjustment of individuals who have been laid off or who have lost employment are policies as such. We do not have make-work programmes.

Mr. Deans: I'm not asking that; I'm asking for one policy.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We do, in fact, utilize the services of the federal Manpower agency, the counselling services within that agency, and other counselling agencies and employment agencies in order to provide employment.

Mr. Deans: The minister is wasting her time.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the member for Halton-Burlington with a question.

MILTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Mr. Reed: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. What action is the minister taking in response to the grand jury report of March 17, 1976, concerning the Milton jail and courthouse, in which a number of rather desperate situations were listed as to the condition of that very antiquated building and the condition of at least one of the inmates at the time?

Hon. J. R. Smith: All grand jury reports are fully investigated. I'll follow it up.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we're a minute over the question period now.

An hon. member: We deserve an answer to that.

Mr. Good: Will you go on for two minutes?

Mr. Speaker: We'll be here tomorrow.

Mr. Singer: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if you, sir, could do anything about the sound system in this chamber?

Mr. Speaker: Actually we are having some difficulties, which doesn't need to be said.

Mr. Sargent: I can do better than that. I can yell louder.

Mr. Speaker: We hope it will be better tomorrow. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, just as an aside, while I'm upon a point of privilege, I wanted to point out to the members—I'm sure on all sides of the House they would share it—that the House should observe that the father of a very famous hockey player is with us in the galleries. Syl Apps Jr's father has made it to the Legislature again and should be applauded.

Mr. Speaker: I want to appeal to you briefly to take a look, in your official capacity as Speaker, at the secretiveness which surrounds the government in its behaviour over general documents which should be public and indeed are in the process of their formation considered to be.

Mr. S. Smith: What is that a point of?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member knows that's not within my purview.

Mr. Lewis: I'm not so sure it's not within your purview and I want to ask it. I won't prolong it.

Mr. Speaker: Very briefly then.

Mr. Lewis: I would like you to use the one instance which was raised today of a government document which has been in their hands for over a year and had to be released by press conference by other agencies this morning, a document in their hands for over a year which was designed by terms of reference for public agencies, voluntary groups and others in the field but never released by government. I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is something to be said for an effort to see what happens with the government in the requisition of such documents and I would ask you to take a look at this case as an example of it.

Mr. MacDonald: There's a simple solution. Bring in a freedom of information Act to protect yourself against yourself.

Mr. Speaker: That's the answer I suppose.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I shall consider if it's within my sphere of jurisdiction.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Welch, presented the annual reports of the Ontario Science Centre for the year ending March 31, 1973, and for the year ending March 31, 1974; and of the Ontario Education Communications Authority for the year ending March 31, 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend section 37(a) of the Ontario Energy Board Act which concerns the review by the Ontario Energy Board of a proposal by Ontario Hydro to change the rates which it charges to its customers. As you know, Mr. Speaker, in 1975 Ontario Hydro's proposal for rates effective on and after Jan. 1, 1976, were referred after an OEB review to a select committee of the Legislature.

In December, the select committee recommended that as an interim measure Ontario Hydro be allowed to increase its bulk power rate by 22 per cent on Jan. 1, 1976. The term of the select committee was extended until March 31, 1976, and a further extension for the select committee to report by May 31, 1976, has been made.

Since the select committee, Mr. Speaker, will not complete its final report until May 31, 1976, it is not considered practical for Ontario Hydro to file its proposal to change rates for 1977 on or before May 1, 1976, as currently required by section 37(a) of the Ontario Energy Board Act. Therefore, the purpose of the amendment I have introduced today is to change the date for filing from May 1 to July 1. This change would be applicable only to 1977.

The amendment, Mr. Speaker, will also move the date for an interim report of the Ontario Energy Board on the proposals from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1, again only for the purposes of 1977. All of this is necessitated, Mr. Speaker, I repeat, by the extension of the select committee's life.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY ACT

Mr. Nixon moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting McMaster University.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

BOROUGH OF YORK ACT

Mr. MacDonald moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Borough of York.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, OTTAWA, ACT

Mr. Drea, on behalf of Mr. Morrow, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would like to table the answer to question No. 15 on the order paper. (See appendix, page 701.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will tell everybody what really went on at that meeting.

Mr. Ferrier: I would love to have the Premier tell them, because—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Tell them the truth.

Mr. Ferrier: I always do. The Premier wouldn't suggest that I would say anything else but, would he?

Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to congratulate you on your performance in the Legislature. You certainly are carrying out a very difficult job in an impartial way and you do have the confidence of the members of the assembly. We are very pleased with the work that you are doing. You certainly have an expanded role now that the legislative buildings and the services to members are directly under your jurisdiction. I think those of us who have been around here for a little while are quite pleased that members are getting more attention and the working conditions under which we carry out our responsibilities are much more conducive to getting things accomplished. So we hope you carry on your work in the usual high standards we have come to expect and appreciate from you.

In another week's time we will be voting on the non-confidence motion and the amendment to that motion as put forward by the Liberal Party. We have seen the Liberal Party do a lot of fancy footwork in the last couple of weeks and we'll be interested to see how their members actually vote on this amendment to the amendment.

I think those of us in the House will be extremely interested as to what goes on. Some of those who are in areas where there have been cutbacks in hospital services—like the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), I believe, and the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), and the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), and even the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), will be interested to see whether they have confidence in the government over the way the people in their riding have been treated by shutting down of the hospitals there, and whether they feel the government does have the confidence of the people, and whether the people of this province would like to have a chance to express their feelings at the polls.

[3:00]

People I talked to are quite happy at going to the polls, because our area of the province has been given some pretty tough blows by this government; they've been given blows that were not talked about during the election campaign. In fact up in our area the things that were promised and the things that were going to be done by the Tory candidate, suggested nothing of restraint. What the government has done is the exact opposite of what was put forward in our area.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that probably both parties, the Liberals and the Con-

servatives, are afraid to go to the electorate at this time because they both know they will stand to lose support, and lose it drastically.

Mr. Ruston: Are you, Bill?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you want an election?

Mr. Ferrier: In fact, I'd be very surprised if they can even get a Liberal candidate up in my area this time.

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: And I'd also be very surprised if they got a Conservative.

Mr. Ruston: I think you were in trouble up there. I was up there a few weeks ago.

Mr. Ferrier: You fellows won't even get a candidate up there this time. They had an awful time last time; finally, at the last—

Mr. Ruston: Don't be too secure; don't be too sure.

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: It doesn't matter whether they have one or not; the Liberal Party in the northeast is almost a thing of the past now.

Mr. Deans: It's the same all over.

Mr. Ferrier: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the riding I represent was very thrilled in February when one of our citizens, Cathy Kreiner, won the gold medal in the giant slalom and brought real honour and tribute to our area, and to Ontario and to Canada. I would like to thank the Premier and the government for the warm recognition and honour accorded to her from the Province of Ontario. She certainly won the hearts, if she had not already done so, of the people of Timmins. I never saw the community so warm and pleased with any of its citizens and the wonderful things she brought to us. She brought out a sense of pride and joy and happiness in her accomplishment. We all continue to wish her well and look forward to even greater victories from her.

We are in the period of rapid growth and development in the Timmins area, because of the expansion that is contemplated for Texas-gulf, where there will be a copper smelter and refinery. There will also be a fertilizer plant built. Originally it was to be \$500 million or \$600 million—

Mr. Nixon: Are you in charge of that?

Mr. Ferrier: I have been told by—I think he is now a vice-president of Texasgulf—that when they break the champagne bottle against the new facilities, he'd be glad to have me come and break the bottle.

Mr. Nixon: That's good thinking, because you voted against your party to get them some help. You remember the NDP didn't want to help up there.

Mr. Ferrier: We're all entitled to one mistake, Bob. Even you made one mistake.

Mr. Nixon: I just wanted to be sure you didn't forget that.

Mr. Ferrier: In fact it's a bottle of champagne that was donated by Inco, so that will be quite an occasion.

Mr. Nixon: You'd be in favour of breaking that.

Mr. Ferrier: The construction programme is soon to get under way. We're expecting up to 1,500 construction workers, some with their families, to come to our area, to live in our midst and to contribute to the economy. At the same time it's going to put serious strains on facilities we do have in terms of housing, in terms of sewage—trunk sewers—roads and this kind of thing. For this reason it is vitally important that there be a developmental agreement signed between the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Treasury of this government.

We have talked about getting an agreement signed for the northeast and the Timmins area for a long, long time. Various Treasurers have said they have been working on it and have been trying to push it through.

About two months ago the federal Liberal member in my riding got on television and he said the province was the one that was all at fault. He said that if they would do a little more there would be no problem getting the money and he could get the money, I think—if there was any problem at the federal level he would get on the phone and give them hell and in about half an hour the money would be there. So we did a little bit of looking into the matter and we find the Ottawa government has not been as co-operative and as willing to sign an agreement as they say they are.

I must say that I think that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has run into some problems with a lack of adequate response from the federal government. The next thing we heard was the federal member for Cochrane—

Mr. Nixon: Another great name; great member.

Mr. Ferrier: Yes, he is a great member. A great supporter of yours, Bob. He really went out of his way to help you.

Mr. Nixon: Right. We have been friends for years.

Mr. Ferrier: He said he would vote against and work against any money coming from DREE under an agreement in connection with some sewers for the Timmins area. It seems the federal Liberals are not too anxious in proceeding to help the Timmins area as they ought to be.

Mr. Nixon: If it weren't for that Texasgulf wouldn't have been able to expand at all. Look at all that federal money going to Texasgulf.

Mr. Bain: Taxpayers' money, not federal.

Mr. Ferrier: Texasgulf got \$9.2 and some million. I think we should revise again David Lewis' statement about corporate welfare bums, because anything welfare people get by way of assistance is less than peanuts by what we are still giving to the big corporations in this country.

Mr. Nixon: They are giving them jobs up there, I understand. Aren't there any jobs?

Mr. Ferrier: Oh, there is the odd one.

Mr. Nixon: It's expanding.

Mr. Ferrier: Yes, it is expanding.

Mr. Nixon: It's necessary, you just said.

Mr. Ferrier: Yes, that's necessary, but one would wonder—

Mr. Nixon: How can you have it both ways? Are you going to get jobs or not?

Mr. Ferrier: —with such a rich ore body, whether you need to have this kind of giveaway to the big corporations. I know Bob, that you have always been in favour of giving the money to the big boys. You are not—

Mr. Nixon: But you voted with us on that against your people.

Mr. Ferrier: You would even outdo Mitch Hepburn when he was in this House in giving to the mining companies. In those days Hollinger Mines were making 50 per cent profit on their production; that's how good Mitch was to the mining companies and you wouldn't be any less good.

Mr. Nixon: The north was really booming in those days.

Mr. Bain: And Mitch would send in the OPP every chance he got.

Mr. Ferrier: Bob would rather ride with the—what was it?—walk with the workers than ride with General Motors.

Mr. Nixon: I walk with the farmers.

Mr. Ferrier: I don't know whether the farm community would be so happy with your close tie-in with the corporate sector or not.

But anyway, we are getting very concerned in our area about this DREE/TEIGA agreement being signed. We hope that the Treasurer and the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) will utilize their influence and their pressure to bring this to a head. The province has promised about \$2 million in regional priorities grants to help with the programme this year and that certainly is welcomed, but there could be considerably more made available if this agreement was signed and the two senior levels of government would move in there and give the assistance that is needed.

We would call upon the government to keep after the federal government to get this agreement signed and to get the money for the substructure that is needed to help us in the Timmins area.

The major blow we have suffered in the northeast this year is the government's shutting down of the Northeastern Regional Mental Health Centre. I don't intend to go into that in great detail because I went into that the other night in the Health estimates, but this is a blow in terms of jobs. There were 223 people employed when that was a psychiatric facility and on Wednesday of this week they will all be gone. It is turned over to a schedule 2 mentally retarded centre and there will be just 54 people employed to keep that going until July or August, at which time they expect to bring in a few mentally retarded residents. The most it will go up to in terms of staff complement will be about 110. We are a net loser of over 100 jobs in the government's closing of the psychiatric facility.

I think that from the amount the mentally retarded group are intending to use that hospital, if it was under-utilized in psychiatric care it will be more than under-utilized in the hands of the mentally retarded. One of the reasons given for closing it down was that it was under-utilized. The government has that facility there and I think it

has got to be utilized to its full capacity, if it is going to be an economic institution in this province. The administrator of the mental health hospital has said that and made that recommendation and I think the government is going to have to utilize that very fully.

A lot of people are going to be out of work as of Wednesday of this week and of those who have got jobs, some have had to compete for their own jobs and a lot of them have seen other people come in and take their jobs, people who didn't have the same seniority. Some who were even probationary employees in the Ministry of Health have come in and taken jobs in the mentally retarded institution. There is a lot of dissatisfaction among some of those workers, so much so that I understand last week the employment standards people of the Ministry of Labour were called in to investigate some of these complaints. It's a loss of jobs, a loss of benefits and a loss of credits that have accrued to those workers. A lot of older people who are out of a job, and who support a sick husband or are the sole support of a family, will not have a job, and that's pretty disappointing.

One of the reasons Mr. Spooner was so insistent on the hospital being there was that it would provide a different kind of employment for people who were not able to do the heavy work in the mines, who perhaps had injuries or were not in the best of health and would have an alternative kind of employment. Those kinds of people are now the kind who are hurt by this close-down, and it's most discouraging.

As far as services to the area are concerned, it is proposed that there be a team working out of the health unit, I believe in New Liskeard, and there's to be a team working out of the Sensenbrenner Hospital in Kapuskasing and another team working in Timmins in a 20-bed psychiatric unit. It was hoped that a psychiatrist who was at Northeastern would continue and look after this 20-bed unit and be on a consultation basis for Kapuskasing and for New Liskeard, but he has decided he is moving away and so he is not going to be there.

[3:15]

There was a young doctor, who has most of his work completed for his psychiatric specialty, doing private practice in Timmins and a lot of work was going to be on his shoulders. He's decided to leave April 1, so the only psychiatrist who will be serving the area will be a psychiatrist in North Bay, and general practitioners will be doing all the

work in the northeast. I think that's a real cutback in quality of services and scope of services.

It's a real anxiety to those people who have already had a member of their family sent to North Bay for in-hospital treatment. It's difficult to visit, it's a real inconvenience and it's a real expense, but those are some of the consequences of this move. I suspect we've only heard the beginning of the protest as far as the people of the northeast are concerned. I can say that this party is going to do all it can to try to get adequate psychiatric services restored to the northeast and undo a lot of the harm that's been done by this government.

For this reason, the people in my riding would like to go to an election as early as possible, because they're pretty fed up with the kind of rotten treatment that's been perpetrated on us by this move. They were angrier still when the government was going to take away 25 active treatment beds at St. Mary's Hospital and make it more difficult for us to attract any specialists or to provide any kind of extra services by way of specialties for our people, rather than always having to come down south. That was a mistake, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) said, and he has referred that order to the health council to further investigate and make recommendations. It certainly didn't win many friends for the government and it's made the people pretty suspicious of anything the government is proposing by way of health care services for our area.

The children's programme? It's still not clear what's going to happen to replace the child care programme that Northeastern had. When we have serious restraints of a 5.5 per cent budget increase on the Children's Aid Society and have taken away from them the support service they relied on very heavily for assessment and diagnostic purposes and consultation purposes—with some other unknown group supposedly to come in and supply it but it's not being there—one can realize the dissatisfaction of people in the Children's Aid Society circle as far as this government's concern about the children goes and how they're going to have such a difficult time to even come near to living within that budget constraint.

I understand that certain efforts may be made to give some of these boards a little extra because of extenuating circumstances. I made that suggestion to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) when he was in Timmins, and he shot that down saying: "Oh, you don't have any unique

problems here. Everybody wants something extra for his own riding." But I can tell you when there are extenuating circumstances any minister worth his salt will at least recognize them. I hope he's had something of a conversion, because he was pretty arrogant that day until I got up and spoke, and then he began to realize that instead of sending his insulting remarks our way maybe he'd better change his tactic, which he did, and he was able to sell his programme a little but not very much.

One thing that has disturbed me about the cutbacks in the social services is they're saying that people on welfare had better take the jobs that are available for them. Of course, if there is a job then certainly we believe that an able-bodied person should be able to go and work at that job. But I have run into a couple of instances in my riding that make my blood boil, and I don't think that any government would condone this kind of action by a welfare administrator.

A man got laid off his job; there was some dispute as to the reasons for it, but he got laid off. Whether he had alcohol on his breath or not, I don't know, but they laid him off. So the man went to look for a job down in the Orillia area and he had paid off his commitments at home before he went to get this job in Orillia. Well, the job in Orillia didn't materialize—and he was looking for quite some time. In the meantime, what funds he had had run out and I don't believe the unemployment insurance had come in. The family was at home with no food and the rent wasn't paid; the wife applied for welfare and she was turned down. The Children's Aid were called in and they in turn suggested she call the Salvation Army; the Salvation Army had to put \$100 of groceries into that home where there was a woman and children with nothing and the husband was away looking for work. Maybe he should have stayed at home and sat on his hands and not looked for work. At any rate, I brought it to the attention of the people in the Ministry of Community and Social Services down here and I suggested that they also should go to the board of review, and I believe some assistance was given.

Then, a week ago, another call came about the same administrator in the Cochrane district. A man from Iroquois Falls went out west and got himself a job. With the first two weeks' pay he thought he would have money to send back home to his family, but they took all the money in his paycheque to pay his travelling expenses and so on to the west, and he had nothing to send back. Back in Iroquois

Falls was a woman without any fuel and without any food; her brothers and sisters were looking after her. Finally, the children's allowance came and she was able to buy some oil. I got in touch with the Ministry of Community and Social Services down here and they suggested two weeks' emergency assistance.

Now, if a man is out looking for work and he gets a job, but there are difficulties, then I don't see why they can't tide the family over in a difficult set of circumstances, rather than let people get down to nothing. Where there are children involved, I think we have got to support these kinds of families and encourage a man who is trying to get work or who gets work and keep him working so he will be a productive member of society.

I hope this government's programme does not go to that extent, where it discourages those who are trying. The major emphasis has got to be to provide jobs and make more jobs available. One of the major points is that there are a whole bunch of people in the health care field who have been laid off, and it is going to be a difficult time for our people. So when we lay off people by deliberate government policy on one hand and then we tell them that other people have got to find jobs, then for goodness' sake we have got to make sure there are jobs there for them; or if there are not jobs there for them, then we have got to look after our people until there are.

This cutback in the social services field is difficult in our area because the homes for aged need to consider additions and rebuilding to look after the chronic care patients, to make the homes for the aged more than chronic hospitals, which they are becoming. But we shall have to forego that because of this restraint programme. That's one of the things that is difficult to swallow as far as this restraint programme is concerned, that services to people are put away down at the bottom of the priority list.

Another thing that continues to aggravate and does not get resolved is this stupid distinction between disabled and non-employable as far as receiving family benefits is concerned. Their needs are similar and they should have the same degree of support. Nobody out there understands it; and I don't blame them for not understanding it because it's a most unfair and an unjust way of treating people. The sooner that distinction is done away with, the better. I think members on all sides of the House have tried to convince the government that it's wrong. If this government can't renegotiate the agreement with the federal government, then

it should go it alone and see that this group of people does get some justice.

We have talked about doctors having to sign forms. To get themselves reconsidered disabled as distinct from unemployable, they have to take a form to a doctor to get signed. Some people have been in to see me and said "I have had the doctor sign three and four forms and he's getting tired of it. He's going to throw me out of the office." We create bureaucracy by this; and it's such an unjust and unnecessary category and distinction to make. We're all very angry and the government surely should soon do away with that.

Another thing that has bothered the people of all of the north—Sudbury, Thunder Bay and all up through the north—is this government's decision to postpone educational television in northern Ontario. They're going ahead with the programme down here in the south and will guarantee that all the transmitters they plan to build in places like Chatham and elsewhere down here will get built. Down in the south people are usually within driving distance of a number of cultural activities that they can go to and take advantage of them. Those kinds of cultural opportunities are not available in anywhere the same degree in the north. In our area, cable television has not come on in a very big way; and in addition, even when it does come in not everybody is going to take it.

The cutback to save, I believe about \$2.5 million in northern Ontario for this government, by cutting us out of educational television, when it has already spent about \$900,000 to do the preliminary work, is all going to be wasted, because unless the government proceeds the money is all gone. That's some kind of economics and management. To single us out and to deprive us of something the government is going to give to the rest of the province down here in the south makes our blood boil. We know again it is discriminating against the north; we're the poor country cousins who are being left out. The government doesn't care about us and the northern communities are extremely annoyed. I think the government could very well go ahead with that programme and look after our needs.

One of the recommendations Judy LaMarsh is going to make, from what she said on television in Timmins, is that there is a problem of violence in the media and because it is having a detrimental effect on people—on children and that—and because we do not have very many TV channels and because other cultural opportunities are not there, we

do need educational television; and she is recommending it for northern Ontario.

The decision to cut back is most unfair. It is unjust and I ask the government to reconsider that. I have written to them and I know people of all stripes in the north are very distraught at the decision to do us out of educational television. If necessary, I think a special grant could be made available from Wintario to provide the capital funding to make educational television available in northern Ontario. That's culture; it's going to do a lot more good than some of the grants that are being given now. Reconsider that and see what can be done.

[3:30]

The leader of this party in his address of two weeks ago made another unusually fine speech, particularly documenting again the problems of occupational health and the lack of proper enforcement by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It was only when the Minister of Health got extremely tough and wasn't prepared to fool around with these Natural Resources people who continually make excuses for the mining companies that they got any action at the United Asbestos plant in Matachewan.

The number of people who are suffering chest problems as a result of their exposure to silica in the gold mines, in the Elliot Lake mines, and who have asbestosis from their exposure in the Reeves Mine in Timmins and the Munro Mine in the Matheson area—and now this mine in Matachewan—is just legion. The mining industry has not been concerned about its workers. It will do anything possible to make a buck, but the worker is expendable and the industry doesn't care what happens to him or how his health is impaired or how that disadvantages his wife and family.

What the mining companies have perpetrated on the people of this province who are in the mining industry is a very sad tale. The sooner the Ministry of Natural Resources takes its enforcement provisions seriously and does something about it, the better it will be.

You would think after all that went on over a year ago—the fights we had and the minister's setting up of the Ham commission—that they would not tolerate any of these blatant violations of government standards any longer. After the issue was fought as it was in the last election, surely an intelligent government would make sure that the kind of damage perpetrated against workers would stop. But here we just have another example of the indifference of the Ministry of Natural

Resources. Only when somebody else brings it out into the open and makes a public issue of it do we get any action. I think there were some changes in that ministry after the Elliot Lake situation and it appears there should be a lot more changes. The miners of this province should be properly protected in their work place against unsafe working conditions.

There was concern in my area over the pricing of natural gas. I know the price went up considerably because of the wellhead price in Alberta and this was only passed on by the Energy Board, but some of the prices in Timmins were beyond rhyme or reason, it appears. There was a lot of anger and the council asked that I bring it up in the House. I know that they met with people of Northern and Central. It just seems that the consumers are getting it on the nose and the Energy Board is supposed to be protecting us. Sometimes one wonders if they do.

I could go on for quite a length of time but I think I've dealt with the issues that particularly concern the people of my riding and why we feel that we haven't confidence in this government. We would be very happy to have a chance to express ourselves at the polls and give a message to this Conservative government that it's had the biscuit and we don't want any more of it and we would like to send it packing. They were given a good jolt in September last year and we would like to give them the final jolt by an election this spring.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Kerrio: I am proud to represent the constituency of Niagara Falls, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to reaffirm my commitment to my constituents that I will represent Niagara impartially and in the best interests of all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) for his personal interest and I would like to tell our leader, if he were here at this time, that I would be loyal to his cause and support him in the future of this party.

I would like to pay tribute to those who dedicated themselves to my campaign and subsequent election. You can appreciate the fact that the unseating of the Attorney General of this province was not a singlehanded effort. The complete dedication to my campaign by many of my friends and acquaintances was certainly a revelation to me and I will be forever grateful.

I would further like to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to a most difficult

task. His impartiality and fairness is obvious to all members of the assembly, and at times the House is a difficult one to control. I would join those who have already thanked him for his patience and understanding.

In this session's Speech from the Throne, the government stated that we faced some critical economic realities and must adjust our priorities, and there was a need to streamline government programmes to prune out redundancies or waste which may arise. I must confess that I thought perhaps some of the Liberal Party's campaign literature from the last election had been incorporated in the Throne Speech. We were constantly calling upon the government to be financially responsible, to cut down on bureaucratic waste and extravagance.

Obviously some of the financial problems which the province has experienced can be put down to worldwide inflation, but the government of Ontario has been guilty of gross mismanagement of the taxpayers' money in recent years and has made no attempt to be financially responsible.

Since 1971, the government has paid lip service to the need to maintain firm control over public spending, of exercising restraint, of coming to grips with the problem of inflation. Yet over that same period government spending has continued to increase out of all proportion to the services which are provided to the people of Ontario.

In the four years from 1970 to 1974, the province's accumulated net debt more than doubled, from \$1.4 billion to \$2.9 billion, and by March, 1975, this had risen to \$3.5 billion. Deficit financing may be all very well over the short term, but for a wealthy province like Ontario to have deficits totalling in excess of \$6 billion over the last five years is surely an indication that the government's management of the taxpayers' money leaves a great deal to be desired.

The former Auditor General, Maxwell Henderson, chairman of the special programmes review committee, has warned the government public spending has gotten out of hand; and the committee's report, tabled in the Legislature last November, made nearly 200 recommendations of methods which might hopefully bring the situation under control.

Typically, the government has been very selective in the recommendations of this report which are to be given priority. They have arrogantly ignored constructive suggestions which reduce bureaucratic extravagance, choosing rather to implement financial cut-backs which severely affect the services pro-

vided to our communities. Hospitals are being closed down regardless of local needs. Municipalities are faced with serious financial problems because of the reduction in anticipated government support. Mr. Henderson himself has taken the government to task for failing to give priority to putting its own financial house in order. He was absolutely right when he said:

Our present political leaders are downright irresponsible to think they can spend our hard-earned tax dollars so recklessly. All it does is fuel our domestic inflation still further.

The sad part of it all is that so much of the hardship which is being caused by the government's current restraint programme could have been avoided if some attention had been paid to opposition-called-for financial responsibility in the past.

Like many other people in this province I'm seriously concerned about the shortcomings of our present education system. There was some comment on the floor of the Legislature today, and the Premier (Mr. Davis) was attempting to justify spending some \$500,000 in doing a report which, if in fact the system was well accepted as he would suggest, would not be needed.

In recent years we have heard a great deal about modern methods of teaching and learning. Those of us who expressed reservations about drastic changes in time-tested methods were made to feel that we were old-fashioned and not sufficiently knowledgeable about the subject. Yet today, with education taxes at an all-time high, it is generally accepted that there are many and very serious problems. Teachers complain that students cannot read, write, spell or do simple arithmetic; high-school credits have been described as meaningless, with the high-school graduation diploma referred to as a useless piece of paper by many people.

Even at the university level, professors have found that many students cannot read or write properly. We owe it to our children and young people to ensure that they receive the best possible education at every level, from primary school to university. Let's get away from putting the emphasis on school buildings and equipment and give priority to the vital and essential part of the educational system—the students and the teachers.

I'm sorry that today the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) isn't here because I would direct this question to him. It's one of grave consequence to me. As the Liberal critic of Culture and Recreation I have a personal commitment to bring as much

pressure as possible to bear on the minister to redirect lottery funds to more needful use. How in all conscience can we close hospitals and labs, and cut back on health care, and still continue to buy the frivolous activities in the "Try Us" branch of the government?

The decision of another branch of this ministry to cut back on the educational TV services to Peterborough, North Bay, Timmins and the Soo is a disastrous blow to these areas. It would seem that these areas had the most need initially because of the limited access to research facilities that exist in many areas of the province. I feel that in fact those TV programmes should have been initiated and started in the north. In the restraint programme as it exists today, I'm afraid the third phase will be cut, which is the service to the north.

In other areas of interest to me, as a member of the Liberal housing committee I would criticize the ministry in regard to the open-ended programme of first-home ownership. We will never control the economy as long as open-ended programmes are to be initiated. The validity of the programme is not in question, but if we are ever to balance this budget we must in fact establish the need and the funding that is necessary, and have the courage to stay within those limits.

After the last provincial election, members of our three political parties in this House were saying that we must all get together to make minority government work in Ontario. Historically speaking, minority governments have had fairly good legislative records, and certainly here in Canada a lot of very important legislation has been passed by minority governments.

During the first session of this Legislature the prospects of effective minority government were quite hopeful. Because of the change in the balance of power here in the Legislature government members and ministers attended the House on a more regular basis. Combined with the enthusiastic participation by the greatly enlarged opposition, this meant that we had some very constructive debates and some very important amendments were made to government legislation because the opposition members were able to exert some pressure.

[3:45]

It seems the honeymoon is now over. The government has chosen to embark on a financial restraint programme with little regard for its human and social consequences. Hospitals are being closed down arbitrarily and in the face of a tremendous outcry from the

communities affected. Municipalities are seriously concerned about their financial problems because of the reduced rate of increase in transfer payments. Mill rates are likely to increase, programmes are threatened and essential services will almost certainly have to be reduced. Meanwhile, opposition attempts to influence government action are being completely disregarded.

We are living in difficult times. Many of our traditional values and standards seem to have gone by the board. Violence and crime are on the increase. Inflation is a worldwide threat to stability and to people's way of life. There is considerable labour unrest. Just recently, we witnessed an enormous demonstration in Ottawa by members of the CLC protesting against the federal government's imposition of the anti-inflation guidelines. We hear talk of a three-day general strike. Where is this all going to end? What kind of a society are we building for our children?

Is this the time for the kind of political games we have been engaged in in the past few weeks? The Premier says it won't be the government's fault if we're forced into an election. Are the opposition parties to be blamed if the government, knowing full well the implications of the minority government situation, fails to respond to the criticisms and objections of the opposition members? Are we to be held responsible because the government is performing major surgery on the province's health budget using an axe rather than a scalpel? Is it our fault the government has been spending the taxpayers' money with such abandon in recent years that drastic and immediate action is necessary in a panic-stricken attempt to bring some kind of order out of this chaos?

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, if we are plunged into an election campaign in the near future we shall all be equally to blame. The government will be guilty because the Premier and his colleagues chose to fly in the face of the expressed objections to government policy by the opposition parties, knowing that there is a risk of the government being brought down by a combined vote of the opposition members. The New Democratic Party will be responsible because they persist in playing the game of brinkmanship, taking it for granted that the Liberal Party will avoid lighting the fuse to the explosive situation that they, the NDP, have helped to create. The Liberal Party will be responsible because we have failed to persuade the government to act in a responsible and humane manner.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The nature of the sound system in the chamber today is such that I feel almost tempted to move the adjournment of the debate. I would not want to deprive the members opposite, however, of the pearls of wisdom I am about to cast in their direction and, therefore, I will struggle through as best I can.

Mr. Nixon: I am not sure that I like that allusion. Are you going to explain your liquor policy?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's strange, Mr. Speaker, that we've been sitting here for some six months now and this is the first opportunity I've had to congratulate you on the assumption of your office. Having cut my legislative teeth under the supervision of the Speaker, I know that the office will be handled with dignity, integrity and fairness.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and seconder of Her Honour's address. The member for Stormont-Dundas-Glenarry (Mr. Villeneuve) is an old colleague of ours from eastern Ontario, a veteran of the federal House and the provincial Legislature. He acquitted himself honourably in his motion. And, of course, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), is carrying on a tradition—not a dynasty but a tradition—in this House. He acquitted himself very well, including his critical comments concerning the government. Having been in that position myself, where I felt constrained to criticize the government from time to time, I understand the position he's in.

Mr. Grande: He's going to quit.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We're dealing with the Speech from the Throne and I would like to deal very briefly with the amendment proposed by the leader of the Liberal Party on Tuesday, March 16, and in particular with item one of that amendment. I understand some of my colleagues may be dealing with the other points in that amendment, as well as the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis). I would like to deal particularly with the one in which the leader of the Liberal Party said:

This House further condemns the government for its financial irresponsibility in forcing Ontario municipalities and school boards to increase inordinately the property tax on homeowners and tenants.

Of course, the key word in there, and the one that I disagree with completely, is the word "forcing." I see no compulsion on the part of this government placed on municipali-

ties or school boards. I want to speak particularly about my own constituency—

Mr. Reid: You mean you are not going to support our amendment?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —because I am not as familiar with all of the constituencies in Ontario as I would like to be, although I have learned a great deal about them in the past two years. But I must say that I know the two municipalities in my constituency very well. I want to say that those two municipalities and the townships of March and Nepean have embarked on the most grandiose spending programmes you have ever seen in your life.

I have tried to maintain contact with those two municipalities because as their representative in the Legislature I should know what is going on, and I have watched with increasing amazement the priority as reflected in some of the council decisions. Each of those two municipalities has a locally-elected council. They are fully responsible and accountable to the people in the two townships. Therefore, what they are doing is perfectly within their power and there can be no suggestion whatsoever that this province has forced some of those decisions on them.

I would like just to outline some of the things they are doing, so that the members of this House will know whether or not this government is forcing municipalities to raise taxes. Further, when they run out of ideas on their own they join together to run other grandiose spending schemes jointly, so that the taxpayers of both of the municipalities will be burdened.

Mr. Nixon: They pretty uniformly disapproved of your actions too.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Oh, I have heard that.

Mr. Moffatt: It may be a Liberal council.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, most of them are.

I am just going to deal with the most recent one at some length because it is a fairly controversial scheme.

Mr. Nixon: Trying to defend his flank or something.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The most recent ambitious project to be joined in by the two townships is known as the national capital equestrian centre. I heard the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) talk about culture and recreation.

Mr. Nixon: That is like the old boys' football team you are using Wintario money to send overseas.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: They are trying to get Wintario money at the present time.

Mr. Nixon: If there was any political advantage for you they would get it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If that centre is carried to its completion as planned by the two municipalities, my constituency would be the equestrian capital of the world.

Mr. Nixon: You could ride two horses at once.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Not yet. Montreal at the present time has the Olympic facility but we are going to outdo that.

You wouldn't believe, Mr. Speaker, that they propose to spend \$1.5 million to provide what private enterprise is already providing in sufficient quantity in the Ottawa-Carleton area—namely, stabling for horses, riding instruction, and bridle areas for recreational purposes.

Mr. Nixon: That is what your government did in the community colleges for witchcraft.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: There are 12 riding academies listed in the yellow pages of the Ottawa-Hull telephone directory—all private enterprise, and all of them providing the services these two municipalities want to spend \$1.5 million on. I am not against horses; perish the thought.

Mr. Nixon: Some people say you are part of one.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I am not against riding. I am not against the equestrian centre. I am against the taxpayers' paying for it.

Whenever something has to be looked into in our municipality, it never seems possible to buy a book. I remember when I was Minister of Housing they told me there was modeltown in Finland I should look at. I charged to the ministry—the taxpayers did pay—\$3 for a book in which there was something like 20 opinions and assessments of that new town in Finland. In my municipality, the reeve, the chairman of the planning committee and the chief planner of the township decided to take a trip to Finland. That's the way they do things there.

Mr. Nixon: You must really feel they are breathing down your neck.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Not really.

Mr. Nixon: You are talking like a person who is in his last session of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't recall the province or the Premier (Mr. Davis) or anybody sending out orders to the municipality to undertake that kind of research.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: You didn't do that well last time.

Mr. Nixon: You took over a safe Tory seat and they are going to knock you off.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Last fall we had a great event in Calgary called the Grey Cup—a wonderful event; national, and most of us watched it on television. It turned out that in conjunction with Grey Cup weekend there was a casino being held in Calgary. It was decided that since our township might sponsor a casino at some time in the future, three councillors and the executive assistant to the reeve would go to Calgary on Grey Cup weekend to examine the casino; which they did. They came back and then they made a call to our ministry and of course they were told that such casinos were illegal in Ontario. They might very well have checked that out before they went.

As the former leader of the Liberal Party well knows, my Liberal opponent in 1975 just happens to be a councillor in the township of Nepean.

Mr. Nixon: The reeve is not on your short list either.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I am not too sure whether he is on my friend's list; maybe his successor will be able to do something about that. But in that campaign it was claimed the new industrial park in Nepean township would return a profit of approximately \$2 million a year to the taxpayers in Nepean. I believed everything my Liberal opponent said and I backed the cabinet decision to allow that industrial park to go ahead when it was being opposed by some of the ratepayers because there had never been a financial statement.

I believe that industrial parks can benefit municipalities. But we were told that this one was not going to cost the taxpayers anything; it would pay for itself in a period of a few months; there was a lineup of buyers ready to buy lots in the industrial park and all we had to do as a government was approve it.

Well we did. The first thing that happened was that they retained a real estate agent to sell the lots because they couldn't find anybody to buy them.

Mr. Nixon: The second thing was you opened one in Spencerville in competition to them.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The most recent thing, of course, is an application for a loan through my colleague, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), to assist the industrial park to pay its debts. Since there is very little communication between me and the council, I haven't received a copy of the application but I have received a letter asking me to support the application. I think I am going to have to reply by saying I don't support applications I know nothing about and I would like to see the details. Certainly I would hope that the industrial park proceeds and that it will provide the tax base which my Liberal opponent attributed to it.

Mr. Bullbrook: You should help us get the pension increase. I think you sound as if you might.

Mr. Nixon: I think it is time you started working on the pension.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, restraint on municipal spending is long overdue. There is no question about it. We have had restraints on the school boards for the past several years; I was a school trustee when they first came in, so it is going back about six or seven years. We have stabilized the mill rates in both municipalities in Carleton over that period of time. I believe in Nepean the public school mill rate now is 0.05 of a mill different than it was in 1969; I consider that to be a remarkable achievement directly resulting from the ceilings on education.

I don't propose that there should be ceilings on municipal spending, simply because standards must vary from municipality to municipality, but certainly the restraint measures that have been taken by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) are long overdue and I have some hope they will be effective.

Mr. Nixon: So you admit you have been overspending all these years?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: All of those municipalities have been, sir, and I hope that they will now sit down and decide—

Mr. Nixon: But not this government; never this government.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Prior to ceilings, all of the proposals that came before school boards were good; but when ceilings came

in, they decided that some were better than others and some of them had to be deferred. I hope that process now takes place in municipal councils.

Recently, the leader of the Liberal Party was in my riding, and I am not too critical of him for not really knowing where he was when he talked about the Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa. It is not in Ottawa; it is in Nepean township.

Mr. Moffatt: Do you have a tennis court in your riding?

Mr. Ferrier: Did he play a game of tennis when he was there?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I really don't blame him. In his perambulations to Hamilton West via Mount Royal and Burlington, he probably got a little lost. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), he doesn't even scatter crumbs to the natives in eastern Ontario; but he did make this brief appearance in my riding. He came back with a dramatic question for the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—probably fed to him by a member of the hospital board who happens to be a member of the council and who happens to have been my Liberal opponent in 1975—

Mr. Moffatt: Is he a member of a tennis club?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: He asked the minister to explain to the House why the Queensway-Carleton Hospital was going to be delayed and told how all those people were being upset by this delay and how it was a great worry to the people of the area. "I would like to hear your explanation, Mr. Minister," he said.

Well, as I said, the Queensway-Carleton Hospital is not in Ottawa, but he had been in a number of places that day and he probably got a little lost. The hospital will serve all of Carleton, all of eastern Ontario. It is certainly not a great worry to the people in the area; it is a source of great pride, because that hospital resulted from the efforts of a generation of school children, their parents and the community as a whole. As a matter of fact, it was only last week that the formal order in council designating it as an OHIP hospital was passed and the hospital is ready to go into operation.

I don't know where the leader of the Liberal Party got the idea that the Queensway-Carleton Hospital was causing great worry. Fortunately, the members of the press gallery who thought they might have a

good story took the trouble to call the director of the hospital, and he couldn't understand what the Liberal leader was worried about either. He said there was no worry among the people in the area, the hospital was proceeding on schedule and, when officially open, it will add 200 beds to the stock in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

[4:00]

On that evening, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal leader went to my riding to address the annual meeting of the Carleton Liberal Association. I suppose he went to declare a war and unfortunately nobody came. The press didn't come. But what I did do—and I always do this to ensure that there is some attendance at the Liberal meetings—I sent a couple of people over to watch what was going on. It serves two purposes: It usually enables me to find out what's going on in my riding; and it also doubles the attendance at the meeting, which is very helpful.

I don't know how far the Liberal leader has gone in attempting to obtain a candidate for the next election, but I would like to make a suggestion to him, because a situation exists in my riding which is not to the advantage of the people, at least of Nepean township. Prior to 1975, elections in Carleton were relatively gentlemanly affairs and I was involved with five of them on behalf of my predecessor Erskine Johnston. Mostly it was the Conservative and the Liberal candidates discussing issues, and the NDP candidate tagging along for the experience.

In 1975, things changed—

Mr. Nixon: You got a little panicky and became anti-French.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Unfortunately the NDP candidate—who was a very credible candidate and gained a great deal of experience—apparently has decided not to contest the next election. I hope the Leader of the Opposition maybe will prevail on him to do so. He is a fine gentleman; a man I could discuss issues with. Unfortunately, however, the campaign in Carleton did descend into gutter. It was a campaign which I was uncomfortable with and I quite frankly admit I was unable to cope with.

Mr. Nixon: You certainly didn't cover yourself with glory in your position with the French situation.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I didn't cover myself with glory in dealing with the mud-smearing and the mud-slinging.

Mr. Nixon: You were the one who was throwing it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It was quite a personal campaign based entirely on my performance on behalf of the people of Nepean township, which is one township in the area.

Mr. Nixon: The council doesn't think you are doing a good job.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Well, there are some members of the council who don't, Mr. Speaker, and I quite agree.

Mr. Nixon: They are elected too, you know. They are elected.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The chief sufferers in this whole situation are the people of Nepean. I'm okay and I'm sure the reeve of Nepean is okay; as a matter of fact, he's better off than I am financially. But I would think that in order to serve the people of Nepean he might see fit to do what he tried to do by proxy in the last election—that's stand for election and stand up and be counted, instead of sitting at the back of the hall prompting the Liberal candidate on the stands he should take on various issues.

Mr. Nixon: What a strange speech this is.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's a little bit partisan; and I've been accused from time to time, Mr. Speaker, of being partisan.

Mr. Nixon: It is a very strange speech attacking the whole council of Nepean township, a democratically-elected council. It is a very strange thing for a minister of the Crown to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Nixon: Surely you have got enough job to do keeping your own house in order. You are making a spectacle of yourself.

Mr. Handleman: I'm suggesting that the municipalities have come up to their own priorities. The motion of the Liberal Party says we are forcing them to raise taxes. Nobody's forcing them at all. They're making their own decision; and they are legally elected and they are accountable—

Mr. Nixon: You are not abiding by the election commitment; and they are a good council, too.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —and I want to point out that we are not forcing them and we will not permit municipal councils to say, "The

province forced us to raise taxes." They're making their own decisions.

Mr. Nixon: We are saying it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to concentrate entirely on the Liberal Party because there is an official opposition in the Legislature.

Mr. Nixon: The Liberals are the ones who are going to beat you.

Mr. Bullbrook: In Japan they call it harakiri.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has, for the most part, been quite calm, I think, in my dealings with him, but when the rent review legislation was transferred to my ministry he made some cutting remarks about my track record in the interests of the consumer and those were remarks I found a little bit unkind.

I'm aware of the fact that nobody in this Legislature can come up to the level of compassion, the compassionate concern for the consumer, which is exhibited by the members opposite in the official opposition. This great consumerism that they seem to think they have a lock on—I keep having it thrown at me.

The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) one day as an interjection said, I believe, "If you don't have a remedy, find one. Pass a law, spend money; that's the way to do things around here." That, I think, is the answer of the members in the official opposition: Government can do anything it wants to do and therefore it should. That's the attitude. Therefore I don't find too much criticism there about restraint; except, of course, we are not spending money in the areas in which they would spend it.

Mr. Lawlor: Enforcing the present law would be better.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I find in that party, sir, there is a mistrust of the business community so thick that you can cut it with a knife. While paying lip service to small business—and this is what I find so ironic about the NDP at the present time—

Mr. Moffatt: You don't like that.

Mr. Bain: We like small business, but it's the multinational corporations we don't like.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: They pay lip service to the virtues of small business. A few weeks ago I made a speech in Markham in which I praised the Better Business Bureau, which is made up almost entirely of small business, and one of the members opposite—

Mr. Bain: What is your relationship with Inco?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —not on the floor of the House, but very quietly, said: "You wouldn't trust those guys to handle consumer affairs." Well yes, I would. I think the small businessman should be encouraged to handle consumer matters, and they are doing a great job wherever they are given the opportunity to do it.

Mr. Renwick: Certainly you're not doing very much.

Mr. Moffatt: You are not even a spectator at the game.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't accept that they are ripoff artists. They are essentially honest, hard-working people, and they are intent on making a living and a profit and profit is not a dirty word in this society yet, no matter what some people up in Ottawa and members opposite may say. Profit is a legitimate goal of business.

Mr. Davidson: We don't begrudge the small businessman a profit.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Some of the members of the House who have not been here very long may not know that we have been dealing in consumerism, and I am not going to dwell at great length on that, but I would like to point out there are a number of consumer initiatives in the speech that we are debating.

Mr. Lawlor: You are not a very vigorous department.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: While we have done a number of things and—

Mr. Ferrier: Weak-kneed, deluded.

Mr. Lawlor: All this and Heaven too.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Since I am being charmed by the member for Lakeshore, I would like to respond and tell him some of the things that we are doing. He should know; he should know. There are others here who may not know, but he does.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the hon. member for Carleton will continue.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: One of the things we have done over the past five years is to try to dismantle the rule of caveat emptor in this province. We are trying to take away from the buyer the necessity of investigating every transaction.

Mr. Renwick: Keep trying; you haven't done very well yet.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We haven't succeeded entirely, no; nor do I think any government will ever succeed entirely in that. We say to the consumer, the best consumer is an informed consumer. If I may borrow from my colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller), we think you should be your own consumer protection bureau. But we have a role to play and certainly we are prepared to carry it out.

Mr. Renwick: You can't spend your whole life protecting yourself.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We think that in exercising good, sound, common sense by bringing in legislation which enables the consumer to avail himself of government protection we can create some balance in the marketplace.

Mr. Moffatt: Some balance.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We don't want to spend our time threshing about with ideology or trying to find some nasty capitalist under every bed, like some of the members opposite. We have gone out and changed the rules of the marketplace and we have made the changes stick. We haven't had the degree of confrontation that perhaps some of our socialist friends would have relished in this process. It has not been a cabbage-throwing contest. I doubt—and maybe the member for Lakeshore reflects this—that anyone opposite has noticed how things have changed over the past five years under the leadership of our present Premier (Mr. Davis); but they have changed, and they have changed for the better.

What we have done is we have established a network of rights, firmly established by statute. These rights are being extended every day in court decisions, by decisions of the commercial registration appeal tribunal and in the ongoing procedures of letters and replies and investigations and judgements being made in the ministry every day.

I know that if I spend a great deal of time informing the members of our consumer

initiatives over the past five years, some of the effort will be wasted, because some of them may not be long among us. I hope they have taken the opportunity to send out their first constituency newsletter, because the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) might very well change his mind again tomorrow and we will be back on the hustings.

Mr. Nixon: Whatever we do it will be the end of you. You won't be back, Sidney.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I say it will be good to have known the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Interjection.

Mr. Bullbrook: Lorne, you didn't hear him attack his council. That's the last thing Lorne would ever do. He is here in perpetuity; he will never leave here.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I am so happy that I know no matter what happens to me personally I will always have a friend at court; and I mean at court, not in the opposition benches.

Mr. Bullbrook: What do you mean in court? He is the head man.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member will continue.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, some of the rights that we—

Mr. Nixon: You don't need a friend in court, do you?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —provided to Ontario citizens are the right to sound information about the product or service he is buying; the right to performance of the standards promised by the salesman; the right to disclosure of all of the pertinent information of the buyer and the seller; the right to cancel a contract which has been signed under duress; the right to speedy redress under our Consumer Protection Act.

Now they have succeeded by relying upon three basic methods or procedures. First, we set out rules of practice for more than a dozen major industries, which is the subject of a number of Acts. Now we're going on to more general types of legislation, such as is reflected in the Business Practices Act. In addition to dealing with specific industries, we've registered the practitioners of these industries. And third, we've established procedures to deal with complaints and bring about their

effective resolution. Nearly everyone; the consumer, the honest businessman and everyone else has benefitted from this work. The only people who have suffered have been the unethical or the incompetent.

The Business Practices Act which was made law in May of last year makes hundreds of unethical sales practices illegal for the first time. We keep hearing of the consumer legislation of British Columbia as being the most progressive and the most effective and the toughest in the world.

Mr. Lawlor: Somebody is watching you.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: They started with nothing; they copied our Act and now with a great many press releases, the former minister, Phyllis Young, has made the world aware of the fact that British Columbia has a consumer services department. I met with the new minister and he tells me he is not going to stop that practice at all. In other words, they are going to blow the horn of their effective consumer legislation. It is our Act; it is the Business Practices Act translated into the British Columbia milieu. It was taken out there by their present deputy minister who was a consultant to my predecessor, John Clement, in the drafting of the act.

We praise the British Columbia legislation, we think it is great; but we want you to know, Mr. Speaker, and we want the people of Ontario to know, that we had it first.

Mr. Moffatt: Well you might as well use it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We use it and we use it effectively. We are using it all the time and we will use it increasingly.

Mr. Moffatt: Talk to the people of Bowmanville.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I would like members to consider the Consumer Reporting Act which was brought into effect in 1974 by my predecessor, John Clement. It provides for the registration of consumer reporting agencies. This is the Act that protects the individual from false information and provides for disclosure of his own file to any consumer in Ontario.

Mr. Lawlor: Did you ever read that debate?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes. We took this up in estimates and I am satisfied that Act is working. We've had very few complaints about it.

Mr. Lawlor: You don't protect privacy.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The only places in which we've had any complaints are in border areas where some Canadian merchants are using collection agencies outside the boundaries of Ontario. It has now been drawn to the attention of those merchants and I think those situations will be corrected. It has been suggested, of course, that we have an amendment to the Consumer Protection Act which would provide for a 48-hour cooling-off period on Liberal non-confidence notices.

While that might prevent the Liberals from causing themselves further embarrassment, and certainly save the politicians from worrying about unnecessary elections, it would lessen the public cynicism about the whole political process. However, I don't think it would be constitutionally sound for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to take that action.

These are the legislative initiatives we've been taking in the past five years. The leadership of the Premier and my predecessor, John Clement, has been the major factor in our progress in consumer relations.

There are a number of initiatives in the Speech from the Throne which we're debating which I think we should be dealing with, particularly the home warranty plan which I expect I'll be introducing in the Legislature within a matter of a few days. We have to consult with a number of people as to the direction we're going to go or the form in which the warranty will be administered. But it is my understanding that we have reached agreement with most of the members of the industry, with the lenders and with the consumers. We will be talking to the municipalities very shortly—as soon as they have had an opportunity to study the Act—then, hopefully, we will proceed with the debate after everybody has had an opportunity to assess the proposal. I expect it will be discussed in committee of the whole House.

Mr. Lawlor: How about consumer warranties?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You took the words right out of my mouth.

I would like to talk just for a moment about consumer product warranties which are based on the Law Reform Commission report. It has been a concern of mine ever since I came into the portfolio—as a consumer, not as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It is very difficult to remain objective in your judgement of product warranties when, as a consumer, from time to time you run into problems. I am

not going to mention my problems because I think it would be unfair to those who have caused them.

Mr. Reid: Your problem is obvious.
[4:15]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: There is no question at all that a consumer product warranty Act is necessary. What we do require is a minimum basic warranty free of all disclaimers. I think we can achieve that in the Act that I hope I will be able to introduce.

I want to make it quite clear that this Act has been discussed with other provinces. Hopefully, some of the provinces to the west of us will be introducing somewhat similar legislation, although not identical, and we'll be able to take a look at what the provinces are thinking.

Mr. Lawlor: Yes, you are always the pioneer.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We're always first.

Mr. Lawlor: Always going to New York, California, and wherever else.

Mr. Reid: First to borrow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We've looked at theirs and we find that they're not suitable for us. But we're certainly going to provide for a straightforward redress procedure. I think that's the most important thing in a consumer product warranty Act—that the consumer has immediate, straightforward, simple redress procedures available to him.

Despite the fact that we're always in the lead, we know that there has to be national uniformity of standards—

Mr. Lawlor: Liechtenstein is ahead of you.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —in any consumer product warranty Act. Our manufacturers, and those who import, of course, do not do so for a provincial jurisdiction; they do so on a national basis. The former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and, possibly, the future Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs again, did ask that the provinces show on the table the direction in which they're heading so that the national government could look at what the provinces feel is right and act upon it.

One of the problems in dealing with consumer affairs, particularly with an NDP opposition, is that they feel miracles can be accomplished. Sometimes they're right.

Mr. Young: We have faith in you.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: In British Columbia they took a perfectly good general insurance industry, turned it into a government monopoly and then ran it into the ground. They lost millions of dollars in the process. They had a strike of 13 weeks among their very faithful employees.

Mr. Moffatt: You've been reading the wrong press again.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If a government can do that, then they can work miracles—there's no question of that. They did a tremendous job on the insurance industry.

Just try to imagine what a socialist government would do with a consumer products warranty programme. Maybe the member for Lakeshore would say I'm exaggerating.

Mr. McClellan: You asked Saskatchewan to consult with you.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It would probably start off in the preamble with a declaration saying: "All products and goods should last forever." That's the first thing. That's an absolute must in an NDP product warranty Act.

Mr. Moffatt: That's absolutely ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Then they would say: "Since the repair shops are charging those exorbitant amounts for repairs of goods, we will set the fee and we'll charge \$2 to repair a colour television set. But would you mind waiting three months because the repair man is on strike at the present time?" Somebody once said, and I'm going to steal these words: "If the Sahara became socialist, there would soon be a shortage of sand."

Mr. Moffatt: You like that one.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's not funny? Okay.

Our approach would be a reasonable one, we hope. We will make use of the flexibility of the Business Practices Act, which gives the government power to eliminate deceptive practices. We will also provide ready access to the courts for both my ministry and consumers, making it possible to act against the retailer, the manufacturer or both.

Government adjudication is something else we've been asked to bring into legislation. It's far too slow; far too cumbersome; far too expensive to contemplate. We simply do not believe that government should interfere in

an adversary system. We're providing consumers with rights which we believe to be unparalleled anywhere in Canada, but it does not follow that the only responsibility of the consumer is to complain. He has some responsibility to act on his own.

Some people will have to go to court to enforce their rights, and what's wrong with that? The courts were established to provide justice for the common man and to protect him from the arbitrary action, both of his fellow citizens and of the government. There is no effective substitute for the rule of law. This is a tradition which has been very valuable to this country in the last 100 years.

The government does have responsibility to help consumers and it takes that responsibility seriously. We have a responsibility to investigate complaints. We have a responsibility to take legal action against offending businessmen. The problem always is, in any type of litigation you have to have proof. It's all too easy to make allegations without being able to prove them. Now, there can't be a separate system of justice for every social ill; and there certainly can't be a bureaucrat for every consumer. I believe it is incumbent on each of us to be our own consumer protection bureau, as I have already said, and government must create the balance in the marketplace to make this effective.

I want to simply say again that we on this side of the House believe that the consumer does deserve protection against the abuses of the marketplace, that the way to achieve that protection best is by creating a balance, by giving the consumer easy and effective redress procedures without incurring tremendous expenses. One of the things I found in the examination of my estimates last year was that we were being criticized for not being more expensive in many ways, more expensive in our information services because there was some criticism that we weren't telling people what we were doing. There was some criticism we didn't have enough people out in the field to assist consumers. We feel that we have provided sound leadership, exercising sound fiscal practices; and we are now looking for comparable efforts from the public we serve.

One of the great problems we face as a party dedicated to the private enterprise system is the fact that there are times when the business community lets us down. It is just as clear to us as it is to members opposite that some of the attitudes of business must change. And I have kept saying this to them ever since I became minister. Those changes must take place if the consumer's reasonable expectations are to be met.

But it is a mistake to think that businessmen are intrinsically evil—even the large corporations, which is said with an invisible sneer. No, private enterprise does not inevitably work against the wishes of the public. It is also a mistake to ignore the very real transitions that are taking place in business thinking and methodology.

I meet businessmen all the time, and sometimes they do get a little over-fascinated by their own schemes and ambitions, the health of their industry and the sales of their products. Sometimes we charge them with lack of social conscience and it comes as a surprise to them. They really don't understand the feeling out there in the marketplace and in government. But their position, sir, is not one of intent. It is not one of evil conspiracy to defraud and to rip off. This is, I think, the consequence of obsession in the business community with their own activities. We are asking them to broaden their horizons, to look at the public interest; and I expect a positive response from the business community to that request.

They have never made a decision to be bad corporate citizens, despite the feelings of some people in this Legislature. The problem is they sometimes can't see themselves as others do from the outside.

But many of the adversaries of business certainly are no better, and I meet many of them too. Many of them have never had a serious discussion with a businessman. They know nothing of his work or his problems. Their image of big business is still pretty close to the top hat, the big cigar and the cane of capitalism, which was made famous in those early days of the revolution over on the other side.

The pressures and difficulties of producing and marketing a successful product really never occur to them. They don't think of the kinds of problems that arise. It's all fixed in the boardroom, they say. The idea that business responsibilities sometimes require sacrifices too is quickly forgotten. It's stereotyped thinking—

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you leave this apologia for your colleague the Minister of Industry and Tourism and try to deal with the consumers in the province?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have to deal with the business community if we are going to deal with consumer problems and we are trying to deal with both.

It is stereotyped thinking by both businessmen and consumer advocates that has in the end forced the government to take greater

and greater responsibilities in the marketplace. It is this same kind of thinking that is helping to drive up government expenditures. We are trying to keep them down; we hope that we will succeed.

We don't want to be the indispensable policemen. It is simply unnecessary and we think it can be made completely redundant by a change in attitudes. I hope in the next few months to be encouraging local businessmen to take more responsibility for consumer complaints. I feel that the Better Business Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and Boards of Trade can take these responsibilities and handle them very responsibly.

I am going to be speaking to businessmen about what we expect from them to ensure that my ministry does not grow in size; we do not want to build an empire. We have to widen the circle of participation in consumer protection if we are to make it as effective as we would like to see it and also to keep it inexpensive. That will be a major objective in my ministry in the months ahead. [4:30]

That doesn't have the cardboard-cutout simplicity that we might expect from the members of the official opposition, and of course I'll never make enough changes in policy to qualify as a member of the third party in the House. But in the end, we expect that co-operation—voluntary, as much as we can make it—will bring the consumer his just expectations.

The consumer initiatives in Her Honour's address warrant the full support of all members of this Legislature. It will be disappointing to me if, on the night of April 5, I see the opposition parties vote against them. I hope they won't. Probably they will on at least one vote, and probably they will split on the other. I'm looking forward to that vote on April 5 very much.

Mr. Renwick: Now we will hear some sense.

Mr. Breaugh: I wondered what they did with the stuff after it went through the shredder. Now I know. It becomes the minister's speech.

The other comment I wanted to make before we get settled on the Throne Speech is that maybe the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations could do a little investigating about how badly we got ripped off on the sound system in here. Just before he goes, he could make a small note of that.

I wanted to make some reference to one of the things we heard a lot about last fall

and we keep hearing a good deal about—it's mentioned often in the Throne Speech—and that is the field of justice. It's now called justice; if I remember rightly, last fall it was called law and order. We were going to embark on a great law and order campaign in Ontario. I think we all looked forward at least to the experience of what might happen there. We had a new Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), and at least if we watched the TV every night we saw there was a lot of legislation being proposed out in the hall. When the cameras were going and the lights were on there were all kinds of ideas being bandied about.

The problem was, there wasn't very much going on in here. There was a lot of talk outside the House, a lot of comments, a lot of opinions and a lot of different ideas tried, but not very much legislation put before the House. The problem that he's got, I suppose, is that the cameras have moved inside the House and something is going to have to happen, because the whole TV studio mill is now in here.

One of the things that has resulted from all this—and I think it is a very significant point in Canadian history—is that we've now managed to charge one of the members of the Detroit Red Wings with assault. So far that's the high point in the new law and order campaign. One professional hockey player did it—in front of a lot of people, which I suppose, is what makes the difference—and he got charged.

Mr. Samis: Wait until the next football season starts.

Mr. Breaugh: That's true. In the football season it's going to be a problem because there are going to be a lot of assault cases laid there—

Mr. Samis: A lot of meanies among those Roughriders.

Mr. Breaugh: —except when the Argonauts are playing, but that's normal for our guys.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You couldn't charge them with assault.

Mr. Samis: It's impossible.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's impossible.

Mr. Breaugh: Not with the Argonauts playing, you're right.

An hon. member: Maybe the baseball team.

Mr. Breaugh: Maybe the ball team, but not the Argos.

The other thing we have seen so far is the great escapade in investigation into television violence. Frankly, I like my violence on television; I'd rather have it there than on the streets. I really dislike people who take potshots at Kojak; anybody who sucks lollipops has got to be okay by me.

Those are really the two notable changes that we've had toward a law and order society in Ontario. One is charging a hockey player and the other is picking on Kojak. I don't understand that. I don't think that's really a significant move, or at least the kind of thing that we anticipated.

The other place where justice is mentioned in the Throne Speech now is that there's a lot of backlog in the court system, and what are you going to do about that? Of course, there are a lot of problems that are associated with that, some of which are jurisdictional and some constitutional. It's not hard any more to identify the accused; he is usually the guy who is out on bail. If one talks to police officers, one of their biggest problems is to try to keep up with the arrest system—to get the arrests written out before the guys are out on bail again. That's a very significant problem, particularly when it gets to the courts and one is talking about sentencing.

The backlog in the courts being such, it is very difficult now for police officers to really remember who actually committed the crime. If it weren't for his notes and the fact that the accused generally sits up near the front of the court, the policeman very often has a difficult time identifying who actually is the criminal in the case, or the alleged criminal. In fact, a lot of what's going on is as a result of what was once called, I suppose, a correctional system; it became sort of a holding tank, where you dumped them. And in a lot of cases, they became training schools for crime. That's where they got their finishing touches on how to break safes and how to conduct various forms of criminal activities. There seems to be a lot of that kind of lack of balance. There doesn't seem to be much common sense any more; I must say there is not very much coming from the government side of the House in particular.

[4:30]

One of the things I'm supposed to take a look at in this House is the work of the Solicitor General's (Mr. MacBeth) ministry. In recent weeks we've had some discussions about the kind of ammunition that police officers use and the kind of procedures they use when there's a police chase on. These are rather small things, I suppose, unless you happen to be on the receiving end of the

ammunition or you happen to be the one who's being chased at that particular moment.

There are some bigger problems, ones which really aren't very dramatic. The amount of police training that goes on in Ontario, although it's much better than it once was, is still not really significant. The kind of budget cuts that are going on in my area really mean that small police stations are being closed. The kinds of programmes that are being cut are really odd, because they're really the first occasions when the police departments were getting out into the community. They had community relations programmes in Toronto and a number of areas for the first time in many years; they were an attempt by the police force to kind of associate with their community, because they sensed, as many people have, that police forces by and large have lost touch with their community.

There aren't very many places in Ontario where everybody knows the cop on the beat any more. It's a major problem. So they set out to rectify that by setting up community relations clinics, by training officers in special ways and by running things which sometimes accomplished much more than they set out to accomplish.

What I suppose might be considered in some respects as a frivolous thing, a safety programme, not only taught kids school safety but brought police officers back into human contact with kids. In some of the schools where I taught, that was the first non-threatening situation that those kids had ever seen in which a police officer participated. He wasn't trying to bust them for ripping off the local five-and-dime store. He was trying to be nice to them and he was trying to explain things to them.

Although the major thrust of that programme really was kind of traffic safety or all kinds of safety for kids in school, a major part of what occurred there was that the police officer established a relationship with the kids in that area. He got to know them on a first-name basis and the kids got to know him, and many of them they lost their fear of a police officer through that. Some of them regained it shortly thereafter, but at least temporarily they had some security in that situation.

In a lot of places it means that the little local cop shop, the local police station, isn't there any more. There's now a big one, 20 miles away. The people don't know who's policing that area and they don't know where to go if they want to talk to somebody. In my home town, there always was a little police station and three or four police officers

who worked the town and everybody knew each one of them; and if they weren't your friends, at least they weren't your enemies. That's hardly true anywhere in Ontario any more.

There used to be a great tradition, if you like, about police officers doing foot patrols. The cop on the beat was a great guy; you didn't do bad things when he was around, and if you did, and it wasn't of a serious nature, it was a discussable item. He had considerable respect in his community. In a lot of major urban centres in Ontario now, there really aren't very many foot patrols; there aren't very many police officers walking up and down the streets talking to people. There are two in a cruiser and that's much different than one officer with whom you can stand and have a little chat with on the corner. There are still some, but at a time when they're really putting on budget restraints, that's one of the first things to go.

I think one of the biggest problems we have is that there are much larger police organizations in Ontario now. Almost everywhere there's that bureaucracy at work; there's kind of a dehumanized process involved. One of the things that it does, oddly enough, is that it seems to put the police officer under a good deal of pressure. He can no longer be relaxed in his job. There are things happening in Ontario that never used to happen here. There are bureaucracies to answer to; there are procedures to be followed; there are a great many complicated things which make it difficult for an officer to try to even survive as an ordinary guy trying to do his job.

One very simple thing is that there's an increased population in Ontario; and with that increased population, the percentage, if you like, of people who actually commit a crime also increases. In simple numbers, there's more there. There is, right now, a withdrawal of a great many social services in Ontario. A lot of the things that used to stop crime before it started, a lot of the families who needed counselling, a lot of the kids who needed some help are feeling that pinch from that withdrawal of social service. Those people who a little while ago might have had a chance to go and talk to somebody about problems they might have in their own home or in their own little community are finding now, and are going to find, that that's becoming increasingly difficult because those people aren't there anymore; because their caseload is much higher than it was, say a year ago and because

there is just not quite as much for them to rely on in any sense.

There are those who, I guess, make the argument that although the welfare system could be abused in a lot of cases it's that welfare system that keeps them out of crime. If you want to be very crass about it, if you don't have to steal for money, if you can get it from another source, the chances of your stealing for the money are somewhat less. I think if you looked at the statistics from American cities where welfare systems at one time at least were much worse than the ones we had here, you would find some considerable support for that.

The worst thing, though, that I think I see in modern police work is probably the unreal expectations that are put on the officers. They are expected to do things and to be correct all the time, and to get very little support for doing so. They have to make decisions in split-second situations with very little guidance in many cases and very little support in a great many other cases. Then their decision is scrutinized over the next six, or eight months, or sometimes a year or two years. It is scrutinized by the press and by all the politicians; nobody wants to be associated with that guy who in 30 seconds had to decide what to do in a given situation.

We saw the Solicitor General say that's part of being a police officer. Wouldn't it be nice if there was some support for that officer who had to make that kind of decision? Wouldn't it be nice if there was a little better training for that police officer? Wouldn't it be a much better idea to provide him with a controlled situation where he didn't so often have to make that kind of decision?

We can make lousy decisions and come back tomorrow and change our mind, that has been done before; but a police officer maybe can't. He may be firing a weapon and he can't pull that bullet back. He is, I think, in an increasingly complicated and uncomfortable situation. One of the things I have some reservations about in Ontario is that there is certainly a lot of training going on that not many people are aware of. I don't think very many people in the general population are aware that our police have riot training. They have, and they drill regularly. Not very many people are aware that in Ontario it is legal for the chief of police or the commissioner of police actually to declare any kind of weapon or any kind of ammunition to be legal for his officers to use.

I don't know how you would put this in a gentlemanly way, but there is kind of a concentrated training schedule going on here. People are being trained in certain skills that I think emulate what is going on in American cities and at some point in time they are going to want to use those skills. Whether they have sufficient discretion to use them wisely or not is a good question, but we are spending a lot of money in aiming our police forces at that kind of thing.

In Ontario we have this impression that we will never become like American society with that kind of police ethic, if you like, working around in our urban area; we don't have SWAT teams in Ontario, we think. But we do have one in Toronto. We think we won't have special weapons floating around all over the place; but we have them, and every once in a while you can watch the news and see that happen. You can see that American-style cruiser roll up; you can see the battle wagon, fully charged on the inside, with specially trained police officers aboard.

What do those gentlemen do? They practise. I had a report the other day that the special weapons squad in Toronto rolled up to the U of T campus and spent an hour or so chasing a dog around because they needed the practice. That's a lot of money and that's a lot of skilled help chasing a dog around a university campus.

We have in Ontario a kind of British tradition, if you like, of police training and police officers. We do allow them to carry weapons here and they don't do that in England all the time, but we have their aspect of it as opposed to the American approach or tradition of an officer being somewhat a little more aggressive in the carrying out of his duties.

I see some problems there and frankly I don't see very much that is going to help us. There certainly isn't very much in the Throne Speech that would help our system of justice. Some of the frustration signs that I see are much more militant police associations. I can never remember seeing a police association in Ontario taking out a full-page ad on anything, and that's currently what's going on.

I think too it is only fair to say that the policemen themselves have a rather poor image these days. It is a little difficult to defend some of their actions, but it is also unfair to take the two or three who do things that are not perhaps quite according to Hoyle and put them up as being what every police officer really is. On the other side of the coin there is considerable lack of

respect for police officers in Ontario, and we can see that on virtually any street. We can see it in my riding. We can see it in Toronto. We can see it anywhere. I don't really remember when I was a kid that I had at least that attitude. I don't ever remember loving the police force or anything like that, but I don't ever remember seeing those open signs of disrespect. It's here and frankly I don't see anybody doing very much about it.

One of the things that happened just over this weekend was the incident in Toronto's Chinese community and I find that unreal, even the allegation the police officers went into a place where there was supposed gambling going on. I didn't see anything about gambling charges being laid. I saw something about somebody burning money on a table. That's surely a sign of frustration.

Mr. Lawlor: That's a capital crime in our society. Imagine; burning money!

Mr. Breaugh: I rarely do that myself.

An hon. member: It is better to go to the paper shredder.

Mr. Breaugh: I think part of the problem, though, is that being a police officer in Ontario has become a thankless job. There is very little support for them. There is a lot of pressure on them. There is the higher crime rate. There is perhaps the lack of public support. There is a lot of time spent on useless jobs; serving bench warrants, driving around, waiting for judges; and the paper work that's there, as there is in every bureaucracy.

There are perhaps several indications that organized crime is here, although we very often spend a lot of time, especially in this House, denying that there is organized crime; but it's difficult to figure out how they can one day break up a supposed \$70 million drug ring in one city and then turn around and say there really isn't any organized crime in Ontario. It takes considerable organization to get that kind of thing together.

There used to be an OPP investigation branch that did criminal investigations on organized crime. I am told it's barely in existence any more. There seems to have been some drop or change in priorities. I remember at one time all the discussions about organized crime were hot and heavy in Ontario. It seems to run in cycles. It doesn't seem to get discussed any more and therefore perhaps the government is letting down on that a bit. Perhaps public pressure is the only thing that wakes them up. Maybe it is just that people have seen "The Valachi

Papers" and are sick and tired of hearing about organized crime or whatever it might be.

At any rate, I don't see very much in this Throne Speech and I haven't seen very much on the part of this government that really is, even by anybody's stretch of the imagination, leadership. I haven't even seen them take much of a stand in terms of responsibility. I haven't seen anything that would guide or support or help a police officer doing his job, and I haven't seen very much that dealt with the role of a police officer. From what I remember when I was growing up, he did a much different job from the one I see is being done now; much different. I think there really needs to be some stabilization of that whole effort and some alteration of the expectations that we have of those officers. I think, quite frankly, that's an area of justice that can be changed and ought to be changed, and I really don't support the idea that the way to alter your system of justice is go out and appoint 40 or 50 more judges. I think there are some fundamental problems there that no one has even looked at yet, at least no one is willing to make very much of a to-do about or to make a public statement about.

I want to say a couple of words too about something else that seems to have been forgotten since last September. Last September there was a lot of talk about occupational health. There seems to be that cycle in Ontario, and we seem to be hung with it. I see it mentioned in the Throne Speech. It is really given a lot of time and effort.

It says in the Throne Speech that the occupational health problem is a top priority item. I don't know what that means. I seem to remember everybody always saying that it's a top priority item, but I don't see anything to correct the situation at all. I don't even hear any minister of the Crown saying anything about it, let alone introducing legislation in that field. I remember some promises that were made about task forces here and an occupational health commission, terms of reference undefined. I am waiting to see that happening.

I really wonder, aside from the television ads and the odd occupational health meeting that's held around Ontario, if the government cares at all in that field. Perhaps we should redefine that word, they probably do care but are they willing to do anything about it? That's what I don't see.

For one thing, every time an issue is raised you are immediately into a jungle that involves three ministries—Health, Environment

and Labour. No one seems to be able to bring those three together. You ask a question one day of the Minister of Labour and you get one answer; the next day you can get something from Health; the next day you can get something from Environment. They never seem to operate together.

[4:45]

Mr. Renwick: And, meanwhile, Leo Bernier carries on without them.

Mr. Breaugh: True, true. One of the problems that I see is how do you sort out three bureaucracies? God knows, you have a tough enough time trying to make one work, but three of them together seems really to boggle the mind.

The fact simply seems to be that there really isn't any uniform policy in Ontario about this. There seems to be a great deal of difficulty enforcing what laws are there. It seems to be very difficult to get the one ministry to do any monitoring on a regular basis; and then more difficult than that, to get them to release the results. They don't want to tell you what happened. It's more difficult, perhaps, even than that to get somebody to set some standards and explain those to people.

The real killer seems to be the enforcement of the present laws in Ontario. I really don't know of very many occasions when those laws have been enforced except by mutual agreement between the company and the government. They seem to be most reluctant to do that.

What happens in fact is that we seem to just kind of lurch from one disaster to another—a big scandal someplace and a health scare there and a lot of press that surrounds that. The government is quite prepared then to do something in that situation. But if you're around six or eight months later the same thing is going on. The promises are forgotten.

Some of the people in my riding work in a plant in Scarborough, Johns-Manville. If you recall, in the last election campaign there was a lot of discussion about that particular plant. Those problems still aren't solved. Although there were a few investigations, although some results were tabled, the basic problem in the plant is still there.

How long does it really take? How many have to die—and that is not a word to throw around—but how many people do have to die before the present laws are really enforced, before they're carried out?

All of these things seem to come about too, through the effort of people working in these plants. I would have thought that one of the ministers would be doing this job; but in fact what I find is that all of this stuff is uncovered by workers, individuals, or by their unions; or worse yet, by some politician or by some newsman who doesn't even work in that place. But who gets paid and who's responsible for enforcing those laws? Sometimes that's a little difficult to get out.

What seems to happen is that agreements are made that companies will, over a long period of time, clean up their act. In the interim the government will be satisfied to kind of monitor the situation, look after any real disasters that people find out about and others are okay, others are exempt.

Probably the main cause, really, is that the cost of a safe workplace is pretty expensive. Cleaning up factories, especially ones that are old, can be an expensive piece of business. But it's expensive in more than one way. That cost can be borne by the taxpayer. You can pay for it out of your health care system, you can pay for it through compensation, you can pay for it in terms of damage to the environment around those plants—and they do pay that price. We're paying it now.

I suppose, in theory anyway, it could be paid for by that industry itself; the industry that's making the profit the minister referred to as being okay. I don't have anything that much against an industry making a dollar, but I do think it's high time in Ontario that this thing came of age—that the legislation was changed substantially so that the prime cost of providing a safe workplace is put on those people who make the profit.

That seems to me to be a reasonable attitude. But in Ontario today they really don't do it unless they have to, and, quite frankly, that's probably because there isn't any profit in occupational health for most companies. The profit, if there is one, is only to the workers and to the people who live and work in that community; and these are things you can't see on a little balance sheet.

There is, I guess, a kind of corporate tradition in Ontario that there really isn't any problem with the workplace until someone discovers it. There's no need to go in and do that job, to monitor, to require a safe workplace; and really, in the end you only do that if you have to.

One of the things I hear all the time from the other side of the House is that this side,

the opposition, doesn't have a monopoly on social conscience. That's true; we don't. Yet the government must have more than just a conscience. It needs to carry out its responsibilities; and this government seems quite prepared, all the time, to stop just short of that.

I am sure they do think about those situations that are unsafe, they are quite prepared to talk about it; they do sponsor television commercials and they do sponsor the odd seminar, but they stop just short of actually doing anything about it. They stop just short of enforcing existing legislation; and that's a crime and that really hasn't been addressed in any significant way in this Throne Speech or in anything this government has done since last Sept. 18.

I want to cover another point, and that is the federal wage control programme, because that economy that is being discussed in Ottawa, and hasn't been discussed at all, at least not in a formal way, in this House, has some pretty serious ramifications for Ontario. I wonder—and this small question has been raised during the question period from time to time—how legal is it for the Province of Ontario to throw itself into that kind of a major economic programme, without even debating it formally in the House at all, not once, simply by signing it. How constitutional is that?

And setting aside those two points, which the government could always send off to a good judge for eight or nine years, how democratic is it? Maybe even more pertinent, is it a self-defeating process to do it in that way? There is no option covering provincial employees; and I suppose that's probably a politically popular thing because not many people are all that happy with our teachers and our civil servants, but I wonder how fair that is. I would like to think that a government that purports to have a social conscience all the time, ought to at least once in a while consider fairness as being something that's worthwhile sticking your neck out for.

Frankly, it strikes me that that's a rather convenient copout that's been used. To sign an agreement outside the House and not bring it before the House in any way, shape or form gives them the added advantage of two things. They won't have to listen to all this extraneous debate; secondly, there is no possibility that the government will be defeated on that particular motion, particularly if the motion can't even get before the House. There is a fringe benefit, if the whole thing goes screwy one can always blame

Ottawa, and that's a favourite sport that everyone uses.

In this minority government situation there has been an increasing tendency for the government to operate outside of the House. If you recall, the major cuts in health care services were announced outside of the House; the signing of this Anti-Inflation Board agreement was announced outside of the House. In fact, a great deal of the day-to-day operation of the government has been done outside of the House with no debate, with no vote. That's convenience, if you like; I am not so terribly sure that that's brilliant though.

In Ontario we have a heavily industrialized economy in the steel industry and the auto industry. Those two major industries are going to be drastically affected by that programme, and that is going to happen this year. Those contracts are up for negotiation. In some of the other industries, in pulp and paper, that's already happened. I just wonder, in a matter of time how many people are going to be affected and what the time frame will be.

In my own riding, just before Christmas, we did some surveys to find out what people thought about that anti-inflation programme. The rough consensus was, very simply, well they didn't understand it, but somebody ought to do something and apparently Trudeau had done something, so let's see whether it works or not.

But in my community they are now beginning to understand it. They are now beginning to understand what that means to their wages, what that means to their business; and they don't like it any more. If members happened to watch the news last Monday they might have seen 20,000 or 30,000 people on Parliament Hill protesting, and that's part of our democratic process. It's unfortunate the members of this House haven't even had a chance to debate that particular agreement. That hasn't been brought here.

If one wanted to I suppose one could say there are political motives for doing things in that way, that at some point in time all of us have to get charged up and loaded, and at some point in time there will be a major confrontation in the Province of Ontario, probably this summer or this fall, and that that would be a good time for that government to call an election on that particular issue. In a pinch they really can't be accused of unfairness, because after all they didn't design the programme, Ottawa did; and then in a real bind they could probably say: "At least we had the courage to do something," whatever it might have been.

One of the things I think it is going to do, though, is destroy the economy of Ontario, particularly the industrial economy; and I think it's going to bring about industrial strife like we have never seen it. I really am afraid that in this instance they opted for a move which perhaps was politically wise, as perhaps it wouldn't have been smart to bring that agreement before the House, but I think it was most unfair and in the long run will turn out to be unwise because people these days like to know what actually happened.

I want to say a couple of words about the restraint that ain't. As a result of the restraint system that has been announced in Ontario, particularly in a number of areas like day care, it is really questionable whether in the end anybody will ever save any money. I don't know that they have. I certainly haven't seen any figures to support the idea that that restraint programme really will save anybody any money in the long run. I know it is going to put some hardships on people. I know that in the municipalities decisions are being made now that are really rather sad.

There are some tax bills that are going to be out in May and June of this year that are going to impose real hardships on people; we know that. There are projects that ought to be carried out that won't be. There are services that have been rendered in the past, that are necessary to the life of a community, that are going to be cut. It's fine for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) to stand up and say that people shouldn't take junkets. That wouldn't be a bad idea if he made that a ministerial order for his own ministry or if the government decided that none of our government people from Queen's Park will take junkets, because they seem to do their fair share of that particular exercise as well.

One of the things that in particular is a real problem is this thing called day care, because a lot of people don't use it and a lot of people have a ethic that really says they should not do that, that one of the members of the family should stay home and look after the kids and they don't want to use that kind of facility. But for a great many other people such facilities are a really necessary part of their lives and it's something that has given them a mechanism, if you like, to break out of some rather severe social problems.

Again, the cuts were made in such a way that really what we're talking about is the quality of care, and that always defuses the argument. The dramatic thing, as the government well knows, is to shut down the thing entirely. When you want to convince people

that you're serious and that you're brutal folks and you're going to take dead aim at something, you shut down something somewhere. They've done that in a number of spots in Ontario and have done a little backtracking. But in the field of day care, they really have not done that. What they've said is that they're going to alter the quality of care; and then it becomes a somewhat more nebulous argument.

Also they're going to increase fees. For a lot of us a couple of bucks a day doesn't seem like too much, except that if you're a one-parent family and you have a couple of kids, that's another \$20 or \$30 a week to you. There are a lot of those people on border-line jobs for whom that's a dead end. That extra \$20 or \$30 a week is the killer. That's the one that puts them back on the welfare role.

There are a number of people, and I've heard it said in my own riding, who really say that you ought to go to private day care systems and that the government ought to get out of that. Private day care seems to be working well.

Again, it probably works reasonably well. It's one of those areas, though, where I have some qualms about whether people ought to be making a profit on that particular kind of care. In that and in care for the aged, I have my doubts that anybody ought to be in there with a profit motive. I don't doubt that if you want to give luxury day care or luxury care to senior citizens and charge a big buck, if people can afford to pay, that's okay. But in terms of basic care, where quality is necessary for the poor as well as for the rich, I see the obligation of the government quite clearly to get in there. This government, up until this year, has been quite happy to enter into that field and has done so on numerous occasions all over Ontario. In fact the very minister who speaks rather disparagingly from time to time on day care and working mothers and things like that has been quite elated on other occasions to cut the magic ribbon at the opening of a day care centre. Government has taken great pride in many of their press releases to show at least what they have done—not what they should have done, but at least what measures they have taken so far.

The real problem with all of this cut in the daycare field is not really what went on but who is affected, because for those who can afford it I suppose daycare at any price is no problem. Raise the price and they'll come up with it somehow. Shortage of spaces really affects those people who need to get to work, in some sense; and many of them

—at least in my experience—have been fighting for a number of years to get back on the right track. They have come off welfare of some form, or mother's allowance of some kind, and have finally managed to get themselves a job again. That's no easy task these days; particularly for many of those people, some of whom are not that well educated and most of whom are in service industry jobs—waitresses and what not, who don't make a lot of money. According to the Minister of Industry and Tourism, they really don't deserve the minimum wage in Ontario because they probably will pick up a tip or two here and there. That's the kind of person who is hit, and that I find most unfair. [5:00]

There are some problems in understanding the minister in this case because he has a tendency to say one thing and mean another, but he did say he was quite prepared to subsidize. But you see, there is that problem in there, that anyone who is living on welfare allowance in Ontario knows that is not exactly a luxury existence, it's a pretty confining one, so there isn't really much money to play around with.

There's kind of a base that you get at. One of the things that bothers me about it all is that it hurts those people the most, and they seem to be the ones the government has decided to go after. I don't know why; maybe they're just unpopular people. But those borderline recipients who have managed to get themselves over that and back into the mainstream of life again, who feel satisfied and productive with their lives once more, are the ones who are going to be tossed back.

It's interesting to follow the press releases on the opening up of new facilities. It doesn't really matter that they're opening up new facilities with old funds; nonetheless the government can, in some honesty, say that new ones are going to open up this year. It doesn't really matter they withheld funds for some time. I suppose to them if you open it up you open it up. It doesn't matter how many spaces you need. It doesn't matter how long the money has been held. When it's open you can cut the ribbon and that's the purpose of it all.

I don't really think I've ever heard anybody say that Ontario had a daycare system which was luxurious or which was way beyond what was actually needed. Most people will recognize that in that particular field we are well behind what we ought to have. There is that need for good-quality day care, and there is, if you want to be very

selfish about it, a need for the general population to see that that is provided. If you're unhappy with the idea of people living off welfare and you really want to encourage them to use the old work ethic and get back to work and support themselves in large measure, then you've got to give them the means to do that.

The fact is, it's not there; it just isn't there. What small movements were made in the last few years to get there—in terms of counselling, in terms of rehabilitation, in terms of providing daycare services—all of that is being cut back.

I fail to see how there is going to be any saving in the long run. Somehow or other you're going to pay for that. Whether you're into some kind of private daycare storage system, where you shove the kids in; or whether you want to do it properly and give them some care, one way or the other you'll pay. You'll either pay now when they're young or you'll pay later when they're older. If you want to get at something like the crime problem which I discussed earlier, this is one of the ways to do it—provide good-quality daycare for that kind of child in that kind of home.

One of the highlights of the House so far has been the performance of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor). I have some appreciation of the difficulties he has from time to time. I would like to think that he's not really a bad person. I would like to think that he's a little ignorant, by times, of the ramifications of the things that he does, and that as he becomes more and more aware of what happens when he says something, or does something, or makes some motion like restricting a budget, he will change his mind.

We have seen some small indication of changing statures, I suppose. I really don't think he saved anybody any money, but I am firmly convinced that he has caused a lot of people a lot of grief; and that is really a pretty hefty price to pay.

I really don't understand all of the discussions of savings that he purported to put out in the first place, and then the rather unfortunate comments he made from time to time. I certainly understand his problems with the press and media, who have that disturbing habit of actually saying today the things one said two days ago, and then repeating them tomorrow so that one can't forget about them. That's a cross we all have to bear.

If not on economic grounds and if not on intellectual grounds, at least on compassion-

ate grounds I would like to see the government respond to that need in the community. The need is real—I don't see anybody arguing about that—but I don't see that response. I hear it promised a lot. I heard the Premier of the province (Mr. Davis) say they were compassionate people who dealt with people's needs. I heard the Minister of Community and Social Services say, quite plainly, that he was going to see that no one in need would ever really suffer. He is going to have some difficulty reconciling that. I would really like to see them do it.

One of the other things I want to discuss is the role of the ordinary citizen in Ontario. We have a pretty rich history and tradition of people participating in their community. This morning I attended a mental health banquet; it was just chock-full of people who had spent their time and efforts over the last few years working in the area of mental health, with the civil servants and supposedly with the help and encouragement of the government of Ontario.

I can quote a number of other small things in my own riding to illustrate this point. There is a little thing called Handy Transit, which I suppose is kind of a silly name, but it does very good work. It's just a couple of little vans to take around people who are handicapped. Now that seems like nothing. But for someone who is in a wheel chair and can't get anywhere, that's the key or mechanism that gets them out and into the community. Over the last couple of years, when we have had that little organization working in the city of Oshawa, we've seen our people out a good deal more. In fact, a fellow by the name of Doug won the "man of the year" award, and he is handicapped. As a matter of fact, he is now the president of the Handy Transit organization. It's a very important little key; it's not all that expensive and not all that cumbersome an organization. It doesn't have a big bureaucracy; it's run out of one person's home. But it is having trouble, because it can't get any money. This organization has applied to the government. It's too bad they weren't running a grape-stomping festival or they would have qualified for Wintario; or that they weren't an established bureaucracy or they would have got some money out of somebody else. But because they are new, because they are different and because they don't fit into anybody's box, they don't get any money. They have tried twice and we have talked—but there is still no money forthcoming.

There is another small organization—there are similar ones throughout the province—called Helping Hand. Again it is not a big

deal. It's just a group of people who got together and said there are lots of people in our community who need a little help to do small jobs. They need a porch repaired, they need something painted, they need some backyards cleaned up—little, everyday kind of handyman things. And there is this little organization that provides that. But it too is having its financial difficulties. It doesn't pay big money but it does have a staff of two or three people, who oddly enough are those same people who once were on welfare and are now employed in this field. They do these little odd jobs for senior citizens or people who need that kind of help. It can't exist any more either.

The classic one from my riding is a boys' club that has been established for some time now, Simcoe Hall, a place called Eastview Boys' Club. The entire building was put up at no cost to the government, and the club has been running successfully for some time. It applied to the government for operational funds. The classic answer that came back from the Ministry of Community and Social Services was, "We are sorry. You don't get the money, because you are not innovative enough. You've been in business too long. In other words, you don't get it because you work. The thing you've got is actually operating. It's not pie in the sky. It's there. It's delivering a service to the community. And because of that, you don't qualify. You don't get any money." That's a ridiculous approach, I think, for a government to take.

I recognize the need for restraint as well as anybody else does. But in Ontario there is a tradition of small community groups getting together and, with a little bit of help from the government, providing a service to that community at a much cheaper dollar value than anything else we've got. If you want to see a real foul-up, watch a government bureaucracy move in on one of those; watch them hire the supervisory staff that never was there before and watch the paper work multiply. This is a government that seems to have a penchant for saying that if we ever got into power we'd riddle you with bureaucracy. I want to say very frankly that there is no chance at all, not a snowball's chance, that anybody could ever put into Ontario a larger and more costly bureaucracy than the Conservative government has put in here in 32 years. It's impossible. It has just hit bottom or top or whatever. It is just totally impossible to do anything.

These volunteer organizations—and they are all over the place in Ontario—have really served us well, and the funds are being slowly but surely withdrawn from these groups. We

heard this morning that maybe mental health associations will get some funds later on when the government has sorted out this whole health care mess. One of the things that has got them really mad and upset—and they are an odd group to be mad and upset, because they are usually reasonably well off, they are usually people who have a little bit of time to donate to their community; they are at least people who aren't suffering, although lately more and more people in the lower economic brackets are getting involved in these kinds of groups—but what really gets them mad is that nobody can tell them why all of this is happening.

You see, all of this has been decided on some secret priority list and nobody is prepared to tell us which of the many thousand secret task force reports are being used in any given situation—a kind of situation that we were discussing earlier today. Nobody really is prepared to tell us what criteria are involved. We can't have an argument about it all.

The government has a tendency to say, "We are now going to do this," then if they need to they will pull out some task force. Of course, any good administrator who's worth his salt can find you a task force somewhere that proves your point. I'm told that in certain ministries they keep a file and when the minister wants a task force to prove whatever particular point he's on that day, the administrator's job is to pull that particular report and give it to him. And that's the only one that comes out—and even then only those parts of it that he really wants to use.

That's kind of unfortunate, because what it really means is that the people of Ontario who need that kind of service are subject to straight political shifts. The government is not in a position where it has to rationalize the situation. The government's not in a position where it has to produce facts and figures and statistics and reports. It produces only what it wants. It first does the action and then subsequently will send somebody out to find out why they did it. That has happened again and again in the last six months and it's still happening.

One of the difficulties they are having in all of this is to try to sort it out. The plea I heard this morning at the mental health association was a very simple one and, I thought, a most reasonable one, and one put in a very reasoned and responsive way. What were the priorities in all these health care cuts? What was number one and what was number two? What criteria were used? What reports

did they use? Where did you get that kind of information?

"Who decided?" is an interesting one. There were some interesting discussions this morning about whether or not health councils decided these things. There weren't health councils, so it couldn't have been them. It must have been somebody on the ministry staff, but who did that and was his report right? What was the magic formula that was arrived at?

All of those are questions that I can't answer to my people, because the government hasn't bothered to bring it to the attention of the House.

Another thing—and this little part is sort of inspired by the Premier (Mr. Davis) himself, who on one day, in interjections back and forth across the House, raised the point that really rather hit me sorely. He said that we in the opposition didn't understand rural Ontario—none of us. There are a lot of us who were born and raised in rural Ontario; I spent 20 years there. I rather take offence to that. There are a number of people of these benches who have lived their life in rural, eastern Ontario, and I rather think we do understand.

Mr. Samis: Some ridings of eastern Ontario have dirt farmers from Toronto representing them.

Mr. Breaugh: I know one.

Mr. Samis: Prince Edward-Lennox.

Mr. Breaugh: One of the things that I think you've stumbled on in some faint way—and I think it's a bad move—was the little thing about the small hospitals in Ontario. In one sense, in a very crass political sense, I can understand that if you are going to make some cuts that people will see, you've got to shut down the whole machine. Never mind 24 beds here or 16 beds there, close the whole schlemiel; shut the door, pack them off somewhere. Certainly they will see that.

And the way these cuts were announced certainly tended to heighten that kind of an idea. The minister each day went to a new place, followed by the press, and if he got lucky somebody threw a snowball at him and a small riot ensued. But you shut it down entirely.

I think what you misunderstood in all that is that that's not really the point. The point is not saving a few dollars, three or four per cent, out of the health care budget. The point is where you hit. I think it shows a real lack of understanding on the part of the

government of what a small rural, Ontario town really is. It's much more, a whole lot more, than a health care delivery system. As a matter of fact that's maybe not even the priority item in some instances. It's much more than that.

Those hospitals in many cases were put up, brick by brick, by the people there. They were paid for by those people, by and large. The equipment that goes into them is put in, not the way it is done in a big city where everything goes in at once, but this year the women's auxiliary buys this and next year the Rotary Club buys that, and the following year the Lions Club buys something else. Each little component in that health care unit or that hospital, if we want to talk English about it all, each little bit of that hospital is a part of that community.

[5:15]

That's how they got a hospital in the first place, and to a large extent the services that are rendered there are done so by volunteers, they're done by the people in that community, and they take great pride in going back to that hospital, having achieved that initial success of getting one up, and making it a better place, and putting in their time on volunteer services in that hospital. I really think that is a major flaw, and perhaps a fatal one, in what the government has done in that particular area. That hospital is a focal point for that community. That's a big deal. Drive down University Ave. and there are hospitals all over the place, but go to little rural Ontario and the hospital is a big deal there.

It employs a lot of people, for one thing. It's a source of great local pride. It's a place where the doctors and the nurses and the attendants go every day. There's that other tradition there, that if one lives in a place in Napanee, where I come from, when somebody is sick, one goes and sees them. We don't send flowers or stuff like that, although that happens as well, but almost everybody who knows that guy goes to visit him in the hospital and they do that two or three times while he's in there. One can't do that if the hospital isn't there, and one sure can't do that if the hospital is 50 miles away.

Maybe that's got nothing to do with health care services, although I would make the argument that it really does. I think that when my dad was in the hospital recently it meant a lot to him that people he knew could come to see him. I think that's an important part of health care services, frankly. Some bureaucrat sitting in Queen's

Park has his little secret formula and his little secret documented report there that says that hospital ought to close because it's within 10 or 15 or 20 miles of some other major hospital, and he says according to all these criteria that thing ought to shut down. We ought to take that gentleman and we ought to park his rear end in the middle of Chesley in the winter and let him watch the snow fall and then get out his little criteria and let him see if they still fit, let him try trudging down the road.

I think it's just that kind of misunderstanding of rural Ontario that's causing some problems here. If there's too much snow on the road, people in Toronto take the subway. There's a lot of places in Ontario where there isn't any subway and if there's too much snow on the road you stay home. There is that difference. There are all kinds of examples of that and they've been raised in the House quite thoroughly.

I'm not terribly sure that criteria, whatever it was, that was selected, fits anywhere. One of the things that's causing a problem now is the projected fear. Even in those places that haven't had a closing everybody is worried about it. Frankly, I read the game plan on the other side of the House to be this way: they would announce 24 closings and then they would say, "We won't close 24, we'll close 12. Twelve hospitals say, 'We've missed it, somebody else got it.'" Everybody else in a major urban area will say, "It didn't shut us down. It might have cut us back but it didn't shut us down," and only 12 little places get it in the head. Then they can probably move that back to eight, and if they're prepared to discuss it a bit more and the heat gets hot they just move it back to six. And if they're left with six Liberal ridings in the western part of the Province of Ontario, who cares anyway. That's the game plan that I read from the other side of the House.

Where it went wrong, quite frankly, is that people do relate to that. People understand that. Members would be amazed at the number of people from my riding who know those hospitals. They go to those areas for their vacation. A great many of them, surprisingly enough, have relatives there, and that's why they care. A great many of them just plain care because they think that was a wrong move on the part of the government. The savings may have been great, but one of the added expenses they had was they had to go out and buy the deputy minister another Buick, and there's another \$9,000 or \$10,000 there that really isn't a saving. It

might have been good in the first instance, but it wasn't a saving in the long run.

One of the things they have done, that's a fatal move is that they have made a number of people from rural Ontario who didn't know this government from beans come into contact with this big bureaucracy. It's quite one thing for a government to have a cabinet minister come and cut the ribbon at the opening. Everybody likes that in a small town. They don't like dealing with the big wheels in the Ministry of Health or Community Services, or anything else for that matter. They don't understand those people, they don't understand the way they operate and they don't like it, and unfortunately more and more people are being exposed to that.

One of the things that I heard in this House the other day that I thought was really cute was a lecture on the work ethic. It was a lecture on the work ethic to this party and I guess to the members of the Liberal Party, although it was a little difficult to discern which way the finger was pointing from time to time. I got a lecture the other day on the work ethic from somebody who I don't think has worked in my definition of work one day in his life. I just don't take lectures from Bay St. lawyers or large financiers on the work ethic.

The benches over here are full of people who have spent their lives working in mines; they are full of people who are farmers' sons who have put themselves through university. If you like, they are self-made men. Perhaps they chose not to be great capitalist entrepreneurs but at least in their own term they put themselves through school and they worked very hard. I think we all get a little upset when the lectures are delivered on the work ethic by somebody who really hasn't done that kind of thing at all. In my view, a great deal of that is from somebody who really never worked a day in his life.

I want to make reference to one other thing here and it refers to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor). It's a column that I read actually in a paper that I suppose has not been quoted in this House many times—the Napanee Beaver. I want to explain that the Napanee Beaver is from a riding that has been Conservative provincially and federally since Confederation. I want to point out that this is the first time in history that the Napanee Beaver had ever criticized a member of the government, let alone a government minister.

Mr. McClellan: It won't be the last time.

Mr. Breagh: They did. What I found extremely interesting is that it makes reference to one of my high school history teachers who is probably the most conservative man that I have ever met in my life. That's with a small "c"—and I think with a large "c" as well. He certainly is no radical. He makes some interesting comments in here and they have to do with this kind of difficulty that the government has in relating to the people of Ontario. The paper says:

One of Mr. Taylor's problems is that he says one thing but the government departments do another. This has been the case with the Children's Aid Society, the hospital, and the water and sewer project undertaken by the joint efforts of three municipalities—Napanee, Richmond and North Fredericksburgh.

That's tough stuff coming from that kind of a paper. Let me just pursue this a bit more. Here they are referring to my high school history teacher. I really love this because he is into politics now and it's great.

He continues with what is perhaps the nub of the whole issue as far as feelings in this community are concerned:

Get this: One would almost think that this Tory who is selected from that riding actually wasn't born and bred there and that he doesn't understand eastern Ontario, because it says here:

Years before you arrived here our community took the initiative to conceive and pay for almost half the cost of a county hospital, and have continued to give freely of time and money since. You keep speaking publicly of the need for the return of the old-fashioned virtues of private community involvement, and yet wield a powder puff when the fruits of our individual initiative are being undermined in your own constituency.

I have just one last little bit out of here because this is kind of precious stuff for me, although it is meaningless to everybody else.

A lot is being said about the gigantic provincial debt and the need for belt-tightening. No one argues with this. But did you speak out publicly in this riding three or four years ago when your government was permitting the \$1.3 billion urban transit plan or spending \$250,000 simply publicizing the new transportation scheme in the media? Our frightful provincial debt didn't start yesterday. It has been growing for years and informed insiders like yourself should have known this and spoken up a year sooner. My point is that your

eleventh-hour conversion to economy, like cutting one-third of our hospital beds, for example, smacks of political pragmatism and insults our rural eastern Ontario intelligence.

Somebody from the ministry, one of the ministries, ought to send somebody out to eastern Ontario to talk to those people.

Mr. Bounsall: They are afraid to go.

Mr. Breagh: Clearly they don't think that you understand rural Ontario. Isn't that unusual? I want just to sum up a couple of points.

I appreciate that the Throne Speech is not always meant to be a great and glorious document but this one really was rather inept in terms of what was in it—virtually nothing. I hear a lot of flak floating around on the benches about the amendment over here.

I simply want to state very clearly, as everybody else has said, that this part of the House is devoted to the opposition and that's what we intend to do—tell the government the ways in which we differ from it, tell how we would propose alternatives to it, propose amendments to its legislation and to its Throne Speech, and that's precisely what happened. The amendment is right there. All one simply has to do is read it, and if one agrees with it so much—

Mr. Bullbrook: You voted with the government in December. Have you that short a memory?

Mr. Breagh: If you agree with it so much that you really want to pose a subamendment, go to it—any way you want to do it; subamendment first—

Mr. Samis: Did you want a January election?

Mr. Good: Do you want a May one?

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, while the opinion poll continues over here on whether they will or they won't, I warn them: Don't decide early—

Mr. Bullbrook: Don't pontificate. You voted with the government in December.

Mr. Breagh: Leave your option open. Leave your option open.

Mr. Speaker: All right. The member for Oshawa has the floor.

Mr. Breagh: Well, that discussion will go on for a few more days at least.

I simply want to say that I believe in the amendment that we put. I think it identified very simply some very crucial issues on which the government has chosen not to move. We think we have identified—and in fact surveys show the people in my own riding, if the members are interested, support us on this—we have identified some major areas in which this government is not worthy of support. We have posed an amendment to that effect, and that's precisely how we will vote. In this particular Throne Speech I think we have seen a government that in many cases refuses to listen, doesn't want to hear, and has opted for a political expediency route. We are not about to support that and we won't support it on April 5.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I shall endeavour to telescope my remarks into the remaining 30 minutes before the evening recess. I think being one of the new boys and certainly being rather junior in age, I would think it to be something less than proper for me to presume that I would have a great deal to say in matters that predate my presence here. Unlike my hon. colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), it is not my intention to pontificate at any great length.

I was particularly interested, though, that the hon. gentleman from Oshawa, in the kindness of his heart, had so many pertinent, I might say, and endearing comments about those of us in the fine and eastern portion of this province—a portion which has been moving in a certain electoral and political direction which I am sure brings more than a little bit of discomfort to more than the Napanee Beaver.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with my colleagues not only in the Liberal Party, but of the government and official opposition parties. My background is more restricted and certainly more limited than my hon. friends, from places like Toronto Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) and Burlington South (Mr. Kerr) and Guelph (Mr. Worton) and those areas where the representatives represent years of experience, which at my tender age I cannot presume to have; not to forget my good friend from Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook), who is something of a mentor to those of us of his caucus—

Mr. Bounsall: That's what the problem is, is it?

Mr. Conway: —who have growing pains in this very trying time of minority government.

Mr. Mackenzie: It's not very trying as long as you're not a Liberal.

Mr. Conway: It is also very interesting to hear my good friends from Oshawa and, peripherally or parenthetically, from Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), tell us just how it is their very distinguished party intends to react to those propositions to be squarely put in the next few days. It interests me as a student of history in Canada and in the Province of Ontario that the democratic left is behaving as it now is, with, by its own admission, no little bit of consistency and honour. It was a movement that began with what we used to call "gingerism," moved through a very apoplectic state of what one might call extreme leftism, and now has moved nicely, so it would appear, into the Mackenzie King-styled moderate centre.

Mr. Samis: Sounds like Kingston whiggery; Queen's University philosophy—

Mr. Conway: And oh, how things change. Yes, how things change.

Mr. Samis: The philosophy of Queen's.
[5:30]

Mr. Conway: I couldn't help but think, when I listened to some of the earlier comments from those members to my right, about the sense of purity and, what shall we say, consistency that is the preserve of our good friends in the democratic left. Again, I was thinking about where that particular movement began, just to make myself intellectually more comfortable with what it was they were saying and where it was that they came from. I was looking at those two gentlemen who offered that famous doctrine, I suppose, to which the gentlemen to my right still bow in reverence every evening and in the morning, that so-called Regina manifesto. It was kind of interesting, I thought, that two of its authors, one of whom I was talking to not so very long ago, should begin in those humble days in 1932 and 1933, castigating, for whatever good reason, those horrible Grits and awful supporters of that now very interesting man, Mackenzie King, for all which was unheroic, disgusting—

Mr. Samis: Now you're obsessed with him.

Mr. Conway: —lacking in principle in politics. Then I thought how interesting it was that those two authors would end up where they did. One of them ending up curator of Mackenzie King's home in Ottawa and, worse still, writing eulogistic and positive commentaries on what that man had to offer and what that man had to tell us about success in the Canadian political spectrum. Indeed, those lessons have been learned

by the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), whose sense of moderation is indeed—

Mr. Lawlor: As you get older you cool out.

Mr. Conway: —different from that which he naturally expressed—

Mr. Nixon: Move over, Patrick.

Mr. Conway: —in those days when he, like me, was the tender age of 24 or 25. I thought it was interesting, too, that one of the other gentlemen, who so principally and so self-righteously—as is the case with that party sometimes; not always, because I've heard the member from Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) express a certain opinion from the spectrum from which he, I presume, once came—that one of the other gentlemen would end up, of all places, appointed by a Liberal government to the Senate of Canada. I simply, by way of digression, draw attention to these two, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps footnote the fact that if there is a lesson in history it is that the politics of purity, consensus and consistency belong to and can be appropriated by no one group. No matter what the hon. gentleman to my right might like to tell us, such is not the case.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: But to return to the most pure part of this great province, the fine and glorious county of Renfrew, with some hopes I come—

Mr. Samis: You are skipping a lot.

Mr. Conway: —bearing greetings from those—

Mr. Samis: That's intellectual dishonesty.

Mr. Conway: If the hon. gentleman from Cornwall would cease being so obstreperous—

Mr. Nixon: You mean provocative.

Mr. Conway: Seeing that I, in the goodness of my heart, listened to the orations of his hon. colleagues, I'm sure that the member for Stormont will bear with me as I try to get in under the hour of 6 o'clock.

As I say, the people of Renfrew county, both north and south ridings, send their best wishes not only to Her Honour but to all the ladies and gentlemen of this very august body, which they tell me they have been watching with no little bit of enthusiasm on the electronic media these days, and telling me that they're impressed with what they see, and certainly they have every right to be.

Mr. Mackenzie: And they don't want an election.

Mr. Conway: The good people of Renfrew county feel now that there is a certain balance brought to their political diet which, for these many years, has been somewhat missing. It's indeed interesting—

Mr. Foulds: Only in political, not in personal terms.

Mr. Conway: Oh, certainly. I wouldn't ever dispute the wisdom of the member for Port Arthur, whose patience and whose foresight I'm always willing to listen to.

Mr. Samis: Get a New Democrat in Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: I think the occasion certainly presents itself to me, as a new member, to acknowledge and to recognize the contributions of my predecessor, Maurice Hamilton, who for 17 years sat as the member for Renfrew North. While Mr. Hamilton and I certainly shared few political allegiances and no party affiliation, I certainly think it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my constituents, thanks for his years of effort on behalf of those constituents. While we have had differences politically, I think it is important that each and every member of this House certainly acknowledges the contribution made by Mr. Hamilton, and I do so with a great deal of enthusiasm.

I was thinking about that election. We had a fairly interesting election in Renfrew North—

Mr. Nixon: They always are.

Mr. Conway: It was back in September, 1975, I think it was; it seems so very long ago. We had three people running, representing the three political parties in Ontario. Again, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable representative of that very honourable party, a representative of the democratic left, who I might say did not do too badly with the good burghers of Renfrew county, and certainly in the north riding. They tell me there may be some truth to the rumour that he may be riding the horse again; I notice a great deal of interest in the recurring visits of the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), who while he admits that he didn't know where we were for the years previous to September, 1975, has certainly landed with a bit of a crash, and has been there more often than not. And let me say that I welcome him with open arms.

Mr. Bullbrook: Was your opponent a socialist or a social democrat?

Mr. Conway: Well, he did not quite determine that.

Mr. Samis: NDP all the way.

Mr. Ruston: They are not sure what they are.

Mr. B. Newman: He's still trying to figure it out.

Mr. Conway: He may very well end up in the Senate. I never know these things, the hon. member for Sarnia might know, because quite frankly I am a man who looks upon party affiliation with some degree of suspicion, given my years of experience and natural conservative tendencies.

Mr. Samis: How many years a Liberal?

Mr. Conway: How many years a Liberal? Well, I also bring greetings from my grandfather, who at 96 is still alive and—

Mr. Samis: An open mind—an open mind.

Mr. Conway: —who sat in this assembly from 1929 to 1945. He told me last night that he hoped that when I spoke today that I would remember that restraint was certainly an issue when George Drew, Ted Jolliffe, Mitchell Hepburn and company were trying to deliberate the affairs of this province back in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. So I bring his greetings as well.

I hope that the good member for Cornwall understands, briefly, that I am a man of ecumenical political tendencies—

Mr. Samis: No, no. You haven't convinced anybody of that.

Mr. Conway: —and not any narrow-minded fool who thinks that the liquor interests are out to undermine the hon. Premier in such a malicious way as to discountenance the Province of Ontario and its fine members of cabinet and government. Clearly there are those in this House who share something less of that view of the world than I might have.

One thing I have noticed in the months following my election—and it was a narrow election, I must say; it was not what one could call a great and glorious popular mandate, for 36.3 per cent of the vote is certainly not the kind of thing that makes one feel that there is a tremendous consensus about what it is—

Mr. Nixon: That's what the government got.

Mr. Bullbrook: It was just a beginning for you in any event.

Mr. R. S. Smith: But the end for them.

Mr. Conway: Well, that being the case I think again that it would be presumptuous of me to say that the county was of a particular mind insofar as who it would send to this particular assembly in representation of its particular interests.

Mr. Bullbrook: You mean you are the best of a bad lot?

Mr. Conway: That, of course, is for their determination at a future date.

Mr. Foulds: It is pretty bad when you get heckled by your own guys.

Mr. Conway: Well, the clear Grit tradition in Ontario, as the hon. member for Port Arthur knows, is one which values the independence of the individual member; and we certainly feel a reluctance to subscribe to that authoritarianism which has produced in Ontario, and in federal politics in this country, more purges than Stalin possibly could have conceived—

Mr. Foulds: You are talking about Trudeau now.

Mr. Samis: That's right. Defend Trudeau. Don't knock him.

Mr. Conway: No, we are talking about the Waffle perhaps, and a few other such types. But with that kind of discussion, we can happily return—

Mr. Nixon: Some of you guys used to be Waffles.

Mr. Foulds: You want to Waffle? You can have it.

Mr. Conway: I am quite anxious, certainly now that my good friend from Durham East has returned to keep me on a moral path, if nothing else—

Mr. Moffatt: What would you do without us?

Mr. Conway: —that we will return to those deliberations and associations that federal and provincial parties might have, particularly in this, the central province of the fair Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Mackenzie: How come you always come to us for help?

Mr. Conway: I allow my good friend from Hamilton East a cottage in the county of Renfrew; I hope he doesn't push his luck.

But one of the things that was interesting, subsequent to my election in September, was the feeling held and expressed by some in some areas of the county that the change of party representation in that particular part of Ontario—which obviously has not seen a great deal of that in the past 35 years at any rate—might do certain things to the local political culture which might not be healthy. As a young person who grew up in the area I refuse to believe that there could be a tendency on the part of any political group to strike out at a particular riding that, for whatever reason in a democratic election and in a parliamentary kind of society, might have opted for something other than the government alternative.

So I began believing that this, in rural eastern Ontario—and I know rural eastern Ontario both personally and to some extent historically. I know what the political traditions are there and they are not traditions which, we, I think, as a group, want to bring into the 1970s. It represents a kind of Tammany Hall politics, if you will. We can appreciate them in a different set of circumstances, but I simply will not accept them and hope others will not either. But with that set of values and set of ideas I began approaching my new job—and, I'll admit my first job, to those who might not think that I had such before—

Mr. Moffatt: An honest job, too.

Mr. Conway: —and certainly an honest job. That I certainly couldn't dispute.

Mr. Samis: You have no work ethic.

Mr. Conway: The work ethic and I are dear friends.

Mr. Moffatt: From a distance, mind you.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: One of the things that has concerned me in the brief period of time since my election in September, 1975, is a certain amount of evidentiary material which supports the contention that there still is in rural eastern Ontario, in Tory eastern Ontario, a sense of party affiliation that normally permeates the government service. That's changing; and for that the government must take its share of praise and I grant it that. It's

a slow process, one which I would like to see move with a greater degree of dispatch and openness, but it is changing.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if I see in the next few months any more evidence of the fact that the Progressive Conservative Party still considers eastern Ontario the kind of fiefdom that it was in the electoral sense for all these many years, I intend to make loud and frequent protests. I know I am supported in this what I hope is a modern approach to politics in our society. I know, for example, the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), as a new representative in the government and as a minister of the Crown, shares with me my enthusiasm for this kind of non-partisan politics.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Right on. Right on.

Mr. Good: He gets everything that a member needs for his riding.

Mr. Conway: And in a quiet way, because I am a quiet person, I want to register this in advance to some extent, because although the bulk of the population in the constituency which I represent, does not subscribe to this view of the world and view of the province, and view of party politics any longer, they assume that the politics of Tammany Hall as they apply to our area are a picturesque and academic part of our historical record. I hope, for the goodness of us all in that area, that no member of this government and no member of the government party is as indiscreet, is as unwise, to move in a direction that might attempt to reinstitute or cultivate that kind of Neanderthal policy.

Mr. Bounsall: Without it going through you.

Mr. Conway: Without it going through me, because I am the kind of moral clearing house and the kind of social arbiter of whom not only the Pope and the Queen can be proud—

Mr. Samis: What kind of candidates are the Grits recruiting?

Mr. Moffatt: Don't be so sanctimonious.

Mr. Conway: That's certainly a man in a mould, and of a moral conscience from whom even the hon. member for Cornwall could take rectitude.

Mr. Moffatt: You're socialist material, that's what you are.

Mr. Conway: I just register that for the record of this House.

Mr. Samis: Don't forget Michael Houlton.

Mr. Conway: It concerned me to some extent when in December of 1975, in an effort to pay tribute to a man who deserved the tribute that was given to him: my predecessor, the Progressive Conservative member of this assembly—and applaud you should; I think it is proper and I would do so myself.

But on that occasion I found it insulting to the man, and silly and improper for the government party to take advantage of, not a party occasion but a constituency occasion to pay tribute to a fine and honourable man, that a representative—thankfully not a cabinet representative, because they couldn't find time, in England, to pay that tribute to a man who had belonged to their group for 17 years—but as I say, I found it repugnant and I found it unacceptable that my hon. colleague the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) should have thought it advisable, on the advice, presumably of his government friends, to stand up and mutter, in the way that only he can mutter, that statement that the Pembroke Marina would receive \$2 million. It was not so much that the Pembroke Marina would receive the \$2 million, I was improper in stating that; but he got up and said, much to the complete surprise of everyone there, that there was going to be a \$2 million appropriation made by the government to something in Renfrew county.

When asked by various people present what this might be, no one seemed to know. But the fact of the matter is that it represented the kind of politics which we will not accept any longer. The government has a right to make its announcements and I welcome ministers of the Crown, including my hon. friend from Prince Edward-Lennox. In fact, we welcome our good friends from the democratic left but we presume that on such occasions we will not see the kind of partisan politics which, I think, we have all agreed—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that the Honourable the Administrator, in the absence of Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, awaits outside the chamber to

give royal assent to the interim supply bill. If the hon. member would care to adjourn the debate while we look after the royal assent, then we can reconstitute the debate before 6 o'clock.

Mr. Conway: I would be delighted to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Conway: I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The Administrator of the Province of Ontario entered the chamber of the legislative assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. G. A. Gale (Administrator of the Province of Ontario): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for Your Honour's acceptance, a bill intituled, An Act granting to Her Majesty Certain Additional Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1976.

Clerk of the House: The Honourable the Administrator of the Province of Ontario doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

The Honourable the Administrator was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address and reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: May I inquire of the hon. member if he has more than three or four minutes, if so I—

Mr. Conway: Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would be pleased to recognize the clock then and recess the House.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX
(See page 665)

The answer to a question was tabled as follows:

15. *Mr. Grande*—Inquiry of the ministry: 1. What provincial ministries are involved in multiculturalism; what are the specific responsibilities of each; what moneys are available in 1976 to each ministry for use in the multicultural area? 2. Has the government policies concerning multiculturalism, particularly in regard to: (a) reception and orientation; (b) language and culture; (c) education? 3. What moneys are available to ethnic community groups to support: (a) local reception and orientation programmes; (b) language and culture programmes; (c) who administers these programmes; what are the criteria used in granting financial support; to whom does one apply?

Answer by the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch):

1. The province announced its commitment to multiculturalism in 1969 at the Second Constitutional Conference when it endorsed the principle that "Canada is a bilingual country while maintaining its multicultural character."

Multiculturalism relates to almost every facet of society's activities, and it is in this sense that most ministries of the government are involved, in one degree or another, in responding to the multicultural nature of our society.

In this sense too, it is impossible and perhaps inappropriate to try to isolate specific funds used for "multicultural purposes" in each ministry as government services are provided to each citizen or resident of Ontario without regard to his or her ethnic background.

A basic tenet of the present multicultural policy is the need for an awareness of the many different value systems and characteristics which now make up Ontario society. This results in the need to design government programmes and develop a sensitivity of public servants to a broader spectrum of values and needs.

In ensuring that programmes and services reach various communities for which they are intended, many ministries are, however, employing multilingual staff, and producing materials in many languages. For example, the Ministry of Health has the OHIP application forms and the Canada Food Guide, available in several languages. The Ministry of Labour, in particular, has been most concerned with their multilingual capacity. Two information centres (one on College St. and one opened on Nov. 20 in the northwest of the city), have been opened in areas with a large ethnic population to ensure optimum service to these communities. And the Ministry of Industry and Tourism is responsible for "Ontario 20"—a multilingual information programme regarding all Government services.

Notwithstanding the development of a multilingual capacity within many ministries, these are designed as transitional services and not in any way to supplant or to affect the two official languages of Canada (English and French).

However, certain government bodies have particular responsibilities in this field:

These include:

Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism

Appointed Sept. 26, 1973, the terms of reference for the council are to advise the government of Ontario, through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, on policies with direct implications for Ontario's cultural communities. The council is to be composed of not more than thirty members and it shall submit a report annually to the provincial secretary outlining its activities and views.

Budget 1975-1976 \$113,000

Ontario Human Rights Commission

The commission reports to the Legislature through the Ministry of Labour and administers the Ontario Human Rights Code, which is based on the public policy that all residents are free and equal in dignity and rights, without regard to race, creed, colour, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry and place of origin. The commission's programme objectives are pursued through a four-point programme of conciliation and enforcement, community problem solving, public education and research.

Budget 1975-1976 \$964,000

Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the education of all children in this province, irrespective of race, creed, colour, or country of origin. The curricula of the schools are designed so that each child may have the opportunity to develop abilities and aspirations without the limitations imposed by any form of discrimination.

The goals of education as outlined in ministry guidelines are that each child will be provided with opportunities: to acquire the basic skills fundamental to his or her continuing education; to develop and maintain confidence and a sense of self-worth; to gain the knowledge and acquire the attitudes that he or she needs for active participation in Canadian society; to develop the moral and aesthetic sensitivity necessary for a complete and responsible life.

The basic philosophy of bilingualism and multiculturalism is manifest in the schools in efforts: (a) to help the immigrant acquire as quickly as possible, an official language; (b) to assist all students in acquiring French through regular school programming, and (c) to encourage boards to provide programmes for all students that will enable them to acquire a reasoned knowledge of, and pride in Canada; that will help them develop and retain a personal identity by becoming acquainted with the historical roots of the community and the culture of their origins, and by developing a sense of continuity with the past, so that they may begin to understand and appreciate the points of view of ethnic and cultural groups other than their own.

Ministry of Culture and Recreation

It is the function of the ministry to advance and encourage responsible citizenship through the process of cultural and recreational development, including: (a) preserving and maintaining the cultural heritage of residents of Ontario with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds; (b) promoting access to the benefits of citizenship and of active involvement in the cultural and recreational life of the province, and (c) stimulating the development of new forms of cultural expression and promoting the concept of individual and community excellence.

In acknowledging the broad nature of multiculturalism, the Act establishing the Ministry of Culture and Recreation also states:

The minister shall, on his own initiative and through co-operation with the ministers having charge of the ministries of the public service of Canada, with the ministers having charge of the departments of the public service of Canada, with municipal councils, with school boards and boards of education, with other organizations and otherwise, in the cause of human betterment, advance and encourage the concept and ideal of full and equal citizenship among the residents of Ontario in order that all may exercise effectively the rights, powers and privileges and fulfil the obligations, duties and liabilities of citizens of Canada within the Province of Ontario. 1975, c. 18, s. 1, part.

Citizenship branch

Under the mandate of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the citizenship branch is responsible for immigrant adjustment services, specifically reception, orientation and immigrant adult English, and French as second language programmes.

Budget	Field services	577,300
	Head office	\$1,382,000
	Grants	286,100
	Total	\$2,245,400

Multicultural development branch

Within the ministry's mandate of promoting full and equal citizenship, this branch has a responsibility for encouraging the preservation and recognition of the diverse cultures existing in the province, for encouraging a sharing of these cultures, for encouraging greater receptivity to cultural differences, and through the community development process of encouraging full participation by all citizens.

Budget	Head office	\$234,500
	Field services	152,400
	Grants	99,400
	Total	\$486,300

Franco-Ontarian Council	\$152,000
Indian Community Secretariat	\$624,300
Grant	\$2,251,100
Total	\$2,875,400

2a RECEPTION AND ORIENTATION

i. Ministry of Education

For children

Boards of education are encouraged, through the compensatory education weighting factor, to provide reception and orientation classes for all children who need them. This compensatory education weighting factor generated, for example, in Metropolitan Toronto in 1974 approximately \$11 million extra funding at the secondary level and \$5 million at the elementary level.

Transitional language programmes

According to the Education Act, subsection 229-(1) (f) (1):

It is the duty of a teacher in instruction and in all communications with the pupils in regard to discipline and the management of the school to use the English language, except where it is impracticable to do so by reason of the pupil not understanding English . . .

This exception permits a school board to offer transitional language programmes in which children are taught their total school programme initially in their mother tongue, English being gradually introduced and instruction. The Toronto Board of Education offered such a programme in one public school (General Mercer) in junior and senior kindergarten in 1973-1974 and 1974-1975.

The Ministry of Education sponsored research into such a transitional programme for older immigrant students through its grants-in-aid of educational research. ("School and Community Co-operation in a Programme to Assist the Immigrant Student", OISE—Drs. K. Henderson and H. Silverman, 1972-1973).

The Metro Separate School Board co-operated in this experiment and the first class for Italian students was held in St. Clare School in 1972-1973. The success of the first group of students, who all moved into the English language stream within a year, encouraged the board to continue the programme at St. Clare School, and in 1974-1975 to offer it also at Richard W. Scott. Similar transitional programmes using Portuguese are at present being offered at St. Helen and St. Veronica schools.

For Adults

Language and citizenship instruction

In night-school and extension class programmes, many boards offer English and citizenship training for newcomers. Boards respond to local needs and this ministry pays the usual grants on whatever boards have spent. In 1973, the last year for which we have figures, boards spent \$680,115 on teaching salaries for citizenship and language classes.

ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

The citizenship branch is responsible for the reception and orientation of adult newcomers.

The reception programme includes a multilingual counselling service at Toronto International Airport and the Welcome House, as well as consultative support and financial assistance to local agencies involved in reception services.

The orientation programme includes publications such as the "Handbook for Counsellors of Newcomers" and "Ontario and You" (available in 12 languages), orientation materials for use in language classes and orientation and citizenship classes in the community. There are 85 language and orientation programmes for immigrant women throughout the province, partially or wholly supported by the branch.

Within budget limitations the branch will support local reception and orientation programmes—reception through the grants budget and orientation through the staffing of classes with teachers bilingual in English and the language of the group attending each class. The branch assists boards of education and community colleges with the staff and materials necessary for the mothers and preschoolers programme.

2b LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

i. Ministry of Education

Maintenance of the child's native language is seen primarily as a task of the home. Parents are encouraged to maintain the language at the elementary level in several ways:

1. Boards of education are encouraged to make school premises available to community groups after school and at weekends.
2. As stated above, secondary boards may offer language classes as part of their night-school or extension classes. Day-school students are permitted, subject to certain conditions, to attend.
3. Ministry guidelines for languages other than English, French—anglais, français are as follows:

(Ancient) Latin and Greek, 1969

German I and S.15, 1961

German S15B(13), 1968

Italian I and S.15, 1961

Italian S15D, 1968

Russian I and S15, 1961

Russian S15C(13), 1968

Spanish I and S43, 1964

Spanish S43(13), 1968

Other languages offered in Ontario high schools for credit (under innovative course procedures) are: Chinese, Finnish, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Yiddish, Ojibway, Cree.

The following provincial statistics may be interesting: 65 experimental courses are being given in European languages other than French; 35 experimental courses are being given in Hebrew and Oriental languages; about 6,000 secondary students across the province are studying Italian; there are seven experimental courses in native Canadian languages.

Other languages being offered in elementary schools with ministry approval

For 1974-1975 the Ministry of Education permitted the Toronto Board of Education to introduce a Canadian/Chinese bilingual/bicultural course in Orde St. and Ogden public schools. The 30-minute programme was open to all pupils, and relied heavily on parent volunteers who worked under the supervision of the classroom teachers.

For 1975-1976 the Ministry of Education has permitted the Toronto Board of Education to introduce a Canadian/Greek bilingual/bicultural course in Jackman Ave. and Frankland junior schools. These programmes are open to all students.

ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

Individual ethnic groups have the right, while retaining equal status in the broader community, to retain and develop their own language. It is considered that the primary onus for language retention and development (other than English or French) lies with the respective individual ethnic groups.

The citizenship branch is responsible for materials development and distribution for adult English and French as a second language programmes. Where new ESL programme initiatives cannot be funded by other educational agencies, the branch will staff the programme, within budget limitations.

The programmes of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation are concerned with increasing public awareness of our multicultural diversity; with encouraging cultural communities to participate and interact with the broader community around contemporary social issues; and with supporting mutual understanding, acceptance and enjoyment of the diverse cultures of Ontario's society.

2c EDUCATION

See answers to #1 and #2 above.

The Ministry of Education has created a committee on multiculturalism to review all educational issues in relation to the government's multicultural policy.

3a FUNDING

i. Ministry of Education

School programmes are the responsibility of the education administration division, more particularly the curriculum services branch. Funding is direct to boards of education through the school business and finance branch.

In addition to regular funding, boards can request money from the community school development grant in order to offer services or operate specific programmes to meet community needs. Some boards have had projects approved which are multicultural in nature. The maximum sum available is \$10,000 per project, per calendar year.

Another fund to which the public has access is the learning materials development fund. This is the first year the fund has been available. Several projects in the area of multiculturalism are under consideration.

Details regarding the specific criteria for these programmes can be obtained from the Ministry of Education.

ii. Ministry of Culture and Recreation

Money is available to local community groups for reception and orientation programmes through the grants budget (\$385,000 shared by the citizenship branch and the multicultural development branch in the fiscal year 1975-1976).

The grants budget has also been used in a supplementary fashion to the ministry field consultative services to support organizations, events, and activities that promote interaction and understanding among the various groups that comprise Ontario's society in distinctive preference over those which cater to cultural heritage preservation concerns.

The Ontario Arts Council provides grants to local and regional folk arts councils as well as an operating grant for the Ontario Folk Arts Council. These funds total \$38,000 in 1975-1976. In addition funds totalling \$50,000 are available through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation this year for special travel projects by provincial folk arts performing groups.

Ethnic community groups are eligible, of course, for all the other cultural programmes offered by this and other ministries.

The ministry's programmes are administered by the multicultural development and citizenship branches, in co-operation with the field services branch of the ministry.

The criteria for granting financial support through the grants budget are presently under review but groups interested in applying for funding assistance should apply to the director of the multicultural development branch of the ministry.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, March 29, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Kennedy: You had a good dinner, I can tell.

Mr. Nixon: Get back to your seat.

Mr. Conway: Act 1, scene 1 of a most humble address to the most humble address to Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. I stopped at the dinner hour at the end of the first section of this small discussion.

Mr. Nixon: It was just the introduction.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: Well, I'm reminded—if I might be allowed one brief digression, Mr. Speaker—of something that was said by a very—

Mr. Hodgson: Bob Nixon is the only one who wants to hear it.

Mr. Nixon: Listen and you will learn.

Mr. Conway: I'm reminded of a story told by a most eminent Canadian from Elgin county who had the misfortune, at least from the point of view of those who lived in Elgin, of recording his memoirs for posterity, but in that John Galbraith noted that there was a very fine line between the articulate man's wisdom and the windbag, so I hope and I pray that I follow more closely to the former than the latter, and I shall try to be commensurate in my brevity.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: There are certain issues that pertain and obtain in our particular part of Ontario that are extremely important in a local, parochial sense, and I know that members present will bear with me while I do something of the traditional speechmaking and make reference to a number of these issues.

Renfrew county is one of those parts of Ontario which has for the last number of years not witnessed, quite obviously, the degree of prosperity that has been the fortune of other more illustrious, perhaps, and fortunate parts anywhere from North York through Lambton to Windsor-Riverside and such places. We haven't had that kind of care, I suppose.

An hon. member: Here's the apple picker.

Mr. Conway: We've felt the very serious economic pinch, and so it was that in the election campaign of September, 1975, we did find a certain focus on issues economic. So it was, for example, that the local transportation system, and more particularly, the local roads became an issue of very considerable importance.

I know there are many in this room who might find it very difficult to relate to such a parochial issue as roads, but we in Renfrew county, and certainly in Renfrew North, felt very strongly about the fact that there was nothing—nothing in all the range of provincial government issues—that was more testament to the fact that this government over the 33 years in which it has not only been in power at Queen's Park, but during which time it had had local representation, nothing was more significant, nothing was more—as I said earlier—testament to the fact that they had chosen to pay less attention than we thought desirable for the economy of Renfrew county and in particular to the north riding of the county of Renfrew, than the absolutely deplorable condition of the highway network with which we found ourselves in the year 1975.

I think it important that the government of the day recognize that to the extent they no longer control in an electoral sense the north riding of the county of Renfrew, they pay heed to the fact that transportation systems in that particular area are a very significant matter of public concern and public policy. I was particularly appreciative of the response from the new Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), who just a short time ago responded to an inquiry made by me several weeks ago, outlining in

a not too heroic fashion, I might add, what it was the government was prepared to do and not to do over the next 10 years in that particular area.

Mr. Bain: Nothing.

Mr. Conway: Whether or not the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) has a sense of prophecy—

Mr. Bain: That's what they do to all our roads in the north. They're going to put in an austerity programme.

Mr. Nixon: They are going to roll them up.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Renfrew North has the floor. Thank you.

Mr. Conway: While not professing to be a prophet, unlike the member for Timiskaming—and I am not a prophet in politics, for those in the democratic left who—

Mr. Bain: The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) said in his statement there would be a moratorium on building and repairing roads in the north.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you.

Mr. Conway: Would that these hon. gentlemen would extend to a quiet, decent fellow as myself the sense of decorum—

Mr. Nixon: He is unreasonable.

Mr. Conway: After all, ladies and gentlemen of the 30th Parliament, we are here, are we not, to establish a new set of principles for the electronic media, who are going to be watching our every move.

Mr. Breaugh: That's not the final—

Mr. Conway: I would think it would be most indiscreet, particularly for the hon. gentleman from Timiskaming, who certainly has a reputation, in local terms at any rate, to be very careful about, because I understand that his predecessor was a man who graced this particular assembly in a unique way—

Mr. Nixon: He made a great impression.

Mr. Conway:—and I am sure the new member for Timiskaming would be very circumspect in his actions there too.

Mr. Bain: I trust that you prefer what I say about you to what he would say.

Mr. Conway: Pardon that digression as well. But it is important—

Mr. Mancini: He wants you to smarten up, Bob.

Mr. Conway: It is important for this government—

Mr. Bain: That's what he said. Why didn't he say so?

Interjection.

Mr. Bain: Control the rabble to your right over there.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: I don't know how I brought this down upon myself. But it is important, I think, for the government and for this assembly to realize that there are parts of Ontario which are not beneficiary to the kind of transportation systems to which the hon. members in southern Ontario have grown accustomed. That is an obvious fact; I don't think it is one that we can expect to remedy overnight. I am not as naive as some who I am sure sit here and think that if we want it, we can have it overnight. I think we have got to be fair.

In our particular area we pay the gasoline tax, much of which is supposed to go into the highway construction fund; and when the gasoline tax is collected in my particular area there are many people who feel that we are not getting our fair share. For example, in the far northwestern portion of my riding, which is in the Algonquin Park area, there is in Whitney and in Madawaska—where I had a meeting just a week ago—a feeling of being cut off. Being nowhere near a public transportation system is an extremely vital concern, because in most cases the government nowadays assumes that there is a capacity for public transportation at any rate, so that if you are called to appear, in our case in Pembroke, for your unemployment insurance hearing, at least you can get there without undue difficulty. I hope that the government certainly takes into consideration these kinds of problems.

Nothing, in my estimation, highlighted the insensitivity of this government more so than when, a little over two years ago now, the Trans-Canada bridge at Petawawa fell and the 4,000 or 5,000 people situated on the Pembroke side were completely cut off from the employment which they find at the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa and Atomic Energy of Canada, beyond the Petawawa River. It seems like a small point until one realizes that much of the economic life blood in that particular area at that particular time was completely cut off and very seriously threatened.

What did the government have to tell us at that time? Well, the hon. gentlemen oppo-

site pronounced that it was a minor inconvenience. Indeed, it was a minor inconvenience to that government, which for so long had chosen to treat it as such. I presume that the measure of education extended to my hon. friends opposite as of 9 or 10 o'clock on the evening of Sept. 18, 1975, was the beginning of their education in what is fast becoming a new political awareness and a sense of injustice in our particular region, which has also found its course in areas represented by those from northern Ontario who understandably feel the same sense of distance and neglect.

We are told, for example, that the economic salvation in our particular region must ultimately lie with something known as tourism.

That brings me to a whole range of interesting items. There was created, for the encouragement of the tourist business in particular but for the economic furtherance of our area, something called the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

The Eastern Ontario Development Corp. has now been an entity unto itself for something like 18 months to two years, and I found it very interesting upon my arrival here to see, as one of the first public documents that I saw, the list of disbursements given by the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. in its first year of operation. It was extremely interesting to note, for example, that in the county of Renfrew there were, I think, 17 disbursements, 15 of which went to the south riding in the county of Renfrew and only two went to the north riding. Out of the two that went into the north riding, not one addressed itself in geographic terms to the large economic centre of Pembroke and Petawawa. This is a situation which clearly is unacceptable.

I was looking the other day at one of the royal commissions done by our friends in Ottawa, by all our friends in Ottawa as representatives of the federal government, and in that there was an interesting exposé as to what the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. was capable of. We now learn that \$170,000 has been lost at Gomes Yarns in Renfrew, lost and squandered in the most indefensible of ways.

I am sure that our illustrious friends in the special programme review would reflect upon that with no little bit of chagrin and I know my hon. friends in this caucus look upon that kind of senseless and extravagant waste with a great deal of chagrin because the fact of the matter was that Gomes Yarns in Renfrew had no industrial or commercial profile.

It was a front from the beginning. They put the money into the thing and when we had a chance to save not all, but part of their hides, they extended a second mortgage and now have effectively managed to lose the whole thing.

In a small area like ours, this gets out. CBC television in Ottawa, the Renfrew Mercury and the local press have done their job and they have exposed this kind of procedure. But what it does, and rightfully does, is that it discredits the Ontario government and its Eastern Ontario Development Corp. as being a supporter of things which should have no support on the basis of what they have or have not done.

Then we have the other incident at the Eganville Creamery. I know hon. members here have probably tired of it—I know my friend from Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), whose good wife is here tonight and I am happy to welcome her, is commenting upon the fact that we have the problem that we do at the Eganville Creamery. But there again what does the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. do? It turns around and in the first year of operation it gives to Ault Foods of Winchester the largest single disbursement that it chooses to give. Now I am prepared in an academic sense to accept that in part at any rate. By a conservative progressive stretch of my Liberal imagination, I am prepared to accept that, if only for debating purposes. They give \$1 million to Ault Foods of Winchester—this is the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

The fact of the matter is shortly thereafter Ault Foods announces the purchase and takeover of the Eganville Creamery. The Eganville Creamery is in a town which has had an unending series of economic crises in the last five to 10 years. I know that the very illustrious and favourite son of Eganville, the present Ombudsman of Ontario, who subscribes to the Eganville Leader like many of us, can tell you that in a private kind of way. Eganville has had a rough time and one of the steady sources of financial and employment strength it did have was the locally-owned, or at least locally-operated, Eganville Creamery. So here given \$1 million, Ault Foods buys the Eganville Creamery and, lo and behold, it decides to close it down.

This is what this government and its Eastern Ontario Development Corp. is doing for the cultivation of jobs and agricultural interests in my particular county. Hansard should very well report "shame, shame," because shame there is and lots of it. Worse

still, the government goes to the people at the Pembroke Creamery and says: "Given the fact that we are going to be losing 34 jobs in Eganville"—34 jobs which Eganville just cannot afford to lose—"and given the fact that we now have almost 500 cream producers in the Renfrew county area who are really in serious trouble, will you, ladies and gentlemen of the Pembroke Creamery, whose primary interests are now in the dairy spread business, upgrade your facility and take that particular part of the operation over?" [8:15]

The gentlemen at the Pembroke Creamery did that, and what do they find? They find that while the government of Ontario encouraged them to come to the government's assistance at their time of crisis and take the local supply, the government was in no way prepared to ensure that its good offices would be brought to bear to assist that Pembroke Creamery in getting at the local demand which was controlled by and large by the large chain stores, and into which this local industry could not make its way. Oh no. The government in those terms found it very difficult to consider co-operation and assistance, and only through the independent and individual initiative of the ownership of the Pembroke Creamery, together with some assistance from members of the opposition, has that problem been mitigated to some extent.

So there we see, in those two instances, some measure of the seriousness of this government with respect to the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. Who is it that qualifies for its help and assistance? And, secondarily, who is it in the agricultural community that this government is prepared to help and assist? How is it that this government can justify what it has done in support of Gomes Yarns which has gone up in smoke, very sadly? How is it that the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) can justify that, explain that; not so much to me, because I am, in one way or another, less involved than those cream producers and those people in the area who are trying to get some assistance from the development Corp., who have a legitimate basis from which to operate, and who cannot get so much as a fair hearing from the Ontario Development Corp.? How then does this government, and any one of us as a member of government in politics in Ontario, go with good face and standing to these groups and say that the government and the province is,

in fact, serious about helping you in your particular area?

The whole question of roads, of course, begs what it is we're going to be getting out of our tourist economy. Quite simply, given the fact that the Pembroke-Deep River-Barry's Bay area is closer to Ottawa than to Toronto, one has to look at the transportation system which is presumably going to bring the tourist dollar and the tourist person into our particular area; and how this government expects to attract people into the Algonquin Park region from the Ottawa Valley side, given the present condition of Highway 41, for example, is quite beyond my humble imagination. No doubt, the hon. gentlemen opposite have some way of explaining it.

Then we have the Algonquin Park situation with respect to the local timber economy. We are presently finding ourselves in the early days of the actual operation of the Algonquin Forest Authority, and I know both labour and management in the particular area are expressing concern about what this forest authority is going to do and what it is going to mean with respect to the local and very tenuous, I might say, lumber economy. This afternoon it was my pleasure to meet once again with friends from the Algonquin Wildlands League. Theirs too is a concern, granted an antithetical one, to the lumbering interest, and we all admit that.

Politics being what it is, we must build a bridge and try to strike a compromise and a consensus that will allow for not only the continuance of economic interest in the Whitney and Deux Rivières part of my riding, but that will also accommodate hon. gentlemen like the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) who may very well decide that he wants to come to my great riding and enjoy the summer holidays. I'm interested in accommodating that kind of interest on both sides. Indeed, I will accommodate the hon. gentleman from St. Andrew-St. Patrick, who did my Celtic race no little bit of pride the other day, I might say, in his eloquence on March 17.

Mr. Nixon: He is going on for some time. You won't get on tonight, Frank.

Mr. Drea: I'm not going on tonight.

Mr. Conway: We've got the concern there, we've got the real concern about the local lumber industry. I share that and I will admit—as the hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakubuski) and his sidekick from Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) will tell us—that my

family has been long representative of and active in the local lumber industry; and they have and they presently hold licences which go back prior to—

Mr. Nixon: Now you've got it, Frank.

Mr. Drea: I've been wondering.

Mr. Conway: —the establishment of the particular park. But I am coming here tonight, and I tell the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre that I'm quite proud of the fact that I do have connections with the local lumber industry—

Mr. Nixon: So are we all.

Mr. Conway: I am not afraid to admit that, and in personal terms I appreciate that there is to that extent some measure of conflict of interest, in my mind at any rate.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: Conflict, no.

Mr. Conway: But what I am interested in saying is that the other day I just happened by some of the Progressive Conservative election accounts.

Mr. Ruston: No.

Mr. Mancini: No.

An hon. member: Shame!

Mr. Conway: And interesting it was. I found something that made me think of speeches given and battles won or lost in the election campaign of—

Mr. Martel: They were the same ones; the Liberals were getting them from the same group.

An hon. member: Elie, give yourself a raise.

Mr. Conway: —of election battles won and some lost in September. At that time I took it as a matter of public interest and debate that the two appointments from the Renfrew county area to the Algonquin Forest Authority just happened to be—and I hope the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre is bearing with me—

Mr. Ruston: He's here anyway.

Mr. Conway: —that at that time I thought it important to highlight the fact that what we were trying to do in the Algonquin Forest Authority was get away from the politics of development, so magnificently explained

and expressed by Prof. Vivian Nelles in his famous book of the same title; a kind of development and a kind of politics that was to some extent or another, seamy a bit, questionable at least.

Mr. Nixon: Howard Ferguson you know, one of our boys.

Mr. Conway: We were trying to establish in the minds of the people of Renfrew county that at long last this government, in its enlightened despotism, had decided that they were going to break that tradition and move in the directions provided by the Algonquin Forest Authority, so what did they do? The first public gesture they make with respect to the Algonquin Forest Authority is to appoint two people from Renfrew county; fair enough. And who are they? Who, pray tell, would you think they would be?

Mr. Drea: Not Liberals.

Mr. Grossman: Two NDPers?

An hon. member: A defeated Tory?

Mr. Nixon: Would you believe John Roberts?

Mr. Moffatt: Your grandfather?

An hon. member: Not the member for Scarborough Centre, surely?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: When they decided that the former member for London North, the former Premier of this province, was also in a conflict of interest in one way or another perhaps, with respect to the Algonquin Forest Authority, and when they decided that the member for Scarborough Centre clearly had intellectual pursuits that would take him otherwise and he would not therefore be available, they decided and they pursued the policy—

Mr. Drea: What was that?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Whom did they appoint?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Whom did they appoint? Well, they searched the 85,000 souls or thereabouts in Renfrew county and they came up with two people, I suppose by accident, and they just happened to be Progressive Conservatives serving on the executive of their respective associations.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: No! Shame! Incredible!

Mr. Moffatt: Sounds like the good old days.

An hon. member: Unbelievable!

Mr. Conway: I don't really know how that happened, but I thought, I am going to give this government a chance. Now clearly they will be appointed and they will—

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: What's that to do with me?

Mr. Conway: I must say that I am delighted that the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) has graced me with his presence. I trust that that's where it ends tonight.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: I thought, though, that what these gentlemen would do was forsake their party's political connections and walk the mainstream of public purpose, as the hon. gentleman from Lambton (Mr. Henderson) knows so well, and forsake that—

Interjections.

Mr. Ruston: With his pork barrel.

Mr. Conway: —and forsake the lower road for the higher road. But no, no, they continued, and it just happened that some of those people continue to take a fairly active part in the politics of the Progressive Conservative Party in our particular area. It's not that they're not entitled to do so, and I want to be fair and reasonable about this. It's not so much what is done, as we all know, but it's a question of what is seen to be done, as the hon. gentleman from St. Patrick-St. Andrew, or whatever, knows so well with respect to Doctors Hospital.

Mr. Davidson: Oh, you're being too generous.

Mr. Conway: But we must get away from that kind of politics which appears to be party oriented.

Mr. Davidson: Is that not Liberal policy?

Mr. Conway: That's a matter for some discussion. But I would hope that the government party, and its fine and hon. members here present, would give the Algonquin Forest Authority a chance to work. I have been among its strongest opponents, because I'm not so sure that government-run log market-

ing agencies will be effective. I am willing to be convinced. It may be that they are, in fact, going to be a success in logs where they have not been, for example, in eggs.

I wish them well, but I would hope that the hon. gentlemen opposite will give the Algonquin Forest Authority a chance to see something more than the partisan light of day, that they will extend to each and every operator in the particular area a fair and equitable opportunity to participate so long as participation in lumbering in Algonquin Park is permitted by this assembly, that each and every operator in that particular area and indeed in the province is given an opportunity to so benefit.

One of the issues that has really been driven home to me in the last number of days particularly, because I have been meeting with officials in this particular area, is the state and quality of education in our particular county. I must admit that it has been a long, long time since I was in the school room. In my old age I reflect—

An hon. member: Oh, come on. Be serious.

Hon. B. Stephenson: At least 1½ years. Six months?

Mr. Conway: Who told you it was June? You'd better check. As I reflect in my old age about where it is that education has come in our county and indeed in our province—

Mr. Grossman: You're proof of how good the system is.

Mr. Moffatt: That's a strange comment. I really don't understand that.

Mr. Conway: We have education systems in the province which have not—

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that you would intercede on my behalf to protect me from some of this rather sinister attack which will make me shudder for the rest of my days. Education in Renfrew county is an issue today such as has not been for some time, because the restraint programme in the Province of Ontario assumes in its basic way that each and every area and each and every school board has equal capacity to deal with the hardships and with the restraints that the government is prepared to dish out. This is simply not true, and nowhere is it more untrue than in the county of Renfrew, where we have, and I lament in having to admit this, an unacceptably high unemployment rate

and a county where the board of education and the educational system among other things are the second largest employer in that particular county.

I think that is important in more than a peripheral way, and I'm sure we'll all agree with that and support that, but not only are the educational and intellectual prospects of the generation to which I belong threatened, but there is the fact that we have got a very large employer being threatened in a very fundamental way.

I implore this ministry and the education ministry in particular to extend special consideration to areas like my own, given the fact, for example, that we in Renfrew county have the lowest assessment per pupil in the Province of Ontario, and that, for example, on the basis of the restraint programme outlined by the ministry the secondary school level is going to increase after the firing or the releasing of 12 per cent of the secondary school's teaching staff, and that's no small number I can tell you—55 of 438 teachers released is a tragic, tragic price to pay.

[8:30]

After that is taken into consideration, and after staff has been cut further by 10 or 12 per cent, and after the Renfrew County Board of Education—a board which I know well and a board which has been sincere and consistent and long standing in its efforts to restrict and to restrain in a sensible manner while at the same time trying to lend credibility to this ministry, which has for whatever reasons tried to say that it has made throughout the province an honest effort to provide the quality of education to all—after the Renfrew County Board of Education has worked hard and long in trying to accommodate that principle, now with an executive stroke of that ministerial pen, years of work have been summarily destroyed and it's not going to be easily rebuilt.

It's more than that. When the Champlain Vocational High School was established some years ago, one of the programmes—just to take an example—that was instituted at that time was a programme for registered nurses' assistants. In the city of Pembroke we have two 150-bed hospitals, or there were until the restraint programme came along. The hospitals are the third or fourth on the employment list there and an important aspect of the local economy.

Mr. Ferrier: How are the doctors getting along up there?

Mr. Conway: The registered nurses' programme was begun some years ago and

took into its enrolment 22 people who were processed over four years, all of whom got jobs and all of whom were profitably employed locally or nearby. We have an example of how vocational education really meant something. In the local school situation, in accordance with what John Diefenbaker meant when he provided those grants a way back, it was working and it was seen to be working.

Now the administration of the Renfrew County Board of Education tell me that that is a programme that simply has to be cut away. I hope you understand what that means. It means for 22 people, and 22 people on a yearly basis, the economic and job prospects of Renfrew county have to that extent betrayed them. It will behave this government and behave it very much to take a long, serious second look at this kind of situation and perhaps to use something like a grant-weighting factor to allow for the special consideration which is what they deserve and expect if they are to be in the mainstream of education.

We need it as much, and probably more, as many of those areas in the more affluent parts, economically at any rate, but not spiritually—I certainly will never concede that—of the Province of Ontario. It's important that the restraint programme at some point in time is reduced to those kinds of fundamentals and those kinds of very human and basic considerations. It's extremely fashionable, as the hon. and eloquent member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) so articulately explained earlier, that to have restraint in education may sell politically but it certainly doesn't wash in an economic kind of way.

It's important for this government to realize what the restraint programme will mean in the county of Renfrew. It certainly disturbs me that the government didn't consider it worth its time to respond to the brief presented to the minister on Feb. 23 in Ottawa which expressed these concerns in a very frontal and basic kind of way. The fact that the government has taken six or seven weeks now to display its indifference to the very seriousness of the need has left the people in the education process in Renfrew county certainly reluctant to believe that this government is serious and that the Premier (Mr. Davis) could be serious when he in his altruistic kind of way gets up and tries to assure us, as he did this afternoon, that really we have a fine and equitable system on all sides, because students, staff, teachers and parents in the county of Renfrew understand what is happening.

I understand the politics of restraint in education and it concerns me a great deal that there are those in politics who will take the opportunity to take a system which has been controversial, and well it might have been. We have a provincial debt today of which there has been some talk, and the education spending has been to some serious extent contributory to that. So controversial it certainly has been and understandably so, but for the Premier to get up in his self-assuring way and tell us something that we in Renfrew county know to be transparently untrue, we consider it to be something more than an insult, and something less than what we want and consider that we deserve.

The hon. gentleman from over there somewhere mentioned earlier, not too, too long ago, something about health care. As the member for Renfrew North I find myself involved in a hospital cutback programme. I find myself involved in a situation where the medical community in my fair county is undergoing some measure of disagreement. We all know, as we see from the very outstanding, if difficult at times, acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), that the medical community can be a pretty intransigent lot. Sometimes I think they are more than intransigent, that they are unfeeling and dictatorial. Those are just some scattered thoughts that I confide in my diary.

Mr. Davidson: Not your crystal ball?

Mr. Grossman: It will never sell.

Mr. Moffatt: I am sure the rest of this story gets more interesting.

Mr. Conway: And so I stroll through my political life—

Mr. Davidson: Do you also wander Jarvis St.?

Mr. Conway: That, Mr. Speaker, was an aspersion upon my otherwise outstanding character and I am sure the hon. gentleman from Cambridge meant no such thing.

Mr. Martel: He did.

Mr. Davidson: I withdraw it.

Mr. Conway: Elie, Elie, why have you forsaken me? But there is a problem, and I am certainly not going to hide from that problem. It is for all of us in government and in politics—

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: There is a problem and I am not going to deny the problem. What

has to be done with that problem, clearly but most difficultly, as in all politics is to find some measure of compromise, some measure of common ground. In the beginning it was a dispute which had right and wrong, which had personality confrontations as we all expect, not only in medicine but sometimes, my heavens, in politics, there are personality clashes and all that. And it has made the debate on health care a serious issue, as we all know, in the Province of Ontario today, very difficult in that particular county, and my sympathies are with them not only my group and the group right but certainly the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and his acting counterpart.

Mr. Grossman: And St. Andrew-St. Patrick, how about me, Sean?

Mr. Conway: Well, I certainly have no little bit of sympathy for the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

In the city of Pembroke we certainly have a cutback programme. As I noticed today, the people from the Pembroke Civic Hospital are disturbed about the fact that they have been chosen, for no apparent reason, as the victims of the serious cutback in beds. Jim Roberts, the administrator, has a good point when he asks me to ask this House and the government a question that has been asked and re-asked and hopefully will be continued in its asking: What are the criteria for these cutbacks? Why, for example, 18 beds? On what rationale? Why, for example, were the Renfrew and Arnprior hospitals cut back in a similar way? All we are asking is for some measure of answers.

We have problems that extend beyond the city of Pembroke. In one of the fairest and finest communities in my electoral district, the fair town of Deep River, they have built a new hospital, much to their credit. They have built and opened the new hospital on the understanding—in fact, it was on the urging of the government of Ontario, the Ministry of Health—that there had to be an ambulance service. I was at an ambulance service meeting in Deep River last Tuesday, and I was happy to be with my hon. friends from the two other political groupings who were there. They deserved to be there, and I hope they continue to be there. Sometimes one is not too sure where politicians in some parties might stand on this particular issue in this particular community, but it's important that they be consulted because, as the hon. gentleman from Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) might tell us, politics is a very fleet-

ing business. When you win by 36 per cent of the vote, you don't want to be too cocky about it all. You want to be participatory about your approach, because we in this great party, as the hon. member for Lakeshore well knows, are the sole authors of participatory democracy and not the kind of socialistic authoritarianism for which they are so terribly famous.

Mr. Lawlor: Still, you want everyone on the public payroll.

Mr. Davidson: I would never have thought that of you.

Mr. Conway: As I say, it was wise and it was fitting that those people be there, but the fact of the matter is that 18 months or two years after the fact, with a new hospital open and with an ambulance bay and garage there, there is no ambulance there. The question that the people of Deep River, Chalk River, Rolphton and Stonecliffe so rightly ask is, "Where is the promise?" Surely this government, this outstanding group of individuals, which in 1971 was doing things for people and in 1975 was the only group that was doing this, that and all the rest of it while the other parties were made up of shirkers—surely this is the party that experiences no gaps between promise and performance.

Mr. Martel: Credibility.

Mr. Conway: Indeed, their credibility seems to be very seriously undermined in all of this. I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt—

Mr. Lawlor: What doubt?

Mr. Conway: —but if there is not some move in the next little while on behalf of an ambulance for that particular area—

Mr. Drea: You're going to call an election.

Mr. Angus: He won't; he won't.

Mr. Conway: —and there should very well be some serious discussion, if nothing else—

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: There should be some serious discussion, if nothing else, about this lack of performance. I sympathize with the Deep River and District Hospital Board, and I presume they know what they're talking about.

Mr. Hodgson: You and your leader don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Conway: Indeed, they find themselves in a locale which is far more explained and far more understandable, and there's a substantial enough gap between the Deep River and District Hospital Board and its particular situation than there might be between North York and Nanticoke.

Those are the kind of things, those are the sorts of gaps about which we must talk with respect to this government. I think that when the hon. member suggests that they don't know what they are talking about, he perhaps should investigate, because they have a series of proposals and letters and inquiries which I think very substantially support their case.

The time has come for this government to either renege on its promise or live up to its promise. Because, when all else is said and done, that is an area which has seen a number of deaths which, according to my acquaintances in the ambulance service industry there, clearly indicates that deaths and serious injuries are to some extent attributable to that lack of service. Therefore, I do hope that the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), when she receives the report which is presently being prepared, gives fair and due consideration to the very serious request put there by them. Well I'm getting on and I remember the distinction—

Mr. Mackenzie: How long were you going to speak?

Mr. Conway: In the county of Renfrew right now there is something called a restructuring study going on and, given the fact that I've been around for so long and I know the municipal political situation so well, I'd like to bring to this assembly's attention what it is that the government of Ontario portends or is seeming to portend in the local restructuring committee.

Mr. Davidson: They are going to regionalize you.

Mr. Conway: There has been some talk about that, but rumour has it that they are lacking a good partisan appointment for the regional chairmanship. I hear they are looking at Sudbury—

Mr. Haggerty: How many Tory appointments are on it?

Mr. Conway: —and that may deter them.

Mr. Grossman: Drake Personnel is hiring them.

[8:45]

Mr. Conway: I think it important, Mr. Speaker, that we keep this above the personality level because, lo and behold, we could get ourselves into some serious difficulty.

Mr. Mackenzie: If we weren't already.

Mr. Conway: But the fact of the matter is—

Mr. Davidson: Let's just say we'd like some information on the appointment, let's put it that way.

Mr. Conway: —there is a concern on the part of the people of the county of Renfrew and the city of Pembroke about what it is this government, through the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Nincompoopery or whatever that title is, there is a concern—

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: There is a concern that we are going to get the same kind of insensitive approach, if not result, that has been the diet of so many other parts of Ontario, some of which has been referred to, in an aside at any rate, by my hon. colleague from Cambridge.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: But there is a concern there and it's one I hope that this ministry takes into full consideration, that the regional government bogey is clearly one that hangs over this entire deliberation. To this date I have not seen a great deal of endeavour on the part of those involved to allay those suspicions and it's important that those suspicions be allayed. It's important that the local municipality, certainly in the county of Renfrew and the city of Pembroke, be given ample time, which we suspect they may not get, to weigh the projects and the proposals and the alternatives fully and adequately and that they are given freely the choice to make in terms of where it is they're going to go.

Mr. Davidson: Which would be more than anyone else has.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: And then we have justice, and again I come back to my predecessor from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) who spoke just moments ago, and he talked about the Solicitor-Generalship and he talked about a number of things. He talked about one issue that I found most interesting. He used the expression law and order, and as a—

Mr. Angus: Mike's speech?

Mr. Conway: —private citizen and as someone now involved in politics, I do feel that that is a particular handle that politicians use. Some Conservative politicians, if I might be allowed to interject that bit of partisan name-calling there, some Conservative politicians in my area made no little bit of the fact that what we needed, by God, was law and order.

I shudder when I hear that because I can take refuge in the very inspired comment, I think, of a very great Canadian and a Conservative and an Irishman, which is just incidental. Sen. Gratt O'Leary, whose politics are well known, said in a discussion in that Valhalla of Canadian socialism, the Senate of Canada, he said—

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: If it's good enough for one of the authors of the CCF manifesto, it's good enough for me. But he said in the Senate of Canada recently that law and order was the war cry, the battle cry, the political cry of every pirate in history. And I think that lays the issue to rest. I think that it speaks well of something that is far deeper than a mere platitude which is booted around by politicians—politicians of all stripes at some times, but regrettably at times in the recent past by members of this ministry and the back benches—I think with a degree of recklessness which we would come not to expect.

But in the Renfrew county area, we are famous again for our legal system. For those of you who share with me a personal recollection of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s—and the 1960s to some extent—

Mr. Angus: Have you been hallucinating again?

Mr. Conway: Well, when I look over here I think it must be an hallucination. At least I hope and I pray sometimes that it is an hallucination.

Mr. Davidson: Look over my head when you say that.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, it's important for us in our area to remember that the law of Killaloe as it's happily, jokingly referred to—I don't know how many of you are aware of that appellation—I know the good Ombudsman is aware of that and we have talked at some considerable length about the famous law of Killaloe. And you know it is picturesque and it's kind of interesting; it's got an academic and historical kind of flavour about it and it still exists.

Mr. Mackenzie: Good fishing too.

Mr. Conway: What the law of Killaloe concerns itself with in some way or another is the fact that we have a process of law in our particular county which is seriously compromised, and I think in a negative way, by the fact that we don't have facilities—and I know there are most parts of Ontario lacking in the full facilities that they might want, but our situation there is absolutely awful. The judges will tell you, the lawyers will tell you, I'll tell you, and the citizenry involved will tell you. I think rather than making bellicose statements about law and order, this government might take time to visit on every second Wednesday, to see the kinds of conditions which our provincial court judge—who is presently ailing in the hospital and who I hope certainly will be back with us shortly—has to work in, because they are absolutely incredible. The law community is still there, it is still there in all those rather tragic circumstances, that there is not so much as equality before the law in this province, when you take that kind of a bad system into consideration.

I think that we have got to be appreciative of that fact and we have got to move as quickly as restraint will allow to redress that situation. I know a visiting Toronto family court judge referred to the family court situation in the county of Renfrew as absolutely appalling and appalling it is. I hope too, that the hon. Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) considers it worth his time and desires to consider something there, because he has in his hands a very indepth statement from the provincial judge in the county of Renfrew, a document which, among other things, cries out for help that has been so long coming.

I hope that this government becomes less worried about putting its friends in the local registry office and more worried about being fair to the judge and giving the poor man a chance to operate in the way in which he can and he wants. That's law and order. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, that's the kind of law and order which I am sure we all want to see. That's the kind of law and order that is more than mere platitude, and I hope and I pray that the judge and the system are given a fair chance to do a job as important, if not more important, than any other that we have.

There was, for example, the story not so long ago in the Renfrew Mercury about the fact that there was "no room in the dock." The facilities were so bad that they didn't

have room to conduct the business of the day. There are times when, for example, the docket has got something like 85 cases. How then in this day and age are we expected and can we expect any man to continue to survive under such conditions? What he was doing is clearly herculean. No successor, I suspect, will be able to follow in that man's footsteps.

I hope that the old patronage politics finds its way out of that appointment structure and finds its way into a clean and a constructive approach to providing the people and the staff—

Mr. Mancini: Frank knows all about that, he's very interested.

Mr. Conway: —for a basic system, which at this point in time, is seriously compromised.

We come now to the hon. Prince Edward from Lennox, or the hon. Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who has, in his own inimitable way, decided that he too is going to show the members of this House and the people of this province what real restraint means. I know the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) certainly feels very strongly about that and I have come, in my tender age, to share her sensitivities for this kind of approach from this particular minister. Indeed, that is one of the anomalous conditions of minority government that future historians will no doubt comment upon—that in the year 1976, with all its bicentennialism and attendant anniversarial tones, we would end up with something like Prince Edward of Lennox in something like family and community services or Community and Social Services or whatever.

It takes no small stretch of the imagination to follow the prime ministerial logic that will allow that to obtain, seconded, I suppose, only by the appointment of the hon. gentleman from Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith) to the sensitive position of Correctional Services. Obviously, that gentleman has a rock upon which he is going to build more than his church.

Mr. Mancini: Frank is going to straighten him out.

Mr. Conway: It is important to understand again what that 5.5 ceiling or guideline means to Raymond Gray and his staff at the Renfrew County Family and Children's Services. I spent three hours with them on the morning of Feb. 9 and at that time and since they have been doing all they can in a public way to draw clearly to the people of our county who for a variety of reasons may not be attuned

to the specifics of restraint in that particular area what it is they need and what it means to have a whole range of responsibility, as we all know, under the Child Welfare Act, to have that whole range of responsibility and yet, on the other hand, to have no money with which to perform the task designated to you and for you.

Given the fact that the judge has already commented upon how badly it is that we need a family court judge, it is absolutely unacceptable again that the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) says to us that there will be no consideration for the fact that we simply are in a position of not being able to afford the restraint as presented to us, I want to take this opportunity to put on the record without equivocation and delay the fact that the Renfrew County Family and Children's Services are absolutely unhappy. They have made every effort. They have done more than their share to popularize their position, to acclimatize the public in our particular area as to what it is they do and how it is they are not going to be able to perform as they are legally bound to under the restraint programme of the hon. minister.

Indeed it is interesting that the hon. gentleman from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) should find in such an illustrious journal as the Napanee Beaver occasion to support that position. It goes to show you, I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is a range of opinion and consensus forming here which is certainly most unusual.

I see that I am getting on to the hour and I do want to take just a few more moments to deliberate upon things that are less parochial and more general in their dimension and import, and I know that the House will bear with me for these last few moments. I see the hon. gentleman from Scarborough Centre bearing with me in a magnanimous manner and indeed he must surely set the example.

I found it interesting that in all of these restraint programmes and much of what I have tried to put before this august assembly this evening and certainly late this afternoon is the fact of what is being threatened in all of this, as the hon. member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) will well know. To close hospitals, to cut back in schools and to allow the Prince Edward of Lennox to run around putting a lid on things on the 5.5 white charger as the modern-day Sir Galahad are particulars about which we can complain, we can debate and we can do all the rest of it.

Clearly it is more difficult, as we all know, and certainly this is the position in

which any loyal opposition must surely find itself, ultimately to decide in its own way how it is it might respond in policy alternatives. But they leave us in a general philosophical kind of way—certainly for those of us in the non-metropolitan parts of Ontario—one standard objection to the meanderings in the name and guise of restraint followed and supported by this particular government, and it is this: They tell Raymond Gray and his people of Renfrew County Family and Children's Services that they must operate on the 5.5 guideline. You go to Victoria-Haliburton and say to the people in Bobcaygeon you have lost your hospital and you go to the Renfrew County Board of Education and you tell them that your assessment picture really doesn't count for very much. You are saying something of more than just a particular nature. What you are saying and what you are actively causing to happen is something which undermines one of the basic principles of a broad philosophical stream to which nominally at least I belong as a Liberal, and it is more than a nominal relationship I can assure you.

[9:00]

An hon. member: That would raise doubt occasionally though.

Mr. Conway: I'm sure the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier), together with his colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor), will bring my intellectual baggage into the port of my train of thought. But the import of all of this, must surely be that what we are seeing under those conditions is that we are tearing at parts of Ontario, those parts of Ontario which are our hinterland as opposed to a metropolis; is that we are not going to have, or be free to have at any rate, the equality of opportunity which is clearly the prerogative of those who live in downtown, city Ontario. That when we get out into Huron-Middlesex and you tell the people of Clinton and when you tell the people of Goderich their hospitals are gone, you are telling those people, to some extent—and you're telling them in an irrevocable and in a very simple way—that we as a government are at least going to compromise the proposition that they, like all citizens of this province, are entitled to equality of opportunity. Even along the neglected corners of Renfrew county in eastern Ontario they know what it means.

We've had the Tories; By God they've had us, I think!

An hon. member: Any response—on the government side?

Mr. Conway: That is the import of all of this; that it's the equality of opportunity that's being taken away, that we're not going to equalize the starting gate. If you live in Chesley, if you live in Durham, if you live in Bobcaygeon, if you live in Clinton, if you live in Goderich; you are not going to have equal opportunity to the extent of those people who reside in this building, who as an example are so close to the hospitals that we see before us.

I know there are qualifications to this basic position. But it seems that in the way of public policy we must be sensitive about this perception, and we must be ever vigilant to ensure that the people of this province see that they are, each and every one of them, entitled to the equality of opportunity which a modern, democratic society of whatever stripe—left, right, centre—we might care to call it, is expected to provide and I say must surely provide. That's the objection.

In a long-winded kind of address, I hope that if I leave nothing for your serious and deliberate consideration, Mr. Speaker—and I know coming as you do from an area which is less than metropolitan you can appreciate what it means in terms of the classic dichotomy between hinterland and metropolitan centre—I make this one point. That's what we're telling the good people of Bobcaygeon and Durham and Goderich. That's something that really concerns me, as a Liberal, and as a member of a government situation and to that extent accountable. I hope that some measure of consideration is given to that.

Briefly on the restraint programme again and its effects—again on much of what has been said before. The fact is—and I was impressed by what the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) was saying about restraint—I just happened to be reading some of the local press and I was thinking "restraint, restraint". The catchword of Ontario provincial politics in this day and age must surely be restraint. Then I wondered, and I know the good member for Yorkview (Mr. Young)—together with the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) and the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence) and many of my more senior colleagues—would certainly share with me a feeling of restraint when they look at the government's figures as expressed to and by the election expenses commission; because if ever there were a model of restraint, it was surely the level of expendi-

tures offered to the public of Ontario by this restraint-oriented party, which just happened to spend \$60,000 trying to win Carleton East; which just happened to spend twice as much as anybody in electing the hon. member, pray tell, for Toronto St. David (Mrs. Scrivener). Those figures really indicated restraint. I was impressed; and I continue to be impressed.

I look at Hanover hospital and I say yes, I think I know one of the political guiding spirits behind that and I am impressed. I go into the hallowed halls of Queen's Park and I find the hon. retired member for Welland, Mr. Morningstar, and his sometime colleague from Toronto Dovercourt (Mr. G. Nixon), and sometimes spotted the member for—well, I forget the other one, but at any rate at least those two—and I am impressed too by the restraint that this government is showing in the post-election period of just happening to find office space for this sort of thing.

I read in the press, particularly the northern press, on the weekend that the hon. minister and member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) has been applying his own kind of restraint to the regulations procedure followed by members of the Crown, given those discretionary powers that they really don't want, and find themselves having to exercise it, at difficult and inappropriate times.

I am impressed by that restraint. You know, I really am. I regret to inform this House that the kind of impression I get is one that where present politics is concerned, this wretched lot of souls, in a general party kind of way, care to be profligate in no mean way. And I know that the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), as a member of Her Honour's ministry, will make sure that that kind of stuff ceases and desists as of Sept. 19, 1975, and I put my entire faith in him as a public watchdog of party affairs.

Mr. Burr: He wasn't listening, say it again.

Mr. Conway: I will go on to two general areas that I want to conclude with. One of them has to do with what I call the politics of the anti-inflation programme, and it's an interesting set of politics. It's a set of politics which has given my friends, my phoney, dear and close friends to my right—my very close friend from Cambridge (Mr. Davidson) and his clan here—I know that that's the politics of the anti-inflation programme. Load that poor, unsuspecting group on to the rocks of political compromise.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Pray tell in December, when given the fact there was something called a want of confidence in Her Honour's ministry.

Mr. Angus: There was no confidence.

Mr. Conway: They decided as their full intelligence, guided no doubt by the hon. members for Riverdale and Toronto Lakeshore and all the rest, they decided, as I can understand they might, to forsake some of their friends who—

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: —had been almost irreverent in what they had said about the anti-inflation programme.

Interjection.

Mr. Gaunt: Ask Monty, he will tell you.

Mr. Conway: They have said, as Joe Morris said in a very eloquent way on "Question Period" some months ago, that time will allow us to vote on the basis of those price controls. Joe Morris is a very highly respected member of a very highly respected sector of our society. But there is a difficulty there, as this party found, and I can appreciate that; it's no easy thing this, deciding on whether or not one wants an election, and I myself have found, in times not so very far distant—

Mr. Davidson: Particularly an election.

Mr. Conway: —that that decision can be highly troublesome—

Mr. Angus: How far distant?

Mr. Conway: —can be troublesome. But the politics of the anti-inflation programme are interesting, and they are interesting in a general kind of way for this reason. To the extent that the Progressive Conservative Party in government had an issue in the 1975 provincial election campaign, it was this—and I think hon. members present would agree with me when I say that we were told, for whatever good or bad reason, that the one particular claim that the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario had on our good suffrages was the fact that they were out with a pack of rascals—and don't we know it—in Ottawa—

Hon. Mr. Henderson: You are right. Right on.

Mr. Drea: Right on.

Mr. Conway: —mismanaging, as the hon. member for Lambton would happily tell us,

in the most irresponsible way the affairs of this great Dominion. And there is no doubt about that. All the advertising said that. And you know I am a man of Christian breadth and I accept these deeds of the world and of the province in the very Christian way in which they were intended.

But it is interesting that the government party which said that the one and only reason—the prime reason at any rate—for the provincial support of their incumbency was this no-good outfit in Ottawa, what do they do when they get in power in a minority situation but a few days later, in one of the most unprecedented and interesting political gestures ever taken by the Province of Ontario Progressive Conservative Party? That's interesting too.

The Hon. William Grenville Davis, as first minister of Her Honour's government, said to the federal government that he had just spent six weeks disclaiming and discrediting and condemning, "Gentlemen, you incompetent buffoons, here, take it. Take our provincial sector," at a time when we all agree that the situations economic are more critical and more immediate than ever before. You will talk about logic, as the good member for Lambton will well know. That was some turnaround. To say on the one hand that this government is incompetent and then a few days later to say, "Ladies and gentlemen of this House and of this province, we will happily, in these times of great difficulty and economic distress, give to that no-good government a whole provincial sector."

Mr. Swart: Sounds like the Liberals in the Throne Speech in Ontario.

Mr. Conway: I think it was interesting and I know the hon. members opposite share with me what appears to be some measure of illogic if nothing else, and I think it interesting too to see that the argument—and it's important from just an argument's point of view—to see how it was that the government justified this. The hon. Premier stood up and he said, for good reason, that the prime concern, and the one outstanding cause and the one reason for doing what he had done, was that the time had come for this province to take not a parochial and not a provincial but, most importantly, to take a national view of the situation.

That's interesting because it is an absolutely impossible position, and the impossibility of that position was underscored and underlined and driven home by the hon. member, the Don Juan from Don Mills, the

Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), who told us but a few weeks later at the National Energy Conference in Ottawa that he will not tolerate Peter "the Red" Lougheed and his red Tories in Alberta. They're not going to take us to the energy cleaners. No sir, We are a provincial Conservative government that is sensitive to our particular constituency. There it is. There is a time in a very similar situation to be national, because as we all know, so much of the impending inflation problem is one of energy. But what happened?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Now he is acting like Mitch but he speaks like David Lewis. Now he is waving his hands like David Lewis used to.

Mr. Mancini: He is pretending to give out cheques.

Mr. Conway: There is in that, to me at any rate, a certain transparency which I'm sure even the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) could detect. We cannot in this province, in this social province, in a province which we all know in a historic sense has been more central than its geography, have on the one hand the Premier stand up and say, "No, we're going to take the anti-inflation problem in its totality and we're going to be national about it and so, therefore, we're going to give all that we can give and we're going to give it to the federal government." Fair enough, fair enough.

What happens? When he takes a serious component of that, he decides, through the illustrious member for Don Mills, they simply cannot do it. Why? Because when the nuts and bolts are looked at, Ontario is, in the energy situation, clearly the largest consuming province and constituency that there is, and it's not in his or in my best interests to take a national view of the energy situation, because it is going to hurt, because it just won't hold water, to turn a phrase.

[9:15]

That brings me to that essential component—that the Province of Ontario is a province like none other. Since the very beginning this province has, in this Dominion, exercised a degree of influence and control unmatched by any other, and most certainly unmatched by any other province in a modern day. We've got to know that, and in the academic community, without wanting to be pedantic, it refers to a tradition developed by the first Liberal Premier of this province and followed by every Premier, including the Premier of the Farmer-Labour government

of 1919-1923. It became known as the Mowat heritage in federal-provincial regulations. What it said basically was that in matters of economic concern, this province may as well recognize that it is the business of the government and the ministry to protect the economic jurisdiction and to fully guard and fully exercise those responsibilities.

Nobody, not so much as fine men like Howard Ferguson, E. C. Drury or any of them, ever abdicated responsibility in a fashion like this particular government. That's important. It's impossible, as the Minister of Energy indicated only a short while ago, because we are the central province. In economic terms we are more central, and we are more central in geography. And I think it is important for that reason.

To conclude this short address, this most humble address, this most quiet address—

Mr. Bain: This most redundant address.

Mr. Conway: Such are the vagaries of party politics. I want to conclude on a note of some seriousness—

An hon. member: Conclude?

Mr. McClellan: Your conclusion is about half an hour on.

Mr. Conway: —and it is one which refers to what I think we could generally call a national question. It has been referred to in this House by more than a few people, and certainly it reflects a very deep feeling of more than disgust—of tragedy that I felt in the last provincial election campaign. It relates to a national question. The Premier was the one who really made me think more deeply about this. He's a man of very instructional tendencies.

I remember well his reply to the Speech from the Throne in December. At that time he was reflecting upon the quality of campaigning in September, 1975. He stood there, in his unique way, and he referred to members opposite—to some more particularly than to others. I thought I detected in that inscrutable personality of his, a sense of deep hurt in the kind of campaign run by certain groups and certain individuals in the last election. To that extent, I agreed with him in that principle, because I was in eastern Ontario and I watched the campaign develop. I saw one of the sorriest and most pathetic demonstrations on the part of two, and possibly three, members of the government caucus then and now. It's interesting in light of what this Premier has said about wanting to be national. I refer to comments made

by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman) and the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow), who regrettably are not with us today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a feeling of deep sadness that I reflect at this time, as others have earlier, on the quality of campaign that they ran. To say that it was low and callous and base and disgusting, I think, from my point of view, would be to misrepresent it in a positive kind of way. Those two members, together with others in the caucus, were crusading around eastern Ontario and they were focusing public attention on the fact that there was a Liberal Party in Ontario that quite obviously, by nomenclature at least, was associated with the federal government party.

The hon. member for Carleton and his sidekick from Ottawa West introduced, I suspect conspicuously and very consciously, the French question. They introduced, and they certainly seemed to introduce that famous Ontario expression; and you only have to read the advertising of at least the member for Ottawa West to understand what they were doing. I can stand here as a student of Canadian history, if not as a long participant of same, and say that that is an absolutely unacceptable kind of campaign. I don't want to sit here—

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: —and I'm not here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, or members of all parties in this House that I am some Johnny-come-lately purist in politics in Ontario. That is not true. Despite what my friends in the democratic left might tell you, I do have my imperfections. But I think it absolutely important that we subscribe to the Premier of Ontario's basic feeling that there are times when it is necessary to be national because we are Ontario and we are the central province.

What we do in energy, what we do in the inflation situation in general is absolutely important and central and directing. But between the needs of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario there is a historic line of division and we all know it because we all live with it. When I say "we", I speak at least of those of my colleagues in all parties in eastern Ontario who live in the shadow of the Province of Quebec and who live happily with those Franco-Ontarians who vote and who live with us.

So it is that I consider it indeed tragic that members of a government party, mem-

bers of the Progressive Conservative Party, a party which, given the fact that it has had its times of difficulty, has in its origins and in its career a very marked success, at least in the early stages, in building a compromise along the line of cleavage which is most difficult and which is most destructive in this country and in this province, that members of that party—without being cliché-ish—of the party of Macdonald and members of the party of John Robarts could feel themselves comfortable with the campaign which said that one of the reasons you should not vote for another party is that they are the party of rampaging bilingualism, that you've got a Liberal government in Ottawa and you've got a Liberal government in Quebec City of all things, so do we want and can we afford in social terms a Liberal government in Toronto?

You are part of that and I can appreciate that and I want to be serious for a brief moment, because if this country of ours is anything, it is exceptionally frail and fragile and the history of this country and of this province, if it does anything at all, tells us that it is an uneasy alliance, a most difficult and a tenuous connection. We as party politicians have got to understand that.

Mr. Renwick: You're not suggesting we want a Liberal government in all those places, are you?

Mr. Conway: I am saying that it saddens me that members of a government party in eastern Ontario in 1975 could find themselves comfortable with that kind of calculated campaign directed at an undermining of that uneasy compromise in a province which continues to wrestle with that uneasy alliance, at least in eastern Ontario. If I thought that it just ended there, I would leave it there but those ads were appearing in the Ottawa Valley press in August and September.

Do you know what was appearing a few weeks later in the one daily paper in the county of Renfrew and was probably the most talked about advertisement in the paper? I took the issue of Monday, Dec. 15, 1975, just as an example. It is a small ad that ran for a number of days that said nothing more and nothing less than "Keep Ontario English." That's the corollary; that's the product of that kind of campaign—not wholly and I don't suggest entirely at all, but those gentlemen from Carleton and Ottawa West, as members of a provincial assembly, and more particularly those who are expected to lead and to take a responsible position in the public

affairs of eastern Ontario, have got to accept their measure of responsibility, because they, by their actions, clearly contradicted all that the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) intended all of us to be and to do in our national contribution. I hope that sometimes, if not already, he finds it in the orbit of his time and patience to draw that at least to the private attention of those people involved.

It's immaterial whether I survive another election or whether I go on and continue to represent my riding. There are issues of transcendent importance, and they may appear to be ethereal and ephemeral and less than substantial, and I will grant support to those who feel that way when, in my province and in my county, I have to pick up a paper and read an ad which says: "Keep Ontario English." If that kind of sentiment is allowed to continue and if there is any measure of cultivation on behalf of government members—many of whom are Franco-Ontarians—if that has to continue then I, like the Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker, fear for the future of my country.

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me once again to address myself to the Speech from the Throne.

I must admit that I rise in all humility at this time. I don't think I've ever heard a better impersonation of the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Lewis) than I just heard. I can only think that I somewhat yearn for my lost youth. I think it must be marvellous, at such a young age, to have fallen so deliciously and passionately in love with one's own voice. I congratulate the member. I am glad that he cut his remarks short. I'm certainly glad he cut his remarks short because otherwise none of us would have got on tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Grossman: Is the member for Renfrew North flattered?

Mr. Kennedy: It ends there.

Mr. Drea: His maiden speech.

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you again on the fair and impartial way in which you conduct the affairs of this legislative assembly. While I've only been a member for a very short time, since last September—as has the previous speaker, and my associate—I have one concern and one only regarding the Legislature, and that is, the access of people to the floor of the Legislature. I would request, if it is at all possible, that you instruct the staff to be more vigilant about who enters and who

does not enter this Legislature. By stating my concern in this fashion I do not want to be overly alarmist—

Mr. Foulds: Some carry brown paper bags.

Mr. Gregory: Some are disappointed leadership candidates too.

By stating my concern in this fashion, I don't want to be overly alarmist, but I think it's important that the security staff be more aware as to who does enter the floor of this Legislature. It would be better to be safe than to be sorry if any particular unfortunate event should occur.

What concerns me most about the addresses which I have heard to date is the highly irresponsible and casual manner of the remarks of the leader of the official opposition, and specifically the way in which the leader of the official opposition marshalled his facts regarding this government's efforts to restrain government spending. I find his criticisms utterly stupendous, excessive distortions of reality, or partial exaggerations of the real situation.

He describes our restraint attempts in the closing of community hospitals or on the more efficient use of welfare funds as insensitive and irrational. These same terms could be applied to the very criticisms the hon. member is making on these and other issues. He acts like a fellow who uses buckshot to kill pigeons. If you spray the whole barn with sufficient buckshot you are certain to hit something or other. It doesn't matter what you hit, as long as you hit something.
[9:30]

Mr. Philip: You won't hit a farmer—they are all going out of business.

Mr. Gregory: The word restraint is a word that simply does not appear in the vocabulary of the NDP leader or any of his colleagues. They just don't know what it means. Never for a moment does he consider whether the public sector can do the job better than the private sector or vice versa.

Never for a moment does he think about the impact of government spending on the pocketbooks of the taxpayers.

An hon. member: Right on; right on.

Mr. Gregory: Never for a moment does he think through the consequences of assuming that the bureaucracy can spend the tax dollar more wisely and efficiently than the ordinary individual. Never for a moment does he examine the consequences of building up the

government sector at the expense of the private sector—

Mr. Samis: That's gobbledygook and you know it.

Mr. Gregory: —and in turn creating a set of programmes with supporting clientele, both of which develop a built-in dependency which can never be affected, impinged upon or re-examined in any fashion. If you examine such consequences, you're immediately branded as a child-exploiter, as anti-human in the treatment of social assistance recipients.

Take, for example, the leader of the official opposition's remarks regarding the administration of welfare in Ontario. On the one hand, he accuses this government of forcing mothers back into the labour force and by so doing taking their children away from the mothers. On the other hand, he criticizes this government for creating a monstrous welfare state and having no concern for getting jobs for those very parents he claims we are forcing back into the labour force. I don't believe the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis) can have it both ways. When the Minister for Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) states that he intends to improve the regulations under which people receive welfare, either through the family benefits programme or through general welfare assistance, his specific aim is to help those people who are able bodied and can work to get back into the labour force, rather than rely on public assistance for the remainder of their lives.

Mr. Foulds: Provide the jobs, just provide the jobs.

Mr. Gregory: What I find most interesting is the reaction of various people to the ministry's attempt at more efficient spending of public funds for social assistance recipients. Recently in the *Toronto Star*, I read an article in which a Mrs. Andree Roche, who has formed a single working parents' association, has praised the attempts of Mr. Taylor to help those mothers who are relying upon public welfare at this stage of their lives.

Mr. Swart: Were there 10 in that organization?

Mr. Gregory: Mrs. Roche, of Scarborough, makes about \$10,000 a year as a secretary. She has raised her daughter on her own, and I quote here Mrs. Roche's words:

I am sure many of these welfare mothers would be glad to work if they had proper child care facilities; many wouldn't work no matter what you offered, and they're the ones that make me so mad. It's important to me to be able to hold my head up. It's a quality that I want my own child to learn. I didn't want her to grow up thinking people owe you a living.

Those were Mrs. Roche's words, not mine.

The minister has consistently told these mothers they will not be forced back into the labour force if it is more important that they be at home to raise their children. However, what he did say is that if a young, single woman with a child is also living with her mother, does that child need two women to supervise one child? Is it not possible that a young mother of a two- or three-year-old child could be settling in to 13 or 14 years on welfare if there are not sufficient day-care facilities available, or if there is not a back-up help in the home available to that particular mother? In changing the regulations the minister is attempting to break 13- and 14-year cycles of dependency on welfare. That is the central issue of which we are talking today, not welfare baiting or job creation.

Mr. Foulds: Not job creation? I am glad you think that.

Mr. Gregory: The real philosophical difference, however, in the approach to this whole question of job creation between this government and the official opposition—

Mr. McClellan: You are opting out.

Interjection.

Mr. Gregory: You know, when one is speaking in terms of the opposition, one gets the definite impression of making a sudden noise on a turkey farm, and I mean no irreverence to the turkeys.

Mr. Mackenzie: He's clarifying the minister's statements for us.

Mr. Gregory: The real philosophical differences, however, in the approach to this whole question of job creation between this government—

Mr. Foulds: Have you ever been on a turkey farm?

Mr. Gregory: —and the official opposition, is that the official opposition wants to expand the number of jobs in the public service regardless how significant those jobs may be. Again they are at least consistent, in contrast

to the Liberals on this matter. We want to see mothers who have relied on welfare working in the private sector, if that is at all possible, not in the public sector.

What I find so distasteful about the casual remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) is that he is exploiting the emotional content of this issue by portraying his own New Democrats as the really great good guys and the Progressive Conservative government as the terrible, evil Tories.

Mr. Di Santo: What do you guys do?

Mr. Foulds: That's a fair evaluation.

Mr. Gregory: He refuses to concede the possibility that we are attempting to improve—

Mr. Lawlor: When are you going to call him to order, Mr. Speaker? He is reading.

Mr. Gregory: —the administration of public welfare in Ontario by breaking the dependency of social assistance recipients on public welfare wherever possible; he accuses us of intensifying anxieties and agonies in those very people. Yet if we even allude to his exploitation of emotionalism in this case, we are still branded as insensitive and irrational, as if New Democrats had a monopoly on sensitivity and virtue.

Mr. Foulds: Only sensitivity; not virtue.

Mr. Gregory: What I find so disturbing about his remarks concerns the lack of perspective, the lack of balance in approaching social issues. For example, I find the recent proposal made by Mr. Martin Goodman, managing editor of the *Toronto Star*, in an address to the Canadian Red Cross Society, most intriguing.

Generally, he favours the presence of a large number of volunteers in the social service community as a vital and valuable presence. He proceeds to propose that volunteers be permitted some minor degree of compensation for their time and effort in the role of volunteer through deduction in their income tax. He states:

Surely the social values reflected in taxation policy should recognize the benefit from people giving their time, particularly when it comes from the young, the elderly or the working poor. Certainly society would gain more from the new volunteers who would come in than it would lose in tax revenues.

But I suggest the hon. member for Scarborough West would find such a proposal im-

practical, because he would in all likelihood suggest that the greater use of volunteers in the social service community would offset the professionalism of the experts.

Mr. Lawlor: This is not fair. When he is reading his speech like that it is hard to interject, particularly when you are sitting in the wrong seat.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gregory: The institutionalization of the whole social field is their goal. It is in his interest and in his party's interest to see a greater unionization and expansion of the social service sector.

Mr. Lawlor: That's a prepared text; isn't that so?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Germa: Who wrote that?

Mr. Ferrier: Did Taylor write that speech for you?

Mr. Speaker: It is quite in order, that's his own speech.

Mr. Samis: One of Taylor's old speeches.

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: If members opposite don't understand it just try and listen anyway as I go along and maybe they will learn something.

Mr. Philip: Why don't you stop, do you think you will lose your place?

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: It is in the interest of the leader of the opposition party to see the greater unionization and expansion of the social service sector, for he and his party want to see the institutionalization of charity in the form of a Crown corporation.

There is no need for amateurs in the field of social services, according to him. Like everything else only the state knows better than private effort or individual initiative even in this field, in his opinion.

I was also disappointed, Mr. Speaker, in his politically opportunistic attempts to portray the side effects of the 5.5 per cent limit on social service expenditures as established fact, as a fait accompli. For example, he describes the impact of the 5.5 per cent limit on the Kingston Children's Aid Society by pointing out that officials at that CAS will have to reduce by \$1 per day the value of food used to feed children in the group homes

run by CAS in that city. He says that food will now cost \$1.98 a day rather than \$2.98 a day. How did he arrive at that conclusion?

Mr. McClellan: They told us.

Mr. Gregory: Yes, I can quite imagine.

In all likelihood New Democratic Party researchers phoned up people at the Kingston CAS and asked them: "What effect will the 5.5 per cent increase have on your budget for the coming year?" And they probably replied: "Well it leaves \$1.98 per day instead of \$2.98 per day to feed children in group homes;" and that's that.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, based on their needs.

Mr. Gregory: What the Leader of the Opposition leaves out is the fact that the budget for the Kingston Children's Aid Society has not been finally determined in the 1976-1977 fiscal year. Yet he makes the realm of speculation a political fact of the day. He fails to mention that Kingston Children's Aid Society officials will consult with Community and Social Service Ministry personnel to determine the final budget, not in terms of specific allocations of each item but in the total amount of funds required to run that CAS operation.

Mr. Foulds: How do you arrive at that total?

Mr. Gregory: In Kapuskasing, he lets it be known that there will be a staff reduction of 6.5, that there will be no funds available for summer camp programmes and that all preventive programmes will be dropped. What he conveniently ignores are the assurances of the minister and the people in the Community and Social Services Ministry that in the event that certain Children's Aid Societies cannot function with the 5.5 per cent limit, attempts will be made to change that situation. What it also indicates is that the herculean efforts of the NDP research people are really a myth.

Interjection.

Mr. Gregory: Any person, including myself, can phone up people at Children's Aid Societies and ask them what impact 5.5 per cent limits on social service expenditures will have on their operation.

Mr. Foulds: Why didn't your ministry do that?

Mr. Gregory: I can only speak for myself.

Mr. Foulds: Thank God.

Mr. Gregory: I did that. I phoned and contacted in person the head of the Region of

Peel Children's Aid Society and inquired whether the 5.5 per cent limit would severely affect their operation in the coming year. Much to my surprise, as a matter of fact, I found it would not mean a drastic curtailment of services so I could conclude just the opposite of what the Leader of the Opposition is saying.

Mr. Ferrier: Did you call Kingston?

Mr. Gregory: I am not from Kingston, sir. I am from Mississauga East.

Mr. McClellan: Fifty per cent of the societies cannot live on the guidelines.

Mr. Gregory: I realize most sincerely that these people are going to have a difficult time working within the 5.5 per cent limit.

Mr. McClellan: Oh, you do?

Mr. Gregory: Yes, I do, but I also congratulate them—

Mr. Germa: They are expendable, aren't they?

Mr. Gregory: I congratulate them on really making an attempt to reduce wastage in public funds, if there is any, in this specific field. I congratulate the social service personnel in the region of Peel for the responsible and even-handed manner in which they face this problem or challenge. They didn't go running off to the press, to the media, making all sorts of unjustified claims about the impact of the 5.5 per cent limit. They did not scream, as has happened in certain areas of Ontario, that there will be more teen suicides—

Mr. McClellan: Continue to attack the Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Gregory: —that there will be more children running around lost in the streets of the city of Mississauga, that there will be more drug abuse. No, they didn't resort to those irresponsible and sensational tactics of getting publicity for their cause, Mr. Speaker. In that fashion they didn't commit undue damage to their cause because they see themselves serving the community in a highly responsible and serious manner.

In changing the approach to welfare administration and the distribution of welfare funds in this province, the Community and Social Services minister is taking the first important step in the long road to overhauling the whole system, an overhaul that has been needed for a long time.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, 32 years.

Mr. Gregory: The NDP response is anti-reform in rhetoric, and status quo to any change in the welfare system. The minister is to be congratulated on his effort, particularly in the light of undertaking this overhaul without affecting the overall services provided to people. So long as the NDP leader continues to demonstrate the deficiencies of the restraint programme, I could stand here and counter him with examples of people who are working hard to work within the context of the restraint programme.

Mr. Foulds: You have given us one example against 17 that we have.

Mr. Gregory: All I have to do is look to the city of Mississauga; and what do you find there?

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: There go those turkeys again, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: City council will maintain an overall level of municipal services within a 10 per cent increase. There will be no reduction in city staff and no serious curtailment in services. Again these officials and locally-elected representatives are to be congratulated for trying to make the restraint programme work. Again, Mr. Speaker, I must stress that these same people have not gone to the media screaming their heads off about how they need more money.

In further discussing the reply to the Speech from the Throne by the leader of the official opposition, I am most disappointed in his total absence of proposals for the construction of new housing in the province. Certainly this government has done more—
[9:45]

Mr. Angus: What about your lack?

Mr. Gregory: This government has done more in the way of getting new houses constructed than any other government in Canada.

Mr. Samis: How many last year?

Mr. Foulds: That's because you live in Mississauga.

Mr. Gregory: Our assortment of programmes has helped all cross-sections of the Ontario community—

Mr. Samis: Only two provinces went down last year.

Mr. Gregory: —ranging from low and moderate incomes to those individuals who would normally be able to make equity purchases in housing, but because of the crushing burden of inflation have required that extra help to become new and proud home owners. The leader of the third party in this House has remarked on the failure of the first time home buyers programme. Again, the Liberal leader dismisses it as a giveaway programme. How does he justify his remarks when you look at the actual results of the first time home buyers grant programme? Up until the middle of March over 112,378 parties applied for this grant.

Mr. Nixon: Including several in \$100,000 homes.

Mr. Gregory: Oh, isn't it wonderful that somebody can buy a \$100,000 home? I don't find that too frightening.

Mr. Nixon: You and your Tories.

Mr. Gregory: They're not all Tories.

Mr. Good: And you give them \$1,500 to do it.

Mr. Gregory: Some of them are New Democrats, as a matter of fact. Several are New Democrats. Some are New Democrats in the far north who own \$100,000 homes, and you all know it, don't you? And a few Liberals have them too.

Mr. Hall: They are human too.

Mr. Gregory: Over 82,000 individuals or families were able to take advantage of moving into a new home, and thus in a small way opened up rental accommodation to those people who prefer to rent on a continuing basis.

Mr. Germa: That's \$1,000 a vote.

Mr. Gregory: Not a bad result for such a terrible programme as described by the leader of the third party. At the same time, I'm happy to see the introduction of the New Home Warranties Act, designed to protect new home buyers from questionable workmanship in new housing.

Mr. Foulds: Especially in Mississauga.

Mr. Gregory: Yes, I'm going to get to that, as a matter of fact. This legislation, when it becomes a reality, will be a tremend-

ous help to residents in my riding, since I understand from the newspaper this morning the region of Peel received 96 per cent—

Mr. Foulds: No, 91.

Mr. Gregory: It was 96.

Mr. Foulds: No, 91.

Mr. Gregory: All right, will you split the difference at 93 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. members direct their comments to the Chair?

Mr. Gregory: Thank you. Ninety-three per cent of the OHAP grants during 1975 were in the region of Peel. Five Tory members there too; it's marvellous.

Mr. Good: How comes the Peel region got all that government money?

Mr. Gregory: Because we did all the work. We released all the houses, did all the work. You know, you were there.

Mr. Good: Show us who gets all the money.

Mr. McCague: Who else wanted it?

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, if we can cut down the gabble over there, I would urge the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) to see if ways can be found to extend the New Home Warranties Act to older homes built in the last few years. However, I would urge the government to intensify efforts to increase the supply of new housing in as many communities as possible throughout this province. As the Metropolitan Toronto area grows ever larger with the possibility of ever-declining rates of construction in new homes, whether they be condominium, high-rise, townhouse developments or single family dwellings, with the impact of rent review we must recognize the urgent necessity to get on with the job of getting new homes built.

As the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has repeatedly stated on many occasions, we can all go about looking for villains to lay blame upon for the lack of housing, and there are certain villains no doubt, but we must bend our energies to building new homes.

For these reasons I would like to just briefly outline a method which one specific developing company has brought to my attention and which would be most applicable to the city of Mississauga and certainly many other communities in Ontario.

Mr. Germa: Tell us who it is.

Mr. McClellan: How much profit?

Mr. Gregory: I wouldn't suggest for one minute, in addressing myself to the New Democrats, to even discuss profit. I realize how it hurts their sensitive feelings.

Mr. Samis: Don't condescend.

Mr. Germa: Tell us who this developer is.

Mr. Gregory: As a matter of fact I will tell you. There is a group known as Taro Properties, in co-operation with a planning consulting company known as Rogers-Thomson Associates, who associated themselves with firms of engineers, architects, landscape planners, etc. They undertook the task of designing a single family home that could be marketed in the Mississauga area under the price of \$50,000. One of the reasons was in order to qualify for the federal government's \$1,000 homebuyers' grant on new homes under a certain price.

There were many, many problems in undertaking a task of this sort, as you will well realize, anyone who comes from the Metropolitan Toronto area. One of them was the land cost. In the Mississauga area that we are talking about, on previously zoned industrial land the price was \$70,000 per acre unserviced. They had a rather tricky problem right there. The second problem was the local council had been very reluctant to employ or to use the zero line concept. These were two almost insurmountable problems.

The end result that they have come up with after many, many months of study and design is a design that will put single family homes—I am not talking about semi-detached or townhouses or anything else—on the market at a price of \$47,000.

Mr. Makarchuk: Listen, I did it for \$32,000.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gregory: Where?

Mr. Makarchuk: In Brantford.

Mr. Grossman: In Brantford, when?

Mr. Bounsall: Have you heard of it?

Mr. Makarchuk: Last year.

Mr. Gregory: Have you any idea of the price of land in Mississauga as opposed to Brantford?

Mr. Makarchuk: It is about the same.

An hon. member: It is identical.

Mr. Gregory: It is not identical.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member will continue.

Mr. Gregory: The speakers have been arguing the—

Mr. Angus: Find his place for him, will you?

Mr. Samis: Has he mixed up his pages or what?

Mr. Gregory: I haven't mixed up my papers at all.

Mr. Grossman: He doesn't need papers.

Mr. Gregory: There is absolutely no way, and members know it, though they talk, unless it's on a co-op basis—and you can't do this on a mass basis—that you can do it for anywhere near this price with any other design. And you have no knowledge of anything under that.

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: You people state your mark, you just pick your figures out of the air, you couldn't care less for facts.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gregory: I won't confuse you with facts. Your mind is made up.

Mr. Angus: That is what you would like the people to believe.

Mr. Makarchuk: Cut out the speculators and I will build the homes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: There is no speculation in Brantford.

Mr. Gregory: If you let me go on you might even like one of these and buy one in my area.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Gregory: The end result is that the housing will be put on the market—you don't keep quiet long enough to learn anything—at a price of \$47,000, complete with full landscaping, paving, park system, in con-

formity with standards of the Planning Act, bicycle path, walkway system, transit system and connecting with the major Mississauga transit system, so that no homeowner is further than 500 ft from a transit system.

Mr. Makarchuk: At that price the consumer gets ripped off by about \$10,000.

Mr. Gregory: Match that in Brantford: Houses are built on a series of cul de sacs, each containing four houses. Each home has its own private back yard. Mississauga council, which has been somewhat reluctant to innovate, has accepted this concept unanimously, and for Mississauga council to do it, fellows, it has got to be good.

Mr. Swart: What percentage of the population can afford them?

Mr. Gregory: At \$47,000?

Mr. Swart: Yes.

Mr. Grossman: Just the teachers.

Mr. Gregory: The people have to afford them at \$47,000. There is nothing cheaper. You know and I know that anywhere in the Mississauga area, in Metropolitan Toronto, townhouses and townhouse condominiums are selling for more than \$47,000.

Mr. Grossman: Too expensive for lawyers.

Mr. Gregory: You people from the backwoods countries wouldn't know that, of course.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: What have you got against the rest of Ontario?

Mr. Makarchuk: How many houses have you built?

Mr. Gregory: These single family detached homes will be built at 11.5 units to the acre, which is just 3.5 units less than that allowable for townhouses. I recognize that it's not going to be appreciated because there doesn't seem to be any knowledge on the other side of the House for anywhere other than their own rural communities. It would be nice if they did know something about the urban communities.

Mr. Makarchuk: How many houses have you built in Ontario?

Mr. Gregory: My only reason for outlining this plan is to show that private enterprise

is ready to co-operate in providing reasonable cost housing to the people.

Mr. Swart: How did they get there?

Mr. Gregory: And the government of this province is more than ready to co-operate with private enterprise in supplying this need to the people.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Fort William.

Mr. Grossman: Who wants to try now?

Mr. Angus: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause.]

Mr. Angus: I thank my colleagues for time to collect my thoughts. Mr. Speaker, as this is my first opportunity to speak in relation to the either of the three Throne Speeches, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House, and the Deputy Chairman on their selection and to thank them for the fine jobs that all three of them have been doing throughout these very confusing and interesting sessions that we have been going through.

Mr. Samis: Confusing or interesting?

Mr. Angus: Both. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by going through, to a certain extent, the Throne Speech as it was presented by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor. The first item that I want to look at is the comments about the national anti-inflation programme performing without flow or inequity.

I would like to read an excerpt from a letter to a number of us from the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis), relating to a request that we made to him to intercede on behalf of the pulp and paper workers of this province who were placed in a situation, after many months of a labour dispute, of having a wage settlement forced on them by the Anti-Inflation Board of Canada.

We asked the Premier of this province to act on their behalf to get a settlement that was more realistic, more reasonable in terms of the costs as we have seen them rise in this province. The Premier replied as follows:

As you are aware, it has been this government's policy not to interfere in the collective bargaining process, except as a last resort in the case of strategic services. As I understand it, the overwhelming majority of Canadian Paperworkers locals have concluded their bargaining process and agreements signed are currently under re-

view by the Anti-Inflation Board. All indications are that these agreements follow the pattern established by the Irving case and should prove acceptable under the federal guidelines.

Mr. Foulds: What is the date of that?

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, the date of that letter, in response to my colleague from Port Arthur, is March 17, 1976.

The whole question is one of understanding. We asked the Premier to act on their behalf. His letter seems to suggest that he doesn't even know what is really happening in this province. He doesn't know that the pulp and paper mills have been using the workers to increase the profits to a greater extent than we've ever seen before. He has not taken the opportunity of trying to win back some of the labour votes that he has obviously lost over the last six or seven months, because I know in my community it was the labour votes that contributed very greatly to my election on Sept. 18. I think that it's very inconsiderate and inconsistent and, I would suggest with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, bordering on incompetence for the Premier of this province not to support the workers of Ontario.

He said he might interfere if it was a strategic service. Well, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in northern Ontario, and some in southern Ontario, whose communities rely solely on the wages, profits and services provided by those pulp and paper industries, I say they are essential services; they are strategic services. As we saw, many of our northern communities bordered on the brink of economic disaster because of the prolonged labour dispute.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, right off the bat, that the Premier, through the Lieutenant Governor, has lost our confidence—the little that we had to begin with.

[10:00]

The next item that the Speech from the Throne speaks to is the possible curtailing of costs and reordering of priorities in the provincial and national interest in the hope that other governments and the private sector will be encouraged in the battle against inflation. Ironically, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce came out very shortly thereafter and was talking about reordering the priorities and reordering the government's spending. They talked federally, of course, about eliminating the baby bonus and such unnecessary programmes as that. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we, the representatives of a

fairly large number of people in Ontario, deplore that kind of attitude.

The Throne Speech talked about the social programmes that have been rearranged and about the constraint programmes. Just two weeks ago, my colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) instituted a series of awards called the Albatross of the Month award. I happened to be in his office today when I saw one of them. It came very close to my heart because it relates to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and the minister himself.

While the Throne Speech talked about government restraints, the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) announced, I believe it was on March 20, that the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) threw a party in Hollywood as a means of supporting the Canadian film industry. This is almost totally unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, because it's a truly Canadian situation, we don't throw a party in Canada for our film industry; we throw it in the States. That is the fallacy of the whole illogical attitude that we Canadians have about our own film industry, about our industries, and about the country as a whole.

So I was very pleased to see a gentleman from Kincardine had written in to nominate the Minister of Industry and Tourism, the minister in charge of squandering my tax money, for the "artistic squandering of public funds" category in the next Albatross presentation. I have taken the liberty of seconding that nomination.

Once again the Chamber of Commerce has come to the forefront in austerity and in Saturday's Globe and Mail the new president of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce has talked about a balanced budget for Ontario. He has some interesting comments that I think I should share with you. On one hand, he says there is a need for changing programme priority: "Government programmes should have genuine special benefits and these come best from programmes that create jobs," Mr. Meakes, the president said. He has decreed that we should stop spending money on cultural programmes; on arts, recreation, and what have you.

I admit that in this time of restraint we have to reconsider our priorities and possibly some of the programmes in the arts and recreation and culture may have to suffer a bit. But the thing that really bothers me is where he wants the money to be spent. He wants to see more tax incentives, more government grants to industry in this province.

While I realize that we have to take a look at how we relocate industry throughout On-

tario to have them locate in other parts of the province, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that providing tax incentives is not the way to do it. The companies look upon those as gifts; one-tenth of one per cent of their profit is a present to them. They would have located where they did even if they didn't have them.

Another item that has come to our attention in the NDP in the last couple of months has been the series of press releases between the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) and the Minister of Industry and Tourism relating to the whole idea of tip differential for sectors of the hospitality industry. The first group they have lashed out at has been the people who work in those holes and jug lounges in the Province of Ontario who, the ministers believe, receive a considerable amount of tips so that they can enjoy greater benefits and their employers don't have to spend as much, so they have a minimum wage of \$2.50 when everybody else has \$2.65.

We were worried when we saw the initial statements, because we thought that the ministers were going to require that the employees, as was seen in one of the areas in Toronto just recently, would be forced to deposit their tips with their employer and he in turn would pay them a minimum wage only. That itself would have led to cheating—in fact, it probably did—on behalf of the employees. It obviously led to cheating on behalf of the employer, because he confiscated all the surplus earnings of the workers.

As it stands now, the minimum wage workers in a lot of the non-union firms are deprived of vacation and other benefits laid down by law. It's an obvious contravention of the law of Ontario, but because of the type of operation they have, mostly bordering in a lot of cases on the illegitimate, they are able to get away with it because the type of people who work there are very concerned about their income and are very concerned about not rocking the boat. I say it is a shame that that kind of attitude is supported by the Province of Ontario.

The president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees said that the provision will unfairly penalize the workers affected because fringe benefits are calculated on the basic wages, not on income from tips, and financial institutions look only at basic incomes when considering loan applications. You know, Mr. Speaker, that in July of 1975 the average income for all wage earners in the Canadian hotel, restaurant and tavern industry was \$4,307.16. It is obviously not a great contributor to inflation.

I have yet to see any documentation that shows that the employees of the liquor industry, in the lounges and the beverage rooms in Ontario, are overpaid because of tips. I would suggest that the opposite is true. In fact, I know a number of beverage rooms where I think the employees would be shocked if they ever got an extra nickel thrown on the table. They work for the basic wage.

As it stands now, the basic wage in Ontario is much lower than it should be in terms of the costs of survival for those people who, because of circumstances, whether it be education or what have you, are forced to work in that type of industry. That's the only thing they can get and they must deal with and survive with \$2.50 as the Ministry of Labour has decreed.

In terms of the social services cutbacks I would like to detail a couple of items from my area. I received today a resolution from the city of Thunder Bay, and I would like to read it. It's addressed to Mr. I. Angus, MPP, Toronto, Ont.:

Dear Mr. Angus:

I have been directed by my council to forward to you a copy of a resolution which has been adopted and which is forwarded for your information and attention. We recommend to council endorsement of the director of social services' recommendation concerning the determination of the province's subsidy base line contained in the report dated March 1, 1976, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Treasurer of Ontario, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the local MPPs.

For your information the director of social services' recommendation referred to in his report is as follows: "That we request the province to exempt from their constraints any moneys which are merely transfers under the Canada Assistance Plan from the federal government to the municipalities."

I suggest that that shows a fair bit of understanding on behalf of the city of Thunder Bay, and particularly of Mr. Don MacLeod, the director of social services, of the problem in Ontario. I believe we have one of the best social services departments in the province. They have gone out of their way to develop new services to get people off the welfare rolls. In fact, there was a situation about a year ago when they had to lay off their own staff because of the quality job they were doing. They laugh when they hear that the hon. Minister of Community and Social

Services is going to bring in regulations that will force people to work, because in effect they had been encouraging and developing people in such a way that they were able to go out and work; anybody who is left on the rolls is there because there is no alternative. Yet the government is prepared to try and force people who have no qualifications, no opportunities, off the welfare rolls when there are no jobs available.

There is one situation in my riding—and I believe in many other ridings in Ontario, a lot of our urban communities have those so-called fringe benefits they can cut back on. I say so-called because they are daycare and work incentive programmes and what have you where they are not tied into this, that or other programme dictated by other agencies.

In my riding there is a municipality called Paipoonge that has a population of somewhere around 2,300 people. Their overall budget is very small, but they have no control over the majority of their budget. The district Children's Aid Society tells them how much they have to pay for the 1976 fiscal year. The Lakehead Roman Catholic School Board tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year. The Lakehead Board of Education tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year. The district Home for the Aged tells them how much they have to pay for the coming year; and under the General Welfare Assistance Act they are required by law to assist those individuals who meet the criteria as set out by the Province of Ontario.

So where do they go to meet that 5.5 ceiling, or the 8.8, depending on the area? Do they go to the roads budget, which is approximately \$89,000 a year to operate and maintain 100 miles of road in a very rural, very strung out community? Or do they go after the recreation budget, which is \$6,000 and provides for the basic heat and light of their community centres and allows them to open a swimming pool in the summer time?

They are not unique, because there are many other rural communities in the province that are in that kind of situation. They have one choice—they have to raise the property taxes.

In the area of health care I'd like in a few minutes to detail what I call musical beds in Thunder Bay, because it's quite interesting in terms of the inconsistencies and incompetence of the Ministry of Health in their recent decisions. Before I do that, I'd like to make one comment, one which I think affects more my colleague from Lake Nipigon.

The government has talked about deterrent fees for health services in the Province of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure you that the people in northern Ontario already have a deterrent fee. As the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) says, the deterrent fee for some of the people in his riding is 396 miles. That's the distance they have to go to see a medical practitioner of one kind or another. We have deterrent fees in that we don't have the facilities or the services of a qualified medical staff. To be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, because of the size of our community we never will have the quality of workers and staff you have here in Metropolitan Toronto or who are available in other major centres in Ontario. Yet we have to pay out of our own pocket to travel almost 1,000 miles to come to Sick Children's or Toronto General Hospital or any of the other fine health centres in Toronto, in order to get the very necessary health services that people in my area and the member for Port Arthur's area and the member for Lake Nipigon's area require for their survival.

[10:15]

In terms of a human situation, as to the problems that have existed and will be only compounded by the present reduction in medical beds, active treatment beds in Thunder Bay, plus an additional comment on the whole health services field, I received a letter on March 18 from a constituent of mine who has a daughter residing in one of the outlying areas—not within my riding but within a 150-mile range—and the daughter is the same age as myself. She had to wait from July, 1975, until Oct. 23, 1975, to get an appointment with a doctor in Thunder Bay and then had to wait until Dec. 7 for a hospital bed. When her problem was finally looked into, a bone biopsy was finally done on Dec. 17. Now that is close to six months from the initial date of request.

When the bone biopsy was done, she was found to have bone cancer in her arm and since the doctors in Thunder Bay were unable to do anything for her at that time, they arranged for her to go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester where she had her case diagnosed in one day. The next day, Dec. 30, they had to amputate her right arm and shoulder because by now the tumour had penetrated too deeply and they were forced to do this radical amputation. "I feel that had she not had to wait so long to see a doctor and for a hospital bed, she may have been spared some of this heartbreaking situation." That's a quote from her mother.

That's the kind of situation that we're really scared about because of these cutbacks. This happened before the cutbacks, and I don't think any one of us in this House will agree that that should continue to happen. It's ironic that she had to go to the United States of America for the diagnosis.

In Thunder Bay, we presently have a very interesting situation in terms of health beds. It's quite possible that because we are a geographically isolated community, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) cannot tell us that our people can go to Ignace or Schreiber or Pickle Crow or what have you for our health services. We're self-contained. Everything we have we use. If we don't have it, we don't use it unless we travel great distances.

The Minister of Health has decreed that 107 hospital beds in Thunder Bay shall be eliminated within a month or so. The Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital over the past year has eliminated 122 treatment beds. The Northwestern Ontario Regional Centre, which is a mental retardation unit in the same building as the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, has eliminated 25 beds. Over the past two or three years, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital ironically was in a very overcrowded situation. They had eight, 10 and 12 individuals in a ward that now houses four.

There was very extreme overcrowding and, rightly so, they moved out those patients. Primarily they were psycho-geriatric patients and through a variety of processes, I think, some were returned to the community, some were transferred to other communities and a fair number of them over the two or three years were transferred to one of the long-term private nursing homes, an authorized home under the Ministry of Health. This one home right now has a total of 105 of its 105 beds being utilized by psycho-geriatric patients.

There are still approximately 80 to 90 psycho-geriatric patients at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. In our three general hospitals in Thunder Bay—McKellar General Hospital which is in the riding of Fort William, and St. Joseph's General Hospital and the Port Arthur General Hospital which are in the riding of my colleague (Mr. Foulds)—there are anywhere from 60 to 100 long-term-care patients. These are individuals whom their doctors, because of their medical circumstances and because of the lack of long-term-care beds in Thunder Bay, have admitted to the general hospitals because there is no other place to put them. They can no longer cope at home either with their family or with home care. In fact, I've talked

to a few doctors in Thunder Bay—I admit that I don't talk to that many because we are of different political streams—but those I have talked to have suggested to me that they delay as long as they can in admitting people to the general hospitals for long-term care or treatment. The story is that once they get them in there, they don't have any hope of transferring them to a nursing home or a long-term-care home, because it is just impossible.

I have clearly set the scene for the situation. We have 60 to 100 individuals in our general hospitals who should be in long-term-care homes. We have 105 psycho-geriatric patients who were transferred from the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Presently, at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, we have one empty wing, a 100-bed wing that has no one in it; the doors are locked.

What I would suggest to the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) is that there must be a re-analysis of the bed situation in Thunder Bay. If the psycho-geriatric patients are returned to that empty ward in the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital and the long-term-care patients are moved out of the general hospitals into private nursing homes, it would in effect have a saving initially of a considerable amount of money because in the general hospitals the average cost is somewhere around \$90 to \$100 a day, while I understand the per diem for a private nursing home is around \$18 to \$20 per day. If a private nursing home, in its free enterprise world, can very adequately look after these psycho-geriatric patients, then I cannot see why the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital or some other portion of the ministry could not take care of the same residents at a similar cost in the Lakehead Psychiatric facility.

I am tempted to do some mathematics, but I have found that even by using the ministry's figures as opposed to the figures provided by the hospitals themselves, it is very difficult to get a clear picture.

I would like to talk very briefly—I realize the hour of adjournment is coming upon us—about some of the activities of the Northern Ontario Development Corp. The one thing I am concerned about, because I am a northerner and I grew up in the tourist industry, is the kind of money that we have been splurging in some of our areas in a way that I feel is very frivolous. I know my colleagues have spoken on this many times in the past, sir, but the area I am concerned about is Minaki Lodge.

We have talked about our constraint programme; we have talked about saving money;

we have talked about cutting hospital beds—and the hon. gentlemen across the floor always ask us for the alternatives. I realize it's hindsight, because the money has been spent, and I doubt very much that you could find a buyer.

I don't know the total amount of dollars that has been spent for the work which has been done, and which I understand is far from being completed, on Minaki Lodge, but I would respectfully suggest that it is at least over \$5 million. I feel that is very irresponsible indeed. Even in terms of northern Ontario, in developing the tourist industry or developing secondary industry, that money could have been better spent. It could have been better spent on providing much-needed health transportation for northern Ontario, whether it be ground ambulances or air ambulances.

It is incredible that over the years, and especially this year, the government of Ontario has been so inept in its spending priorities.

Mr. Foulds: The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) is listening to this.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism went to Hollywood. I notice he is not here tonight; perhaps he is watching the Academy Awards on television.

Mr. Foulds: He probably went to Disneyland instead.

Mr. Angus: My colleagues are getting restless.

Mr. Speaker, I must admit there have been some bright notes in the speech at the opening of this Legislature. One of them has been the Blind Persons' Rights Act, and I know that when I communicated to the city of Thunder Bay that this Act had been introduced they were quite pleased because they, as well as many of the other communities throughout Ontario, had lobbied with the Ontario government to provide a little bit of equality to those people who do not have the same senses that we in the Ontario Legislature have. Mind you, some of my colleagues, and possibly some of those in the rump—I like that—might suggest that some of us don't have some of our senses either, but eyesight possibly is not one that we have missed.

Considering these things—you know, it is interesting to note them but I am not going

to comment, Mr. Speaker, until I see the legislation, because so often in the past we look at something like the New Home Warranties Act and say, "Great, Fantastic"—and then when we get the real bill it is nothing anywhere near what we considered.

On page 10 of the Speech from the Throne it talks about the alcohol-related driving offences, particularly involving young people. I know my colleague on my right, the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba), is very concerned about those kinds of problems in our province; and I too am concerned.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that one of the things this government failed to do in its Throne Speech was to bring in any kind of legislation to control or restrict or eliminate advertising by the liquor and beer industry in Ontario. I do not buy the concept, Mr. Speaker, that liquor ads and beer ads only tend to sway the already committed drinker from one brand to another. With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that those ads highlight the so-called good times of alcohol and entrap people, particularly young people, to alcohol, to the pubs, to drinking driving—that kind of situation.

Just as an example, Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to speak to one of the individuals from the Addiction Research Foundation. We

were exploring this kind of problem and he really brought it home to me—he has been working in the field for a number of years and is quite well respected in my community—when he said that his four-year-old or five-year-old son is singing beer commercials. If a five-year-old is taking notice of it and is thinking beer, what is going to happen when he is 13 or 14 or 15, let alone when he gets to 18?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Angus: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to continue tomorrow.

Mr. Angus moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would just advise the House that tomorrow we will continue with the debate on the Throne Speech.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, March 30, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker: I have a message from the Honourable the Administrator of the Province signed by his own hand.

By his own hand, G. A. Gale, the Administrator of the Province of Ontario, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1977, and recommends them to the legislative assembly, Toronto, March 30, 1976.

Statements by the ministry.

MILTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Hon. J. R. Smith: I have the answer to a question asked of me yesterday by the hon. member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed).

I am pleased to advise the House that the grand jury report of March 17 was responded to by Justice O'Leary of Hamilton on March 26, and a point that the grand jury had raised is dealt therein regarding the lack of indoor exercise facilities. It was acknowledged that there is no place other than the court in the institution and in good weather the inmates are encouraged to exercise outdoors.

The individual inmate who was formerly a student at one of the nearby deaf institutions was dealt with. He was incarcerated on March 8; sentenced on March 25. I am pleased to say that after consultation with Mr. McCarron and Dr. Reynolds, the chief psychiatrist at the Drury school for the hearing handicapped at Milton, he is being transferred today to OCI in Brampton.

The front staircase referred to is part of the courthouse and not of the jail and is therefore the responsibility of the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener). The privacy screens have been replaced. Regarding the replacement of this facility, there are no immediate plans, but drawings have been completed for a consolidation of the Milton and Brampton jails into a new detention facility on the grounds of the Maple-

hurst Detention Centre at Milton. At present, there are no capital funds available for this or for its construction.

AIR STANDARDS

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have a clearer response to the question posed by the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith) yesterday regarding arsenic levels. The guidelines which the Ministry of Health uses are those published by the threshold limit value committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and they are as follows:

For arsenic trioxide in production, the threshold limit value is 50 micrograms per cubic metre; for arsenic trioxide handling and use, 250 micrograms per cubic metre. These levels are used by the occupational health branch for occupational exposure as guidelines only and the current threshold limit value is being actively reviewed by the occupational health protection branch in view of recent reports of carcinogenicity.

The Ministry of Health has been in touch with the Ministry of the Environment and the ambient standard used in Ontario for community air is in fact 24 micrograms per cubic metre. The hon. member's question seemed to refer to ambient air and I think that probably should be referred to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr).

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

TEACHER-BOARD DISPUTES

Mr. Lewis: I'd like to begin by exploring a matter with the Premier, if I could. Since the situation between the teachers and the board in Sault Ste. Marie is deteriorating more rapidly than one would wish—it may well result in the schools being vacated by the end of this week—how is the government going to deal with the extraordinary position which the teachers have taken, unlike any other, which is to ask for compulsory arbitration in advance of a strike or lockout in an effort to avoid the closing down of the schools for several weeks?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Really there are, I think, two situations that give the government great concern. The one is in the Soo and the other is in Windsor, where I understand the teachers perhaps were out today. It is a personal feeling—and this is not a government policy decision, because it came to my attention only an hour or so ago—that with the sort of cumulative situation in the city of Windsor the probability of the government allowing the situation to last for any lengthy period of time, in my view, would be limited.

With respect to Sault Ste. Marie, I am not familiar with the facts as yet. If the teachers have offered to go to compulsory arbitration and if that is the solution, then if the board does not go along with this sort of approach, I think the answer to the question becomes very obvious and that the members of this House will be called upon. I assume there will be a recommendation from the Education Relations Commission to deal with it and we will deal with it very expeditiously.

I think it is fair to state that at this time of year in particular, any strike that appears to be going to be prolonged would prejudice without any question the school year of the students affected. The government, I think on careful consideration, which the matter will receive tomorrow, will take steps to see that this doesn't happen.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Just to pursue it one step further, can the Premier see whether it is possible to make Bill 100 work in the absence of strikes by giving great support to those efforts that some boards and teachers are attempting to find through, let us say, voluntary arbitration? Would it be possible, for example, in the case of the Soo to try to persuade the board even today, before its meeting tonight, to accept the voluntary arbitration suggestion of the teachers so that there is no full strike or lockout in the Soo, since the teachers would desperately like to avoid one and don't understand the anomaly that they are driven to do it when the legislation doesn't seem to provide support for the other alternatives?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say it's encouraging to hear from the Leader of the New Democratic Party that, if one side does seek voluntary, binding, compulsory arbitration—

Mr. Lewis: Voluntary, binding arbitration. It's in the bill as part of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —as being a solution, that applies to both sides, and the government

should bring pressure on whichever side did not wish to do it.

Mr. Lewis: I'm asking the Premier to do so.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, I'm just saying I find it interesting, because this was not always the position of that particular party; in fact, I don't think it was even its position during the Metro strike.

Mr. Lewis: It's part of the bill; it is one of the roots of the bill. It's the law. The Premier supported the bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, it is not part of the bill unless both sides agree to voluntary arbitration.

Mr. Lewis: I am asking the Premier to encourage the board.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm saying I think it's very encouraging because what the Leader of the Opposition is saying is that he would support pushing either side.

Mr. Lewis: I am saying the board is intransigent in this case.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Since the Premier mentioned the situation in Windsor, is he going to instruct or ask representatives of the Ministry of Education or someone in his own office to make sure that the board and the representatives of the teachers' professional organization are aware of what amounts to a statement of government policy in the answer to this question, that the government does not intend to allow this strike to go on for very long? Surely he can use that in whatever way is available to him to assist in an early solution without directly using the powers of this Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I hoped I had made it clear in my answer to the question of the Leader of the Opposition that I was expressing a personal point of view, because this matter came to my attention just an hour or so ago. It is a matter that will be considered by cabinet tomorrow and I'm expressing a personal point of view that may become government policy. But with the history of the situation in the city of Windsor I do not believe a prolonged strike could be tolerated, and instead this thing should be brought to an end quite speedily.

If this emerges tomorrow as being, in fact, government policy, which I expect it will be, without question that will be communi-

cated to both sides in the city of Windsor, because the academic careers of those students at this stage of the year cannot be prejudiced.

Mr. Lewis: Is the Premier prepared to bring them together?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes. They met last Saturday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Newman: Would the Premier send the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) into the community in an attempt to resolve the issue today so that any legislation may not be necessary tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think all of us would be pleased if we could avoid legislation. I can understand the view of the hon. member who asked the question, who would be more than pleased if somebody could solve this without that particular event taking place, and I totally understand it.

Mr. Nixon: So would we all.

Mr. McEwen: Yes or no? Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I should forewarn him that I do not know whether that, in fact, will happen. I would say to him, and I think he knows, that the Education Relations Commission was there last Saturday and I believe they had a public meeting. Perhaps the hon. member was in attendance.

Mr. B. Newman: I was there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There were some 500 people there and I think the Commission got a real sense of the points of view of the community itself. I've had some calls myself from the city of Windsor, as I say, about an hour or so ago, and I think the feeling there is rather self-evident.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the acting Minister of Health: When did the Ministry of Health learn in the case of the Perth hospital in Lanark county that it had been operating at a level of 57 beds for a full year while the ministry had it down as operating at a level of 82 beds and, on that basis, made the ill-advised cuts which it subsequently had to revise?

Mr. Nixon: No wonder their budget looks so good.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The advice which was received in the minister's office was that the hospital had been functioning at the level of about 53 beds for the year 1975. It had apparently on its own made this kind of cut and, as a result of that information, the people of Perth have been notified that the level of 57 beds will be seriously considered. There was a meeting yesterday between some officials of the Ministry of Health, the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman), and the board of governors of the hospital in Perth. Some recommendations have been made which will be very carefully considered and we shall be discussing the matter with the board of governors of that hospital.

[2:15]

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, since the ministry had to know for the entire year—it receives reports every two weeks based on the 57-bed level—how is it that it made an error of \$123,000 in respect of that hospital? When the government makes that kind of error out of sheer incompetence doesn't the minister think she should look more favourably on their need for \$75,000 more, rather than dislocate the entire community?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition impugns incompetence and I am not at all sure that this is a fact. However, I should like him to realize that—

Mr. Bullbrook: He doesn't impugn it; he alleges it.

Mr. Deans: You are not sure—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —there will be further consultation with the interested people on the board of governors of that hospital and all of their proposals will be seriously considered.

RADIOACTIVITY IN RENFREW AREA

Mr. Lewis: Another question of the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Is she aware that in the Chromasco plant a few miles outside Renfrew there have now been high radioactive counts—sorry; in the dump which Chromasco uses outside of Renfrew high radioactive counts have now been observed and those counts are not being shared with the community of citizens in the immediate vicinity, causing great anxiety; nor have the radioactive readings within the plant to which the workers are exposed been posted. Can we ask the acting Minister of Health to move on

this speedily so that the workers are told and the community is appeased?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as you well know, it is the policy of the Minister of Health to make those reports available to all of the people concerned and I am sure that this is precisely what will happen. I shall move to see what can be done about it.

Mr. Cassidy: The way you published the smoking report, eh?

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. That's a change since Port Hope, when they weren't made.

May I ask the minister a final question in her capacity as Minister of Labour; no doubt this will relieve her.

Why is it that the industrial safety branch refused to act on the various recommendations of its own inspectors and the recommendation of a coroner's jury involving the death of Subash Kalia last October, 1975, and indeed showed great contempt for the observations made by the coroner's jury in an effort to resolve the situation?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I can report to you that the reports which were made at the time of that accident revealed absolutely no indication by the inspector who inspected at the time of the accident, that any prosecution should be carried out. There is obviously a discrepancy between the court transcript and the reports which we have within the industrial safety branch and those are being investigated right at the moment.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Is the minister saying that the inspector who testified under oath that he had asked the branch to prosecute in the case of Astralite was lying under oath? Is that what she is saying, or that there is no such indication within the ministry's record?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I certainly did not state that the inspector was lying. I said that there is a discrepancy because within the ministry's records—

Mr. Cassidy: Sure is.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —there is no statement supporting any concept of prosecution. It is within the transcript that that statement is made and we are attempting to correlate those two anomalous situations right at the moment.

Mr. Good: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Leaving aside the matter of the transcript relating to prosecution, is there indication within the industrial accident bureau regarding the original report showing that the safety guards were missing and that the coroner had ordered them to be replaced?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is no such report. As a matter of fact, that plant was inspected with some regularity. In January the inspection which was carried out resulted in five written directions, none of which related to that machine. There has never been a direction related to that machine because the guard is in place at all times except when the machine has to be cleaned.

The power must be turned off in two stages in order to open up the machine to clean it but unfortunately the workman apparently neglected to turn off one stage of the power so that there was power when he opened the machine in order to clean it.

Mr. Lewis: One final supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker: How does the minister reconcile that with the clear and explicit findings of the coroner's jury that the situation was unsafe? In fact, the coroner charged the jury saying, "The present procedures of the industrial safety branch, as presented at this inquest, lack many of the essentials for ensuring adequate safety and preventing accidents and fatalities." How does that conform with the minister's whitewash of what the branch did?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not whitewashing what the branch has done. I am suggesting to the member that there are photographs within the branch which show that the guard is in place on that machine and the only way in which the guard can be out of place is when the machine is opened for cleaning.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations with respect to rent review matters, Mr. Speaker: As a result of some recent decisions, particularly in the Kitchener area, which have allowed a 17.7 per cent average increase, can the minister advise whether he is monitoring the various regional areas and the awards being granted on rental increases, particularly when it would appear that a large number of them are in excess of the eight per cent figure, which was expected? If there is

monitoring, can the minister advise us what are the average awards being made after we have now had some experience with the operation of the regional offices?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, first of all, reports are being received in our headquarters establishment in Toronto from the various rent review offices. We have not calculated any average award nor do I think it would be constructive to do so since it would be very misleading. I want to point out to the hon. member that anybody who feels the rent review officer's decision should be contested has the right to appeal to the rent review board. That has not as yet been done by anyone in this province.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker: With respect to the continuing controversy between public health nurses and the health units on salary negotiations, is the minister able to report to us at this time with respect to any conclusions which have occurred or any further input from her ministry in an attempt to resolve this problem which is affecting public health nurses in areas throughout Ontario?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the situations in which I can wear both my heads because I have been asked on—

Mr. Nixon: Hats.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I don't mind wearing two hats; it is just having two heads that bothers me, that's all.

Interjection.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, they pinch.

Mr. Reid: You can talk out of both sides of your mouth that way.

Hon. B. Stephenson: At times just like you, Patrick.

Mr. Speaker, I was trying to address you, sir. We have had meetings with the Ontario Nurses Association regarding this matter and are attempting at this point to arrange meetings with representatives of the boards of health of Ontario in order to try to persuade the boards to come to an agreement regarding arbitration which the nurses desperately want and which we think would probably be a useful move.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister prepared to restore to those

boards of health, who did not take it a year and a half ago, the offer made at that time of enough funds to provide for parity for the public health nurses? Or does the minister intend to keep the boards within the eight per cent wage guideline which has been sent out by the ministry recently?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think the stance of the ministry would depend primarily upon the response of the boards of health in regard to our request.

Mrs. Campbell: In view of the minister's reply to the question from the member for Kitchener, is she not concerned that so far the health units have ignored these invitations to meet? What does she propose to do to encourage, as she suggested, that they should meet?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the invitations which the hon. member alludes to, I think, are the invitations from the Ontario Nurses Association. I hope the invitation from the ministry will not be ignored.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, to clarify that, I am referring to the invitation of the former deputy minister which was ignored by the health units. It's because of this that I want to know just what kind of encouragement there's going to be.

Mr. Speaker: Any further answer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I can think of several. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

ELECTION PROCEDURES

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Premier: In the light of the revelations with respect to the election procedures in the last provincial election in the riding of Dufferin-Simcoe, has the Premier come to any conclusion with respect to reviewing those revelations and is he intending to consider the possibility of referring them either to a committee of the House or perhaps to the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses for further comment?

Mr. Nixon: Of course, he is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I really haven't had any report on this matter yet.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: When the Premier does get a report, why doesn't he hold a by-election in Dufferin-Simcoe to test the mood of the province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can only say to the Leader of the Opposition that if there were a by-election in that particular riding, his party would run third.

Mr. Lewis: All right. Then resign and try it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And what's more, Mr. Speaker, this party would run first.

Mr. Lewis: Resign and try it. Come on, we're just offering you a chance to test the electorate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: You said it about Carleton East; you said it about Cornwall; you said it about Huron-Middlesex—

Hon. Mr. Davis: How about your riding to test the electorate?

Mr. Lewis: Not a bad idea.

CO-OPERATIVE LOANS

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. My understanding is that the Co-operative Loans Act has been in place for a number of years; since, I believe, the mid-1950s: Can the minister advise how relevant to the farm community today this legislation is in assisting the financing and construction of new facilities and financing expansion?

Mr. Singer: All those farmers in Oriole are vitally concerned with this.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It's difficult to hear. Thank you.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to hear. We do have the Co-operative Loans Act, and while I'm not exactly sure how much was paid out during the past year, I certainly will be tabling that report in the House, probably within the next month, and I'll be glad to send the member the details on this matter.

Mrs. Campbell: Why don't you talk to him?

An hon. member: I think your colleague is opposed to it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Godfrey: A question to the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Will the minis-

ter assure the House that the closing of the Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton will not result in the closing down of the early breast cancer detection unit, consisting of thermography and mammography, in that hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had meetings with representatives of the board of governors of Chedoke Hospital and with representatives of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party. We have stated publicly that we are awaiting some indication and some direction from the health council of Hamilton regarding the proposed bed closures in Hamilton. When we have an opportunity to look at their recommendations, I'm sure we shall seriously consider sparing the unit which the hon. member mentioned.

Mr. Cunningham: By way of a new question to the acting Minister of Health: Recognizing the commitment that the minister made yesterday to have the Hamilton health council make this decision, I'm wondering if she would share with us, and through the House with them, the basis on which the criteria were made to close 87 beds at that hospital so that the citizens who are going to be making presentations and briefs might in fact address themselves to those arguments?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The criteria which were used were those which are used for all hospitals in all areas of the province—a relation between the numbers of patients at risk in that area and the numbers of beds which are considered to be rational for that population. The Hamilton district health council was asked to rationalize the bed numbers within the city of Hamilton, and the recommendation, which I gather was received, was this method of rationalizing that situation. That meant that two hospitals only were to be affected by the recommendations.

It has been proposed by certain members of the McMaster staff and certain interested citizens, such as the representatives of Hamilton, that indeed another method of pro-rating beds throughout the entire area might in fact be more satisfactory and this way may be one of the solutions which the Hamilton district health council proposes to us. We'll be very happy to hear any solution.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Am I to assume that the whole matter is to rest upon whether or not it should be pro-rated or whether we're going to apply it against Chedoke? Or am I right in thinking that there is some serious question about whether the closings might take place and are appropriate?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I said that pro-rating was one of the alternatives which might be considered.

[2:30]

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Premier. What would he suggest I tell the people in Hamilton when they ask me—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Ready for the question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Want to start over again?

Mr. Good: Tell them you are not running again.

Mr. Riddell: Resign.

Mr. Lewis: No, he doesn't want to start over again.

Mr. Deans: No, I don't want to start over again.

Mr. Lewis: Maybe you could try Cochrane North instead of Dufferin-Simcoe?

Mr. Deans: —when they ask me where they are going to find employment as a result of this government's actions? An example is as follows: As a result of the more recent cuts in terms of expenditures at McMaster and at Chedoke and at the psychiatric hospital, there will be 800 people, plus, out of work as a direct result of the government's actions, with little or no possibility of finding alternative employment. What will I tell them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows very well what to tell them. In his work in his constituency I am sure he has spent a great deal of time, as the rest of us have from time to time, looking for job opportunities for the people he represents. I am sure the hon. member will continue to function in this fashion.

Mr. Lewis: Great stuff.

Mr. Deans: There were four or five jobs advertised at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and in excess of 200 people applied. There is not nearly a sufficient number of opportunities now for employment. These people are looking for work; the Premier is supposed to be the champion of work—

Mr. Speaker: The question, please?

Mr. Deans: Where do I send those people to find employment?

Mr. Yakabuski: Union halls.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) replied to this question some few days ago, if memory serves me correctly—

Mr. Deans: They did not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and indicated that the Ministry of Labour was establishing a structure whereby these people who were affected would be given priority in terms of job relocation.

Mr. Deans: Two people hired so far.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, only two people may have been hired so far because there have been very few people who at this moment are without their jobs.

Mr. Deans: Out of the psychiatric hospitals, two?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the hon. member would have some degree of understanding and appreciation and recognize one very basic fact—I am concerned about it; no one likes to see people without employment—we are not going to solve the economic problems of this province by following the philosophy of the party opposite—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —which thinks that government should be totally responsible for the total employment programme in the province. It just cannot be done.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They want me to hire everyone. They would hire everybody. They would have another 30 research assistants.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Have you calculated the unemployment insurance costs of your programme? Several million dollars.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Huron-Middlesex. Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The member for Huron-Middlesex.

GUELPH ABATTOIR

Mr. Riddell: A question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: Will the Premier direct a full public inquiry into the leasing of the Guelph Correctional Centre meat packing plant to Better Beef Ltd., in the light of the fact that another bid by F. G. Bradley Co. Ltd. would have paid the farmer creditors of the plant 100 cents on the dollar, instead of the Better Beef Ltd. offer of 15 cents on the dollar; and in the light of the fact that Better Beef Ltd. was convicted on 10 counts of fraud with regard to its operations two years ago; and in view of the fact that no official tenders were called and no official proposals were invited for this contract?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex would redirect his question to either the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) or the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith), he will get the appropriate answer.

Mr. Bullbrook: Come on, you are the Premier of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: They can't establish an inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to redirect the question? Order, please.

Mr. Riddell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Riddell: Am I to assume—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been redirected, I believe, to the appropriate minister.

Mr. Riddell: Am I to assume that the Minister of Agriculture and Food can direct a public inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think it can be assumed the Minister of Agriculture and Food may have some facts which perhaps are not known to the hon. member and which might be helpful to him.

Mr. Reid: That is unlikely.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to redirect the question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Do you want me to repeat it?

An hon. member: The Minister of Correctional Services.

Mr. Nixon: He is passing it down the line.

Mr. Riddell: As a supplementary then.

Mr. Roy: Right down the line.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't go all over the playing field now. If the question is supposed to be redirected—order, please—who is the appropriate minister in this case?

Mr. Roy: You send them all over the place. What are you talking about?

An hon. member: The Premier.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is it the Minister of Correctional Services?

Hon. J. R. Smith: I would draw the hon. member's attention to the statement which I made in this House at the time of the signing of the agreement with the DeJonge consortium of companies. I would just like to remind the hon. member that it is full public knowledge that we could find no legal way of paying the beef producers who are creditors of Essex Packers in full for the debts owed to them by that firm without making similar payments to the employees and other creditors.

Representatives of the Bradley group did have exploratory conversations with both myself and the Minister of Agriculture and Food. They were prepared to pay the 22 or 25 farmers in full for the bad cheques issued by Essex but we could find no legal way of doing this without giving the same equal consideration to all creditors.

Mr. Riddell: By way of supplementary, was the minister aware of the convictions of the DeJonge firm when he assigned the lease to that firm?

Hon. J. R. Smith: I made mention of this during the supplementary questions following my statement in the House.

Mr. Roy: It doesn't bother you then?

Mr. Bullbrook: What were the types of convictions they had?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Why is it not possible to pay the other creditors the amount owing to them rather than to seek to penalize just the farmers? They do it in other jurisdictions.

Hon. J. R. Smith: There was only one proposal received and accepted by the majority of the creditors. That was from the DeJonge Group and it was overwhelmingly accepted by the creditors—15 cents on the

dollar—and the majority of the beef producers who were creditors also voted to accept the offer of DeJonge.

Mr. Gaunt: I have a supplementary. Why was there no long-term commitment negotiated to keep the Hamilton plant open beyond the six-month period?

Hon. J. R. Smith: One of the matters about which I had a great deal of concern was to ensure the continuation of that plant. In fact there is no legal way this ministry can ensure that continuation. The only thing we had really was the good faith of the principals of the DeJonge consortium who laid on the line \$500,000 of their own assets as surety to pay the creditors through the bank.

NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. In view of the fact that the regional municipality of Sudbury is attempting to formulate its official plan which will determine the growth in the area for many years to come and would like to know what the plans of the government are for all of northeastern Ontario, when does the minister intend to table the report of northeastern development, phase 2?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Soon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: Could he be more specific?

Mr. Deans: Very soon.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The member should understand that we on this side of the House are living from day to day, not knowing what the third party is up to, so we don't like to put timetables on anything; but very soon.

Mr. Lewis: It is Rothmans legislative tennis tournament in Hamilton.

BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

Mr. Reed: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. When is the minister going to study and document the whole Bradley-Georgetown corridor situation in accord with the position taken by the former Minister of Energy in November, 1974—Hansard, page 5265—where he said:

No route could be adequately justified unless the whole area was studied and documented.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think the hon. member—and I am pleased that after six months he has awakened to this issue in that area—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I hear more about it than he does.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —has taken it out of context. I will be glad to look at the total Hansard situation. The member will know that since I came into this ministry in January, 1975, there are very few issues that have occupied more of my time than that particular one.

Mr. Gaunt: You know better than that.

Mr. Nixon: What a marvellous record you have established! Hot air and baloney.

Mr. Roy: You are a flop and you know it.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are the Jack Nicholson of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Halton-Burlington may have one supplementary.

Mr. Reed: Is not the present minister's position, taken in June, 1975, authorizing a study of a portion of the Bradley-Georgetown corridor, totally inconsistent with that original position?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We'll have to get you cue cards.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: In fact, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would take the time to read Hansard, to read the things that have been said in this House, in committee and in various other places over the last 15 months, he'd realize that the position I took in June, 1975, was the only responsible one that could be taken.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, you are so self-righteous.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Given the quite astonishing continued public support for the interested citizens' group that is forever in touch with the minister, the Premier and others, and given the express wish of the Environmental Hearing Board that a much broader inquiry be held—oh, yes—why doesn't the minister reconsider the position he has taken and satisfy the interested citizens on this rather important route? It could be done in three to six months.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I suppose a year ago, if I had thought that was possible, I would have been agreeable to such a suggestion. Given the experience of the government with such commissions as its Solandt commission on the Nanticoke-Pickering and the Lennox-Oshawa lines, and the number of years involved, I didn't think that was possible. The hon. member will know, if he's talked to his representatives on the

select committee, that they've been provided with a variety of figures on the cost of delays.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition will recall, when I made the announcement on June 6, 1975, that he said in this House, and it is in Hansard, that it was the right thing to do. I was faced with trying to do as much as possible to satisfy the wants and the interests of the people involved in the interested citizens' groups while, at the same time, living up to my responsibilities to all of the Hydro customers in Ontario who have to pay for any delays which are considerable.

Mr. Reed: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halton-Burlington has had one supplementary. The member for Huron-Bruce was on his feet earlier, I believe. Does he wish to yield to the member for Wilson Heights?

Mr. Singer: No, I have a new question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Oh. I think we'll get on with new questions. We're just about out of time. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier).

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, come on. No way.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If I may, I was going to recognize the member for Huron-Bruce because he was on his feet earlier—

Mrs. Campbell: Then recognize him.

Mr. Speaker: —and I shall do so.

Mr. Gaunt: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Is the minister aware that two days of testimony with respect to the environmental hearing of the Bradley-Georgetown power line are missing?

Mr. Breithaupt: And they are all taped, by the way.

Mr. Gaunt: The tapes containing the two days' hearings are missing. Is the minister aware of that? If he is, where are the tapes?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't aware of it, but if the hon. member has them, would he please return them to the Ministry of the Environment? They would appreciate it.

Mr. Reid: Hydrogate. Sidney's shredder works again.

Interjections.

DREE-TEIGA AGREEMENT FOR TIMMINS AREA

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. I wonder if the Treasurer could report the status of the DREE-TEIGA development agreement, or sub-agreement, for the Timmins area? Can he tell us what the obstacles appear to be before getting that signed and when he expects it will be signed?

Mr. Yakabuski: The obstacles are the federal government and the local government.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Progress, I think, would be the answer to the member, Mr. Speaker.

DRINKING DRIVERS

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Provincial Secretary for Justice. Could he, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), tell us what, if anything, his secretariat is going to do about His Honour Judge Clendenning, who for a second time has announced he is going to send to jail everyone who comes before him and who is convicted of driving while their ability is impaired, even though the Criminal Code does not so provide and even though the Attorney General took a dim view of that and said so publicly?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I am not in touch with this judge—and if I was I would do so with some trepidation—

Mr. Yakabuski: Phone him up.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you just phone him?

Mr. Breithaupt: Give him a call.

Mr. Reid: We have his number.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —but I'm sure that the Attorney General is more used to speaking to judges than I am, and I'm sure he'll get the answer and give it to the hon. member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: By way of a supplementary, is the ministry prepared to refer this matter to the Ontario Judicial Council, because it's the second time it's happened with the same judge?

Mr. Yakabuski: No.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I'll have to leave that up to the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker.

[2:45]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine asked this question:

The executive co-ordinator for women's programmes, in the report which was tabled last fall, drew attention to the fact that 38 per cent of the Ontario public service is women but there are no women managers in the civil service and only four per cent of the 778 civil servants designated as senior executives are women.

I would like to ask the Treasurer if he is prepared to implement the recommendations of that report that there should be specific and separate budgets in each ministry for affirmative action to correct this imbalance?

Actually, Mr. Speaker, I will have a further report later, but I should tell the hon. member that we have completed a programme involving the participation of approximately 600 women earning \$17,000 and over employed in specialist, technical, professional and administrative fields. The employees provided information on their career objectives and, together with assessments by deputy ministers, those with the potential and desire for advancement have been identified. The women, through this process, have been added to the senior management career planning inventory and are being considered for all vacancies at the branch director and senior executive level, and work along these lines will continue.

The recommendation referred to in the question is recommendation No. 12, and that recommendation was that ministries identify specific budgets in their estimates for the affirmative action programme. Actually, we indicated to all ministries that funds for promoting affirmative action must be found from the various standard accounts classifications which apply to each vote and item. The programme may be supported by funds from many sources in the ministry, particularly in the ministry personnel programme, including training and development. It is certainly desirable for each ministry to specifically identify the funds to be used to further the affirmative action programme at the beginning of each year.

It is proposed that recommendation No. 12 and the other 24 recommendations included in the report will be dealt with in detail by the cabinet over the next two or three weeks.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: May I ask the minister if there are any women managers in

the Civil Service Commission yet? The report said there was none.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Well, the one that would occur to me would be Elizabeth—she is in charge of the pension end. I'm embarrassed; she was before Management Board this morning, as a matter of fact, with some programmes—Miss Aboud.

SOUTH RIDEAU DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Housing: In the light of the fascinating announcements by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) last week regarding the development of 6,000 acres at the South Rideau, I am wondering if the Minister of Housing can tell us if he has any secret arrangements, secret deals or secret understandings with the federal government—

Mr. Singer: And a corrupt one; secret and corrupt?

Ms. Gigantes: —that will permit the servicing of that area to the level of development that has been announced by his colleague?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, may I assure the hon. member and all members of this House, I have no secret deals with the federal government on anything.

Ms. Gigantes: I would like to know how the Ministry of Housing then proposes to service that area, when the services will have to go through the green belt and the federal government has made it quite clear that it does not approve of that development for good and sound planning reasons?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of discussions with the federal agency, the National Capital Commission, and also with the minister on the whole subject to which the hon. member is referring—none of which were secret, I might add, and I can produce the minutes of some of the meetings. As far as the servicing of that area is concerned, that is a matter we will have to discuss in some detail with the National Capital Commission; and we are not going to be held to ransom by them, I can assure members of that.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: I wonder if the minister can tell us if he has any reason to believe that the federal government will permit servicing to that area?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, at the present time I would have to suggest that the National Capital Commission's position with me has been rather firm that they would not permit servicing to that area. But, like most agencies, I think they will bend and give a little.

Mr. Lewis: Better speak to Sidney Handleman and get headlines in the Ottawa Journal.

MENTAL RETARDATION CENTRES

Mr. Stong: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is the minister aware of the apparent overcrowding situation at the Huronia Regional Mental Health Centre, wherein the residents, both male and female, are required to share the same living quarters and the same shower facilities?

Is the minister further aware that inquiries by parents of those residents have been met with inaction up to this time?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I do not accept that statement as being factual.

Mr. Haggerty: He checked it out.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I know there is concern on my part and on the part of my staff in terms of taking the pressure off the larger institutions such as Huronia, Smiths Falls and so on. As a matter of fact, that was one reason for utilizing the Goderich facility as a schedule 1 facility, which would bring the residents closer to home. They are being selected from these institutions. That will have some effect on that. It will ensure more individual attention.

Insofar as response is concerned, any communication I have from concerned parents or relatives of patients in any of these institutions is given immediate response; if the member knows of any, I would be happy to receive those and see that they get my individual attention.

Mr. Stong: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the fact that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is closing down such institutions as Goderich going to overburden other institutions under this ministry?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on the contrary: The fact the facility at Goderich became available enabled me instantly to utilize that for a schedule 1 facility which, as I mentioned, would take some of the residents

out of the larger institutions and ensure that they would have a different type of programming and more individual attention. It is a step forward in terms of taking the pressure off the larger institutions and getting the patients into the smaller community-based settings and eventually, of course, getting as many as possible into the community.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

PETITION

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the legislative rules I would like to present a petition, the opening of which begins as follows: "We the undersigned protest the drastic cutbacks proposed for the Great War Memorial Hospital of Perth and district."

There are several thousand names on this petition and I would like to file it with the Legislature, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. McKeough tabled volumes 2 and 3 of the 1974-1975 public accounts. Volume 2, financial statements of Crown corporations, boards, commissions; and volume 3, details of expenditures.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

MEDICAL DATA BANK ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to establish a Medical Data Bank.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to establish a medical data bank in which would be stored in computerized form the medical histories of persons in Ontario who wish to participate in such a data bank. The proposed bank would be operated and maintained by the provincial Ministry of Health and every public hospital would have an outlet for medical histories of persons using the hospitals. Written consent of the person concerned would be required before the record is stored in the bank and the medical history could not be removed without the written consent of that person's legally qualified medical practitioner.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day, I should announce that yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked me to direct that a certain report must be tabled by the minister concerned. He showed me later that it was designated for rather wide distribution to boards and other bodies.

Order, please; order. There's too much background conversation. It's difficult to hear and be heard. Thank you.

However, this is beside the point, as the report was ordered by the ministry and there is no statutory or other order requiring it to be tabled in the House, it is completely outside my jurisdiction.

Another announcement: Pursuant to standing order 28(d), I wish to inform the House that the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Stong) has filed the required notice under standing order 27(g) that he is dissatisfied with the answer given by the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to his question concerning the freezing of land at the Pickering airport site, which was asked on March 17. This matter will be debated at 10:30 this evening.

Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Mr. Angus: I'd like to continue my remarks that I began last evening. I think it was appropriate that we broke when we did because an article in the Toronto Star of this morning has reiterated some of the comments that I made on Minaki Lodge and I would like, with your permission, sir, to continue to do so.

It seems that the Province of Ontario has spent approximately \$6.3 million—tax dollars—on the development of Minaki Lodge in the Kenora area of this province. They are two years away from completing that project, a project that came under great criticism from a number of members from the NDP in the last Legislature as well as members of the Liberal Party.

It's amazing that as it stands right now, with two years and \$2 million to go before anyone short of the watchman can even spend

a night in that facility, it's going to cost \$30,000 a month to maintain that facility. A facility, Mr. Speaker, that was designed with a golf course that was blasted out of rock and filled with Manitoba soil—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. There are too many side conversations going on. It's very difficult to hear the speaker.

Mr. Angus: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; the hon. member may continue.

Mr. Angus: A chalet, a ski hill, a heated swimming pool—incidentally, I discovered this morning that in constructing the facility around the heated swimming pool they used a type of foam insulation, assumedly chosen with the expertise of their consultants or their contractors, which they found shortly thereafter was not fire resistant and they had to scrape it off and replace it, at the taxpayers' expense. That, Mr. Speaker, was the result, I would assume, of the constant paying of the consultant's fee.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we carry on our side discussions in a somewhat lower voice please? Thank you. It's very difficult for the hon. member to be heard.

Mr. Angus: Let me try again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. Order, please.

The hon. member may continue.

Mr. Angus: In the July 10, 1975, interim report of the standing committee on public accounts, item No. 152, Northern Ontario Development Corp., concerns Minaki Lodge; I quote from the report:

The committee has found that a consultant's fee has been paid on a continuing basis for consultation services that have not been provided. It appears to be government practice that in sensitive negotiations with personnel, the government proceeds by paying a consultant's fee to the affected person.

Mr. Speaker, if the situation regarding the foam insulation sprayed in the pool area is any indication of the quality of the consultation provided, I would say that the government of Ontario should seek some kind of redress against the consultant, aside from terminating the agreement.

[3:00]

The original purchase price of Minaki Lodge was, I think—adding up the mortgage

that was assumed, plus a variety of expenses—somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1.3 million. At that time the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) indicated to this House, either in October, 1974, or April, 1974, that the cabinet had approved a maximum expenditure of \$5 million for the development of Minaki. It is quite obvious that it has spent that \$5 million because, if I can accept the report in the *Toronto Star* as correct, it has spent \$6.3 million; \$5 million since the purchase and \$1.3 million for the actual purchase.

That community of Minaki is a community of 300; the only school facilities are those up to grade 3. The remainder of the students have to be bused, approximately two hours a day, to the community of Kenora. How in the world can the government justify expending that kind of money on a facility the residents admit they will not use because it will cost \$30 a day at the minimum to utilize the facilities? They will never use it; most of the people in Ontario will never use it because it is geared for the elite, those with money.

I think if we look at the patterns of tourism in Ontario these days, people are not travelling far. They are travelling by car, they are not flying. They are travelling within their own geographic area. What geographic area is there around Minaki? Kenora, Grassy Narrows reserve—some of the more affluent communities of Ontario. They will never be able to afford it. Even those of the middle-class and the upper middle class who have that little bit of extra money to spend are not prone to driving. They are prone to flying for those kinds of things. And there is the expense of flying into Thunder Bay, then into Kenora and then driving to Minaki; or flying into Winnipeg and then to Kenora and driving. It won't happen.

I don't believe the Province of Ontario should be spending that kind of money in developing a facility which will be used only by a very small minority. The ministry went wrong initially when it assumed the mortgage. I think it had a certain responsibility to do so when the principal owners were unable to follow through with it but the first place where it went wrong was it didn't try to put it back on the so-called free enterprise market to find a Canadian buyer who had the expertise and private money to develop this facility for the elite.

I always chuckle every time various members of the government chastise us for wanting to own everything; to have everything government-run. I can see why, because their history of running things—private corporations

—has been interesting to say the least. It has almost been incompetent because they spend and spend and spend and they never get anything opened. Can anyone imagine having the ski facilities, the swimming pool, an area for dancing, dining room, commercial facilities and convention facilities ready yet nobody can stay there because they never got around to doing the rooms first? To me, that would be a logical way of approaching it.

The chairman of Minaki Lodge said, and I quote from this article, "How in the name of God can we announce another \$2 million expenditure when hospitals are being shut?" All I can do is echo that because it shows really where the government of Ontario is at and yet it spent \$6.3 million over the last two or three years.

Mr. Foulds: A white elephant.

Mr. Angus: That's money which could have been spent in providing, as I said last night, health and transportation for the communities of the north. It could be used for developing secondary industry—real secondary industry which relies on the resources presently being raped in the north and taken to southern Ontario or the United States or foreign countries. It could have been used to provide all sorts of amenities in the northern communities which would attract individuals and companies to the north to develop secondary industry.

It could also have been utilized to protect those facilities we already have in the north: those facilities which we need so badly. It might have been used to assist the community of Ignace—

An hon. member: Right on.

Mr. Angus:—before it came to the brink of financial disaster and in fact went into receivership with the Province of Ontario. That's the fiscal responsibility that the province has.

Also in the field of industry and tourism, I would like to refer to the Northern Ontario Development Corp. A constituent of mine came to me about two weeks ago with a real concern. It seems that he had applied to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Northern Ontario Development Corp. for funds to develop a metal fabrication industry in Thunder Bay.

The federal people were very quick to respond, approving an offer of \$42,000. As for the Northern Ontario Development Corp.—and I have a feeling it didn't even get as far as the corporation but was rearranged and stalled within the ministry itself—he was

told by NODC, "Sorry, but we can't fund this, because there is no market; you would go under." And yet within the course of three or four weeks there were two or three announcements in Thunder Bay of similar firms setting up shop.

If the ministry had been responsive as they would like us to believe, then this gentleman, who is a Thunder Bay resident who was prepared to develop a secondary industry that we need that has a market in northern Ontario—if the ministry had been responsive, he would have been able to do so. But no, they were sluggish; they procrastinated. He is in a situation now where possibly there is no remaining market, because other people have come in from outside and taken it up.

I noticed with interest a press release from the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, dated March 29 for immediate release. It relates to the signing of a sub-agreement between the federal Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and the Treasurer of Ontario, under the general development agreement between Canada and Ontario.

The sub-agreement provides assistance in providing service utilities and industrial sites in key urban centres in northeastern Ontario. It is designed to encourage recipient communities to capitalize on existing economic advantages and to help them play a more active role in the development of industrial land in the regional municipality of Sudbury and the district of Parry Sound.

Ironically, I received a copy of a letter that very same day from the mayor of North Bay. He had read in an article in the North Bay Nugget that the community was anxiously seeking provincial funding to develop an industrial park to provide a base for much-needed secondary industry in northern Ontario, particularly that area of northeastern Ontario. In his letter he said to me that they were most amazed because it was in my community, the city of Thunder Bay, on May 13, 1975, when the cabinet was parading around the Province of Ontario receiving briefs, that it was announced at a dinner for the former member for Fort William that a total of \$1.25 million was to be awarded as a grant for the city of North Bay to install basic facilities such as water and sewage pipes for an industrial park in that community. And yet in this announcement by the Treasurer yesterday there is no such announcement confirming that that in fact will happen.

It is obvious that the Province of Ontario has once again reneged on pre-election

promises, where they come out with fanfare, razzmatazz and what have you and say, "We are going to give all this money to all you people." In fact, in Thunder Bay that day they talked about a total of \$23,547,810. That's the Ontario share. Mr. Speaker, I really wonder how much of that will ever come to the people of Ontario.

In the north we have a communications problem. As we have mentioned in the House in the last week or so, we have some real concerns about the Ontario Educational Communications Authority. Having been one of the recipients of those infamous brown paper envelopes, I am very concerned about the attitude of the cabinet and the government of this land, that they have initially squashed a project which was costly to a certain extent—I don't believe it's that costly—but would provide the same type of educational opportunities and media services in the north as is now available in the "golden horseshoe."

They originally scrapped the idea of having transmitters in Sudbury and Thunder Bay to deliver OECA programming. It wasn't until there was very strong pressure from the community of Sudbury and the community of Thunder Bay and the surrounding areas, and until it was brought up in the House by our leader, showing that the kind of saving that was actually happening was a waste of money, that in fact it would cost \$903,000 in 1976-1977 to save \$503,000. The Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) was very quick to contact OECA and ask them for another alternative and they provided him with one. I received a copy of that also, again in a brown paper envelope. I think we're discriminating against brown just because they don't make white envelopes that big.

However, the decision that has been made by the minister is that the microwave links which are very important, will be retained; and that the community of Thunder Bay and Sudbury will be able to receive OECA programming via the cable system. That's all well and good, except that in Thunder Bay at the present time only 60 per cent of the population have cable. Those are the haves, the people who can afford the extra \$5 a month for cable programming. It doesn't include the large number of people within the urban centre who can't afford cable, and it definitely does not include all the individuals in the surrounding area who would have been able to receive live transmissions from a transmitter and who do not have cable and who will never have cable in Thunder Bay, northwestern Ontario.

In the city of Sudbury they're still a year away from cable. I would guarantee that it

would be two or three or four years before the residents of Sudbury even come up to the 60 per cent figure that we have in Thunder Bay, and it won't provide service to the other areas. It won't allow for communities like Ignace or Atikokan to pick up the OECA signal via live air transmission.

While we feel it's a step forward in terms of the cable system, it's not good enough. If this is the province of equal opportunity, then we should have the educational programmes that are being produced with our money. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, we don't get any reduction in our tax dollars up north because we don't have OECA programmes. In fact, I would strongly suggest that we are heavily subsidizing the programming for the south, as is the case with almost everything that happens in north-western Ontario.

I came upon one little figure on taxation that was within some confidential documents related to the Design for Development. While it's out of date, in that it was a figure that was applicable four years ago, approximately 60 per cent of the tax dollars that were taken out of northern Ontario were returned there. So 40 per cent of our tax dollars have gone to the south and we don't get any benefit whatsoever from that.

[3:25]

Another area that my colleagues from northern Ontario and I are very concerned about is the experimental Canadian communication technology satellite, commonly called CTS, that will shortly be in use as a means of studying the effects of satellite communications for Canada, particularly for the northern regions. It may allow individuals all over northern Ontario and all over northern Canada to receive television signals and radio communications in their homes even if they are not within the 60-mile radius of a ground station.

Lakehead University has been asked to participate, along with OISE, in doing the research study into the effectiveness of satellite educational programming as opposed to cable educational programming, as opposed to ground transmitter educational programming, as opposed to videotape packaged programming. The results of their studies, if and when it is ever funded and comes about, can open up whole new fields in the north. Teachers in northern reserves, in northern communities, would have instant access to new programming and new concepts in education. Government officials, whether provincial or federal, would have continuous

contact with the more knowledgeable—and that's in quotes—south.

So I urge that the Province of Ontario consider funding this very valuable study, because if we don't study it now we may never get quality education and services in the north.

I spoke briefly last night about Ignace and I mentioned it today. We all know—at least, we in northern Ontario know, and I think the hon. Treasurer has some indication of what is happening in the community of Ignace, or the legal term, the corporation of the township of Ignace. At that cabinet meeting in Thunder Bay, Ignace came to the cabinet, to the Treasurer, and spoke about its problems and spoke about how difficult the situations were because of the mine to the north of it, the Mattabi mine on the shores of Sturgeon Lake, that it so dearly wanted to annex in order to get the much needed industrial tax assessment, but the ministry said no. The ministry at that time refused to give them any extra funding in terms of providing needed infrastructure required to develop accommodation and services for that major influx of mine workers, because Ignace was a bedroom community.

We have seen in the past communities like Elliot Lake, which have expanded greatly and then turned into ghost towns almost overnight. It goes to show you, Mr. Speaker, how much the government of Ontario listens to the people in the north, because the township of Ignace warned the province on May 3, 1975, that they were in financial trouble, and it was in August or September or October that Ignace went into receivership. Six months of frustrating time for the councillors; six months of worry; they didn't know what was going to happen to their community. They are still expanding. They need more schools, they need more services, they need everything, and they don't have the money to buy it. They don't have the money to build it, and yet the people keep moving in. So I don't think the history of the Ontario government in the north is very commendable.

There is a sort of feeling in northern Ontario that the province down here doesn't know what it's really like up there—what the weather's like, what the geography is like, and what the problems are. I would like to relate one particular case that I have been dealing with, and it relates to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There is a woman in my riding—a very elderly woman, somewhere in her 70s—in a

slightly ill condition; she is susceptible to pneumonia. She's on general welfare assistance and receives a supplement from the ministry. She lives in her own home and under the ministry regulations they can provide for certain renovations in order to keep the home a healthy and safe place to reside in. All last winter, last winter being the 1974-1975 winter, this woman suffered hardship because of the condition of her furnace. It was operating at something near 20 per cent or 30 per cent capacity. There were many times she found she had to leave the home during severe cold weather to go to a neighbour's to warm up.

I remind members this is a woman who has suffered from pneumonia a number of times, aside from the fact of her age. She approached the ministry through her case worker and applied to get a new furnace. Initially she tried to get her furnace converted from oil to gas so that it would be cheaper and be done much quicker but because of the type of furnace she had it was not possible.

She applied in early spring and had continuous discussions with the ministry people in Thunder Bay, and on her behalf they applied to the central office in Toronto. They agreed with her needs. They would agree that she had to have a new furnace because she couldn't survive.

In November, I got a call from her saying that she had heard nothing; that the ministry people in Thunder Bay kept waiting and waiting for an answer from their co-ordinators in Toronto. I intervened; I wrote the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), and asked him to intercede and I would like to thank him publicly because he did. He expedited the decision to approve the installation of a new furnace; fine, we figured, great.

The woman was asked to get two quotes and she did and submitted them to the ministry. Lo and behold, it took quite a while to get approval, even though the minister already said okay. We went back to the minister and shortly thereafter we received approval but because of the length of time it took, we were now into winter in Thunder Bay, and winter in Thunder Bay is not Toronto weather. We have consistent 30 below zero weather for week after week.

The furnace company told this woman, "To put in a furnace is going to take five days so you have to move out." I'm not sure what they wanted her to do with her plumbing or her food stuffs but they said that was the only way they could do it because there

would be no heat in that house for five days. The ministry, in its wisdom, would not provide her either with temporary heating or temporary accommodation in order that her furnace could be replaced in mid-winter.

As it stands now, when we are starting into the thaw even though we still have three or four feet of snow on the ground, that woman is still living in a house which has a furnace which should have been replaced a year ago. It's that kind of unfeeling attitude of the Ministry of Community and Social Services that we on this side of the House find so distasteful.

The Ministry of Housing is an amazing group in Thunder Bay and all across the province. The chairman of the Ontario Housing Corp., Emerson Clow, in Thunder Bay, a month or two ago for the opening of two senior citizens apartment buildings, lashed out at people in our community who had the foresight to object to buildings which were incompatible with their neighbourhoods. It seems that OHC's fascination with big buildings in concentrated areas was distasteful to the residents of Port Arthur riding and the residents of my riding. Some have been successful in getting the size of the buildings reduced. Mr. Speaker, they're not against senior citizens, as the chairman of the Ontario Housing Corp. would like people to believe, but they're against the way that OHC does things—the style and the attitude.

One of the property acquisition directors of OHC had the audacity two weeks ago to attempt to blackmail the council of the city of Thunder Bay. I realize that's a harsh word, but the city of Thunder Bay had refused to grant a zoning change to OHC on a piece of property that they purchased without a conditional agreement relating to the zoning change. It was property owned by the YWCA of the former city of Port Arthur, in an area where the senior citizens did not want accommodation and in an area where the residents did not want a large building because they had already seen the undue influence of a large highrise only half a block away. They were very distressed and they fought it.

They fought it and won, and yet Ontario Housing Corp. had the audacity to go to city council and say to them, "We will not approve any more OHC units of any kind in this city until you make that zoning change." That is not the way that a government agency should be operating, because the people who made the decision not to rezone were the elected representatives of the city of Thunder Bay, people from all parts of the city; and, I must add, a group that was not

prone to citizen involvement and citizen objection.

When Mr. Clow spoke to the senior citizens at those two openings, it was as if he was blaming them, the senior citizens, and chastising them because other people in the community had objected to a building. It's like a mother scolding her children because they have told her a story about what somebody else has done and they get heck for it.

In my riding, the same situation has occurred. In our community, we have a nursing residence, Patterson Hall Nursing Residence, attached to the McKellar General Hospital, and it has been vacant for two years. It's a fairly large facility, which could accommodate a large number of individuals. I asked Ontario Housing to do an assessment of that facility to see whether it could be used for senior citizens' living units, student housing or any other type of housing, because we have a very severe situation in Thunder Bay. He did; he had somebody assess it and they sent me a copy. The report was interesting, not so much for what it said, but what it didn't say. The report forgot to mention one whole wing of the nurses' residence. The report forgot to mention the slight difference of elevation between the ground and the elevator, which is approximately 5 ft; and when you're looking at it in terms of senior citizens' accommodation, whether it be for mobile senior citizens or not-so-mobile senior citizens, then you darn well look at where the elevator is.

We asked them to look at it in terms of the cost of conversion, and their report was that it was expensive to convert. Well, that's fine. We didn't think it was going to be very cheap. It's a sound building. But they did not compare the cost of conversion of that facility to the cost of constructing a new facility to take care of a similar number of residents.

So I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the Ontario Housing Corporation is one group in this province that should be eliminated, because it has never done and will never do the kind of job that is needed in terms of providing housing for certain sectors of our communities.

[3:30]

There is another item I'd like to refer to, because I would anticipate that had the former member for Fort William been more successful in the last election, we might have had another big government announcement in Thunder Bay. What I relate to is the winter sports training centre that is presently under design in Thunder Bay. This is an Olympic facility. The proposal is that it be

paid for by the Province of Ontario yet used by all Canadians to develop our athletes. It will be utilized by a very few individuals; in fact, I would suggest that there'll be only half a dozen from northwestern Ontario who would use it.

If the former member for Fort William was still here, he'd undoubtedly be spending millions and millions in that riding to build this kind of facility, when, at the same time, as I mentioned last night, we closed 107 hospital beds and 122 psychiatric beds. I look at some of the articles and pamphlets that came out of the last election sort of in retrospect, and I look at the kinds of things that have been done in the province since Sept. 18.

The slogan that was used by the former member for Fort William was "progress, not promises." The progress that he related to was big government buildings in places where nobody wanted them or they weren't any good. Believe it or not, he talked about 100 chronic beds. He talked about a health lab and about the progress that he had brought to us. Little did we believe in our wildest nightmares that the former member's government would turn around after the election and cut 1,200 hospital beds, or whatever the number is, and eliminate 5,000 jobs and close health labs. It's amazing.

There is no question whether we in the New Democratic Party support the government or not in the Throne Speech; we cannot support it because everything it has done has been against our grain. It has been against the grain of the people because people believe that services are necessary for their health, their welfare and their well-being. I can't conceive of any more illogical method of doing things, particularly in the light of the fact that most of the decisions were made before this House resumed and that none of us had a true opportunity to debate and vote on those decisions. So on Monday next when we rise to vote I will be happy to vote against the government of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: I know we are all very glad indeed to hear that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is improving and is on his way to making a good recovery. It may be, however, that it will be some weeks before he will be able to resume his full responsibilities in this House. In the meantime, I wanted to address a few remarks to the acting Minister of Health who, according to the speaking list, will perhaps be participating in this debate this afternoon.

I think that members on all sides are very much impressed at the ability of the hon. member for York Mills (B. Stephenson). Her answers in question period, particularly during the last two days when she has been acting Minister of Health as well as Minister of Labour, indicate that she has a good grasp of the information that is available to her.

There is always a feeling on this side that, while you may not agree with her answers, she will give you one and there will be not too much fencing and fooling around. I must say that as a new minister she has made an excellent impression indeed and, since as acting Minister of Health she may have a good deal of continuing responsibility for decisions associated with this ministry, I wanted to speak very briefly for her benefit, as well as anyone else who might want to listen, about some decisions that will face her within the next few days.

I've had the impression, in listening as carefully as I could to her answers to questions from a number of members about the future of the hospital closings, that some further consideration is being given. I believe the alternatives that have been put forward by delegations from the communities concerned are being seriously considered and not in fact just being fenced off until the actual closing dates come along and the order from the ministry is given and, of course, must be obeyed. I hope very sincerely that as she shares this responsibility with the Minister of Health, there will be brought to bear some new thinking and perhaps some new comprehension of the meaning of these closings in the communities concerned.

May I assure you, Mr. Speaker, it's not my intention to review for you the situation pertaining in general, but simply to bring to her attention and to other members, the matter which is my chief responsibility and that is concerning the Willett Hospital in Paris. Very briefly, sir, I will tell you that this hospital, serving the community of 6,000, was established at the initiative of the local citizens back in the 1920s, built on land given by the Willett family.

All of the additions have been specifically approved by the Ministry of Health over these years. I am sure you are aware, sir, that there is a continuing debt associated with the debentures for the latest addition, so that if, in fact, the government proceeds to close the hospital, the ratepayers in Paris must continue to pay off their financial commitments for some years to come. I think, however, sir, that the need for maintaining these facilities in the local community is well

accepted by most people, but I want to approach it just for a moment or two on another basis.

Because there have been a number of alternatives presented to the ministry, and the acting Minister of Health I presume will eventually now have to make the final decision, I would hope that she is aware that the need for chronic care facilities in the Brant-Brantford area, and particularly in Paris, is undoubted. While the people on all sides of this House are prepared to give reasonable support to the government in its efforts to cut costs where it is possible to do so, no one believes that it would be efficient or reasonable to, in fact, board up that building. It is a building with modern facilities. If it is not needed, in the wisdom of the Ministry of Health, as a full active treatment hospital, surely it would be the worst kind of false economy, a punitive decision directed against the community, if it were closed up in entirety and simply boarded up and left there, as some facilities in Toronto have been over recent years. I would urge her consideration and the consideration of other members in the House to see the view of the local community who, I suppose, are prepared to accept a much lower level of service although they feel that this, too, is a mistake, but they are certainly not prepared to accept the closing up of the facility in total.

I do not want to spend a lot of time on this. As I have said, it has been debated repeatedly here in the presence and with the participation of the Minister of Health, but I felt that since the decisions may now have passed in part to another individual and another train of thought will be brought to bear, I want to express in the strongest possible terms my feelings that the facility must at the very least be maintained as a chronic care facility, hopefully with emergency and outpatient provisions and with an ambulance service as well. I believe this can be done with a substantial saving of money.

It's regrettable that the community, which has taken the initiative and paid for most of these developments themselves, will go without an active treatment hospital. As we approach the deadline of April 1, or the time immediately following April 1, when final decisions will be made, it is my strong expectation and certainly my hope that the ministry is not serious when it says that the facility will be closed completely. That is one alternative which, in my view, is not a rational one and not one which should be considered further by the acting Minister of Health or anyone else.

I must say I hope that when the member for York Mills participates in this debate she will be expressing some of her own views in this connection. This is a general debate, where I feel that all of us have the responsibility to represent some of the situations in our own constituencies which are of emergent importance for our own people and for our own taxpayers. I would, in expressing this hope, point out to you, sir, that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) entered the debate yesterday and, instead of indicating some of his personal views having to do with the responsibilities in his ministry, took a good deal of time in this House to attack in a most strange and, in my view, irresponsible way the activities of the democratically-elected municipal councils of the townships of March and Nepean. Perhaps he felt that for political reasons he had to do that since his own seat is anything but secure and who knows when an election will face us in the minority situation we have in this House at the present time. I felt it was extremely improper—in fact, uncalled for—for the minister to attack the decisions of the democratically-elected councils of the areas within his own constituency.

Mr. Kennedy: What happened in caucus this morning?

Mr. Nixon: It should surely be his responsibility to support them rather than to attack them in such a political and irresponsible way. I tell the House I would have been much happier and much better served, along with the other members of this House, if the minister had picked up on that section of the Speech from the Throne which had to do with the problems associated with the alcohol situation, the booze situation, in the Province of Ontario which face all of us as members of this House. I'll tell members that this is probably the single most pressing problem that faces us not just in this jurisdiction but, I suppose, across Canada and elsewhere.

I want to say something quite specific about it, along with my colleagues and others, because this is surely where we must discuss it and where we must come to the best possible conclusion, by way of regulation, and expressions of policy and legislation.

The minister did not deal with this except in a very peripheral way. The reference in the Speech from the Throne is simply an oblique one which makes some comment about the problems faced in this province and that the government is going to introduce legislation which will, in effect, bring about some solution. Of course, we know that

that is not possible. There are no easy solutions to the problem. But, certainly, we must examine it as carefully as we can and together, as members of the House, work out the best alternatives that are available to us.

In the last year we have been treated to new legislation, revisions of the Liquor Licence Act and liquor control legislation. At the time I felt that the reviews themselves were taken in a rational way. There were several ministers involved and they asked for input not only from members of this House but from organizations and individuals across the province. But when the new bills came forward I felt they were very inadequate indeed.

A review of procedures for decisions of the Liquor Licence Board and the Liquor Control Board would, of course, always be acceptable, particularly since in recent months and years some of these decisions have seemed to be undemocratic, certainly, and not in the best interests of the situation as most of us perceive it.

Not only do we now have new legislation but we have new personnel directing the administration of the regulations. We have a new chairman of the Liquor Licence Board; a new chairman of the Liquor Control Board. It's big business in this province, I'm sure you're aware, Mr. Speaker. On the markup alone we expect to net more than \$300 million and, of course, this does not include the sales tax which is put on at the retail level. We are, of course, concerned with the imposition of many other taxes. At the federal level it is a very heavily taxed commodity.

In my view, it is not heavily taxed enough but the concept that many people have is that this particular government is simply in the liquor business and the more money it gets out of it the better it is for the government as far as meeting problems and difficulties with the budget is concerned. It is obviously big business. The government, through the Liquor Control Board, builds its own stores. It hires its own personnel. It buys the raw materials cheap, waters them down and marks the product up, sells it dear and then taxes it at 10 per cent.

Mr. Breithaupt: It's called free enterprise.

Mr. Nixon: My hon. friend said that's called free enterprise.

Mr. Drea: You are wrong; we buy it watered down.

[3:45]

Mr. Mancini: Frank should know.

Mr. Nixon: You don't water it down, Frank?

The statistics on consumption are rather frightening, particularly when we see what has happened to the consumption of alcoholic beverages by people under the age of 21. I personally supported the lowering of the drinking age to 18 and I am still not convinced that it should be raised. There have been many people saying it should be raised at least to 19 on the basis that most young people leave high school at the age of 18 and they are not going to be of a legal drinking age at least until they are out of high school.

I think that raising the drinking age to somewhere beyond 18 will undoubtedly lead to more law-breaking. If anything, the drinking age in the community—and I am not talking about the regulations—has been dropping very rapidly indeed, and the indications that have been made available to us by the Addiction Research Foundation and others show very clearly that the drinking age is sinking well below 18 and is now into the 16-year-old and 15-year-old age groups and, I suppose, even lower than that.

I really don't believe that this trend has been caused by the action of this Legislature in reducing the drinking age to 18. I think rather it has been a changing perception of drinking in the whole community. You may recall, Mr. Speaker, perhaps five years ago, when we as members of this House, let alone as parents, were almost panicky about the non-medical use of drugs and marijuana in this province. There was a feeling that there was some kind of an underground revolution in which the members of the House had very little understanding. We were prepared to vote tremendous additional sums to the Addiction Research Foundation in the hope that by making this money available hiring the best of brains and co-ordinating them in the most effective way, some kind of research would come up with an answer. Such an answer was not forthcoming, but I think this feeling of almost panic in the community in this particular way has had its effect.

There is a clear indication that the young people reaching the age where they are interested in these mood-altering drugs have lost some of their interest, particularly in the chemical drugs, and to some extent their interest even in experimenting with and using marijuana, because of the general feeling in the community that liquor is okay, it is generally accepted, it is sold through government

stores, everybody in the family uses it and it is advertised heavily in every part of the media that anybody observes.

In my view the movement away from the non-medical use of drugs and even of marijuana has been toward alcohol and this, more than anything else, has been the reason for the frightening statistics associated with alcohol.

I can remember the debate perhaps five years ago when we were asked to vote additional moneys for the Addiction Research Foundation. The view was expressed by myself and others that in reading the researches done by the Addiction Research Foundation it was quite clear that some researchers felt that alcohol, compared with even some of the drugs, let alone marijuana, was far more destructive to the individual socially and physically, than even marijuana. This did not indicate that anybody in this House felt that marijuana should be legalized, but it simply was an indication that everybody realized how destructive and terribly damaging the uncontrolled use of alcohol was and is.

When we see the statistics, particularly associated with teenage drinking, and the number of automobile accidents involving people who are impaired, particularly young people under the age of 21, I do not feel that we should immediately assume that the most serious error we made was in reducing the legal age to 18. Obviously this extended the drinking age much more readily to many young people who were not accustomed or prepared to break the law. But I do believe that if we attempt to correct that by moving it upward, we will find that there will be a tremendous problem of enforcement.

I was reading in the newspapers only today that the people who own licensed premises have a terrible problem in policing even the 18-year-old age limit that we have established through the powers that we have in this House. It is very easy for young people—younger than 18—to secure sufficient identification to satisfy the bartender.

I believe that the Liquor Licence Board is being as severe as it can. When its inspectors find an under-age individual in a licensed premise, then the owner of the premises is in very serious trouble indeed. The licence is often revoked or at least suspended for a period of time. So I believe the Liquor Licence Board is acting as strongly and as effectively as it can, but it is very difficult on the part of the bartenders representing the owners, the people acting in this capacity, to simply decide who has a legal right to be there and who has not a legal right to be there.

Frankly, I think these identification cards that are available from the board are a good thing. I have an 18-year-old son and I was quite surprised when he decided that he better send away for one of those identification cards. I was a little shocked, to tell you the truth, being a product of the old school, but I can remember perhaps attempting something like that before I was 21—to tell you the truth, and since the statute of limitations now protects me probably from prosecution. So I wouldn't say that it's an entirely unnatural thing to happen.

To say "All you have to do is enforce the law," we know that that is not going to work unless we have certain tools to make the enforcement of the law practicable, so I have great misgivings about talking about the requirement of identification. Most people, certainly young people age 17 and 18, have some identification—driver's licence and so on—but it seems to me that if we are going to assist the Liquor Licence Board and the tavern-keepers to enforce the law, then I personally have no objection to those identification cards which are of a type which simply can't be passed around the table so that the whole thing is simply a joke.

The enforcement of the age limit has really very little to do with the problem that we have, because the drinking begins younger than that, and you know it if your kids are out in the community. Certainly we all know it. It is much more difficult to come up with some kind of a rational solution. There isn't any solution, but I will tell the House this, and I have said it before and others have too, that the advertising of beer, particularly on television, and liquor in the print media has obviously got a tremendous influence on the attitude of young people. I have said this before and others have as well, we are usually treated by return mail to a lengthy defence, almost a vituperative defence from the representatives of the advertising industry saying their statistics show that advertising does not enlarge the market, it simply—what is the phrase?

Mr. Singer: Concentrates?

Mr. Nixon: No. It has to do with varieties; that is, they are going to get people to stop drinking Golden and start drinking Blue or whatever it is. I really cannot accept that. I believe that we must not accept the judgement of the advertising industry in this connection.

If this House continues to permit beer and liquor advertising when we know the problems that are caused by the consuming

public, including all of us, then we are being seriously irresponsible and derelict in our duty. It is often the government which will agree with the fact that the problem is there but the spokesman for the ministry—and they change from time to time—will say, "We agree with you, but what can you do? We have no control over the mails, we really don't control television" and that sort of thing.

But I do believe that this jurisdiction, by a statement of our policy in this connection and doing what we can, urging it to the other leaders at the provincial level, urging the co-operation of the government of Canada, can achieve something in this connection. There's no doubt that the beer advertising on television is probably the best advertising one will see. It is not offensive, but the emphasis really is very clear, and that is that if you are going to be a part of modern, vibrant, beautiful, healthy young life, then beer is the answer. I am not a teetotaler, I should say to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Drea: You have already confessed.

Mr. Kennedy: You have clarified that.

Mr. Nixon: Well, I thought perhaps I should make that clear, but I will tell you there's no reason for us to permit this kind of continuous insidious pressure, on young people particularly, which simply identifies the use of beer, much more than anything else, with the good life. I really believe that we must take steps to stop it. I've heard people from all parties say that we should do this and I would suggest to you, sir, that this is something that simply has got to be undertaken.

The second part of it, in my view, has got to be in a programme of education. We have this sort of thing in the schools now but I believe it must be much more effective. I don't think it has to be on the basis of the kind of education that perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you got in Sunday school—and I did; you know, the worm in the glasses of alcohol. I actually had that; you perhaps know what I mean. Somebody says actually the lesson is if you drink booze, you don't have worms.

But I tell you, sir, that with modern educational systems, presenting the factual aspects of this problem, the young people are at least going to have a balance to the attractiveness of the use of alcoholic beverages and a real warning as to what happens with their immoderate use.

There have been those that have said that, if we're going to allow advertising to con-

tinue in magazines and on television, there should be equal time showing the real effects of alcohol and what it does do to the mentality and the personality and ability of the individual. Believe me, all of us know just exactly how offensive and disastrous this can be.

I've stated my views on this advertising business and education. There's another matter pertaining to this that I want to discuss as well. Whether you know it or not, Mr. Speaker, there are still many municipalities in this province where alcoholic beverages cannot be legally sold. In my constituency, there are a number. We have a programme that sort of traditionally developed here over the years called local option. Many members represent areas where this is an archaic thing and have come under the jurisdiction of the Liquor Licence Board. There are applications for licensing certain premises and if individuals feel that that is not a good thing they can express their views in opposition and a board, subject to appeal and review, makes the decision for the benefit of the community as a whole.

But in these dry townships, as you know, Mr. Speaker, a vote is taken after a petition or on the decision of the local municipality and the campaigns—sometimes very hot campaigns—go forward and the people decide whether the township is to be wet or dry. These votes are going forward all the time. The Clerk of the House, who is also the chief electoral officer, has the responsibility of supervising those. He would be about able to tell us and his report indicates that many of these townships vote dry regularly. I have the honour to represent a number of them which do.

I also have the problems, as the local member, of meeting with the young people from the smaller communities in the dry townships, young people who, if they're going to have a beer with their friends, have to get in their car or borrow their dad's car, and drive to a nearby town, have a few beers. On the way home, they may get into trouble and they may be charged with impairment. Somebody else has made the decision that these kids are not going to have the right to drink in their own area and so they have to drive somewhere else, with the problems that I have just described. I'm not sure that's the reason why everybody should vote yes rather than no, but it is one of the things that many people who are so dedicated against the use of alcoholic beverage in moderation perhaps don't think of.

I'll tell you also, Mr. Speaker, that many things have changed in the community since

you and I were perhaps more independent in our activities, let's say, in the community. When I say to my son: "Why don't you go to a show?" he says: "It's \$3.50 a ticket, the popcorn is 60 cents, and I can't afford to take my girl to the show. We go over to a very nice place, very well kept, and have a couple of beers."

It's a little shocking, to tell you the truth. He doesn't think it's shocking. He thinks actually to go to the show is \$7, or \$10 if you want popcorn as well. It's a very big undertaking, whereas they can go and chat with their friends in very nice surroundings actually and, as long as they have learned moderation—and I hope to God they all have—under our laws there is nothing wrong with this. We have to realize that that part of the community is perceived differently.

[4:00]

There is another change in the community. I don't know but I suppose the community of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, which has a number of these dry townships, is not too much different from others. I can remember, even five years ago, if you went to the Paris Agricultural Hall, which is a very fine building put up by the local citizens with some assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and anybody suggested that a bar be a part of the meeting, it was just unheard of; unthinkable. That's changed in the last five years. In the most recent renovation to the Paris Agricultural Hall, a bar has been built right in and, believe me, it is long enough so that they can have four or five bartenders in case it gets busy there. There are still people who, very properly, are quite offended at this but in general the perception of and the acceptance by the community has changed dramatically.

I'll tell members that I know personally of people of rather mature years who always felt that the use of alcoholic beverages was somehow fairly closely associated with sin. I mean that most sincerely. They have changed their attitude and I wouldn't make any comment about the enthusiasm of their new approach to this but let us say it is an entirely new perception. The habits of the community and the perception of the use of alcoholic beverages have changed dramatically over the last few years.

I have mentioned in this House before that there seems to be a certain cyclical aspect to this because in the early days, back in the middle of the 19th century before the legislatures and the governments of the day felt that they had to use their powers to control this, certainly the community was anything

but dry. In the little village of St. George near our farm, with a population of 1,000, records show that there were a number of distilleries in operation right there.

The farmers, I am told, would look forward to driving their children to school in the democrat so that they could fill up a couple of honey pails at the local distillery and go home and work hard and still be refreshed during the day. I suppose, under our standards, the country was full of alcoholics.

They were hard-working alcoholics, I suppose. Metabolism being what it is and with the exigencies of providing for big families and doing work without the benefit of all sorts of machinery probably they didn't suffer too much—but there was a lot of suffering and history records this. That's why, particularly, the Methodist Church and others were so successful in preaching about the demon rum, the destruction of the family and the association with sin because it came from the teachings of the church.

It led to a very strong turn of the wheel so that many of these communities used the availability of the various statutes to decide that in their area drinking would be illegal. There are many cases showing that in one generation people would go from a very free and easy use of liquor—locally distilled rotgut undoubtedly because there wasn't any of this 10-years-aged-in-wood business, I'll tell you that—by almost all members of the family to a complete cut-off so that everybody was teetotal. The admission that anybody in the community drank was almost unthinkable. Very gradually, of course, and now not so gradually in the last five years, the wheel is making another turn indeed and we have gone back to a completely different attitude.

I just want to point out this: Associated with this changing attitude has been a change in the attitude of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations or, particularly, the Liquor Licence Board which is directly responsible to this House through the ministry. Back in the days, I believe, when Mr. Robarts was Premier, the custom of permitting special occasion permits in these areas seemed to expand. It was, of course, clear that in townships which were dry the sale of alcoholic beverages was and is illegal. There is no question about that. Yet a certain custom was established that one could ask for a permit, and even though if one read it carefully it certainly said there is no sale permitted in these agricultural halls, and particularly in the community centres—and

most communities have them now with the assistance of the government of Ontario but largely with money raised through their own efforts—there is built up a custom of community parties of the very finest type.

The financial benefit of these parties is usually directed toward sports activities. In our own community of St. George, frankly, a very fine hockey league of many levels has been financed this way. The community finances it in this way with some alacrity, and all on the basis of special occasion permits. I have from time to time said to the people: "I am not the policeman, I am not the judge, but I am aware of what the law is, and the law says you can't sell liquor with these permits."

It certainly has been established in the community, not only in my area but elsewhere; and that's really the way it has been established. But all of a sudden last November the word came out that there would be no more permits. They phoned the member. They phoned this member. I don't know whether anybody else got phone calls but it was really something.

Sure everybody wants to stop the immoderate use of alcohol, but surely nobody is saying that the moderate use on the community level, on the basis of which the community is accepting it, should be outlawed all of a sudden by somebody reinterpreting some regulation that has nothing apparently to do with this House at all.

I know there were impassioned pleas. The reeve and a delegation from the township would travel all the way down to the Liquor Licence Board to find out directly what was wrong with this. They came back with the same answer that we got from everybody: "That's it, buddy, there will be no liquor in that township because you voted dry."

The thing is, Mr. Speaker, also, that there has to be, by law, three years between votes; and as a most careful examination of the legislation that I have been able to undertake and the best advice available to me is that there is no way out of that. Many of these areas had a vote just last year—and frankly I voted yes, but when you put your pencil beside that all of the lessons from Sunday School come on you. I was able, I guess, to overcome it, but a majority were not, mostly because they could have the satisfaction of voting no and having all the booze they wanted anyway.

Really, I just think that kind of a law has got to be an anachronism and from my point of view I just think it ought to be kicked

right out, and the responsibility of the Liquor Licence Board expanded with all of the review procedures made available. I know it is a foundation of Toryism that local option must never be interfered with in any way, even though they have amended the bill time and again. If it's a private club and one has the money to belong to a private club one can go there any time. One can take guests and sign them in at any time and be served in very fine surroundings.

Mr. Ruston: Or a tourist area.

Mr. Nixon: The next amendment was if it was a designated tourist area, it doesn't matter whether the local township votes dry or not, a licence is available. That is called the Talisman amendment, I believe.

That great, marvellous ski resort, which is the corporate headquarters of the Tory Party I understand, had a little problem getting a local township to see eye to eye with their view of modern development and it took an amendment to the liquor Act in order to fix it so that the people in the Talisman could be treated as I believe they want to be and should be treated.

So it seems to me that the hypocrisy associated with Conservative policy here has really got to be brought to an end. It may be that I can't persuade them that local option is not as good as it was in 1926 or whenever it was—

Mr. Drea: You voted for it last year.

Mr. Nixon: All right, but surely we've got to reach some kind of an accommodation with the problems that the people in these areas face. Believe me, they are not glassy-eyed drunks who simply want to have lots of cheap beer and hand it out to under-age kids or something like that. We don't have to worry about that. I submit that we do not. But there should be some kind of accommodation. The least we should do is have an amendment—and I wish the minister was here, because I have communicated with him about this; but I understand one of his advisers is here who knows quite a bit about this.

I would hope that we would have an amendment introduced in this House so that at least, at the discretion of the Liquor Licence Board on the application of a township, the right to have another vote would be granted before that three-year limit is up. Because in many instances, within a few months of the most recent vote this regulation, while it wasn't changed, was enforced in a different way; and it is not fair to the people concerned.

I would say to the Speaker and the parliamentary assistant that I would hope we will have a bill for discussion on that basis; and it should never be brought forward as anything having to do with the statement in the Speech from the Throne about the reform of it. This is simply a stop-gap correction for a situation that is simply unsupportable and that I, as one member, want set right.

Mr. Worton: Okay, Frank?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I wish that during these remarks I could have laid before you a clear and easy solution to the problems of alcoholic beverages, but I have indicated to you the way I feel that the mood of the community is changing. Not only is there a much broader and, I think, a healthier acceptance of it, but I think there is a much better awareness of the tremendous dangers and the destructiveness of the use of alcoholic beverages.

I think we can reflect that in this House by establishing a policy designed to ban advertising having to do with beer and liquor in this province in every way we can and by a programme of education which will be effective and which I believe should be mandatory.

I also ask that the government give immediate consideration to solving this problem in the communities that I have brought to your attention, and I feel sure, with the reasonable attitude they show to some of these practical matters, that a solution can be achieved.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.

Mr. Drea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After I make a few introductory remarks, I would appreciate it if the former Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nixon) would stay for a few moments and perhaps I could reply to some of the matters he raised.

It has always been my tradition to say a few words about the riding and the borough I have the honour to represent. I wish to commend the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) for the decision, in a period of restraint, to recognize the priorities of Scarborough in the fact that a massive new courthouse, one that will be 10 storeys high, will be built across from the town centre. It is one that will encompass the county courts, the provincial courts—both criminal and family—as well as various administration of justice offices.

I say this for two reasons, Mr. Speaker. First of all, because of your partial connection with the borough through some old friends, I'm sure you are aware of the fact that within

a decade Scarborough will be the largest municipality in this province. Certainly it is a mark of the foresight of the Minister of Government Services, of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and of those responsible for the administration of justice that the borough has been selected as the first place where there will be truly a suburban court complex, one that is away from downtown.

Certainly I believe the newspaper publicity that followed the announcement of the Ministry of Government Services about the courthouse, saying that this confirmed a downtown for Scarborough, also shows foresight by the province, because one of the difficulties in the suburban areas until this time has been the lack of a very clear and identifiable downtown or civic area as contrasted to that of the older cities and other urban areas.

[4:15]

Mr. Roy: You are very lucky. They are having the courthouse in the Holiday Inn in Ottawa.

Mr. Drea: Well if the people in Ottawa would make the decisions that the people in the southern part of Scarborough make they too would have a brand new 10-storey courthouse, my friend.

Mr. Roy: What you're suggesting is you've got to be Tory to get a courthouse.

Mr. Drea: That's right, that would be a step.

Mr. Roy: That's a great approach, vote Tory.

Mr. Drea: It's very successful, Albert. I think it's very significant that the first new courthouse built in the province in a period of restraint is going you know where.

Mr. Roy: Because you're a Tory.

Mr. Reid: A great philosophy of government.

Mr. Moffatt: A great addition.

Mr. Reid: That's why you're closing down the hospitals.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: I don't know of any hospital closings in the borough of Scarborough, but perhaps we'll come to that in a moment.

Mr. Roy: That's quite an admission.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to just touch on one other matter in the borough of Scarborough. As you know, one

of the experiments by the Toronto Transit Commission has been an express bus from the Town Centre to downtown Toronto, using a rather unconventional route. Because it's an express bus, it goes down the Don Valley Parkway; it obviously doesn't pick up passengers in between. This is a very heavily subsidized run. It is of great benefit to the people of the borough of Scarborough because the existing bus lines, quite often, by the time they feed into the Warden Ave. subway, take as long to get to the subway as the subway does to get downtown.

In view of the fact that the Town Centre at the moment doesn't have any direct transportation, this express bus service leaving to downtown Toronto was indeed, quite frankly, a very beneficial thing for a great number of commuters in Scarborough. It seems now that the Toronto Transit Commission in its time of restraint feels that this is a frill. At the moment, I am informed by the mayor of Scarborough, the TTC is cutting the service back just to rush hour. They also plan, if their restraints continue, to discontinue the service altogether.

I would suggest that a transportation body such as the TTC that can afford to pay its general manager more than the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) is paid by this Legislature, a municipal transit authority that wants to shoot \$500,000 on silly neon tubes and other forms of art in subways, is very far off its role in society when it wants to go on paying exorbitant salaries to its top management—

Mr. Cunningham: How much did courthouses get?

Mr. Mancini: Ask him about the Lieutenant Governor's suite.

Mr. Reid: Have you looked at the Wintario grants lately?

Mr. Drea: —when it wants to continue a procedure to make the interior of its subway stations more attractive at the expense of suburban riders. I would certainly hope that the regional transportation authority, which doesn't have any direct control over the Toronto Transit Commission, but certainly is in a position to give some advice, reminds the TTC that its obligation is not to pay high salaries to its bureaucrats and not to put up all kinds of paintings that nobody else wants to buy in subways.

Mr. Kerrio: Look who's talking.

Mr. Reid: Don't you think you should clean up your own backyard first?

Mr. Drea: Its function is to deliver people in the most expeditious manner, at the most reasonable rate and with the best service available. I would certainly hope that that is brought to the attention of the TTC.

I was very pleased to hear the remarks of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) this afternoon. Apparently there has been considerable change in thinking within that party. I took the opportunity while he was speaking of getting the Hansard of July 8, 1975. At that time we were talking about the Liquor Control Act, Bills 45 and 46, if I recall. At that particular time he was telling us that he personally thought the legislation should have been liberalized. That is a quote from page 2509.

Mr. Nixon: If I may, will the member permit a question?

Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: Does he not think that improving local option—that is, removing it—is not a liberalizing approach?

Mr. Drea: If you would have held your question until I was finished with the next sentence—

Mr. Kerrio: That might be two hours.

Mr. Moffatt: You might have forgotten it.

Mr. Drea: —what I was going to say is the local option question is one that I want to just hold for a moment, because there are some improvements already along the way to that extent.

Mr. Nixon: Good.

Mr. Drea: I don't regard the local option question as a matter of liberalization of the Liquor Control Act, no I don't. That's a mechanical procedure, it is not even the longer, and I think that your—

Mr. Nixon: That's the cornerstone of the Tory party.

Mr. Drea: Just a minute. The member's arguments for easing the present time limits on local option votes are proof that it is a mechanical venture at a particular time with regard to circumstances only at that time. If I recall the thrust of his speech, he was saying that what people will do in March or April, 1976, they may deeply regret, because there may be a social problem or at least the feeling of a social problem, in December or January, 1977, and they should have the right to change again.

Mr. Nixon: The government changes the rules right after. It changes the rules of the game.

Mr. Drea: No, we haven't, not on local options.

Mr. Nixon: Certainly it did.

Mr. Drea: We will come to local options. In any event, I was very pleased to see that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk now almost shares my view on the alcohol problem.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, I am not that liberal.

Mr. Singer: Come on now; be careful.

Mr. Reid: That is almost libellous.

Mr. Drea: Back in June he was gung ho. He wanted wine in the parks, and wine at the picnics. We don't hear about that today.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, yes I do.

Mr. Drea: Very good.

Mr. Mancini: Get your story straight.

Mr. Drea: My story? Do you want to read Hansard or are you capable of reading without subtitles?

Mr. Nixon: You read it; it is a good speech.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: I am very glad that less than a year has passed—

Mr. Nixon: And you are still here.

Mr. Drea: —to hear the sentiments concerning alcohol by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—

Mr. Nixon: No, no. Get it right.

Mr. Drea: —particularly the problem dealing with the under-21-year-old drinkers and with the causes of it, although I don't go as far as he does with advertising. But certainly I agree with him that there is no single solution to the problem of the under-21 drinking, the under-18 drinking, or the under-81 drinking. I agree with his proposition that society has changed a very great deal in a very short period of time. I am not so sure that society is prepared to go back in a cyclical operation as quickly as it got into this, nor do I think it is really capable of doing so.

I think it is ludicrous to suggest that the mere reduction of the drinking age to 18

produced the tremendous amount of consumption, either real or imagined, that there is among teenagers today. The reason I underlined "real or imagined" is, it is very difficult to get really adequate statistics on the under-18 drinker, while at the same time every parent in this province, or virtually every one, is profoundly concerned about the fact that they have the feeling about or they know or they have heard about either their children or the children down the street.

I think there has to be something that goes beyond whether we raise the age or whether we put education programmes into the schools for young people. I feel it is ludicrous to suggest that a 17- or an 18- or a 19-year-old should be made aware of the abuse and the potential for abuse of alcohol when he is used to coming home and in the last five or six years, his very formative years, finding mommy and daddy are having one or two before supper to get through the stress of the day, and one or two afterwards to make television or whatever else is going on in the household more friendly.

I think it is asking a very great deal of young people to sit in a health class and to listen to information about the abuse of alcohol and the potential for it, when every member in this House today knows that in the past five or six years on going into somebody's house the offer of some refreshment has changed from tea or coffee into, "Do you want a drink?" In fact, if you visit someone's house today, other than very early in the morning, it is very rare that you are offered tea or coffee. The first question is, "Do you want a drink?"

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: What has your answer been?

Mr. Bain: Just say you don't want it.

Mr. Reid: What are you opting for?

Mr. Drea: What am I opting for? I'm the one who put tea, coffee and milk in bars, my friend, and don't forget it.

Mr. Singer: I had forgotten. I must admit.

Mr. Reid: We will put that on your tombstone.

Mr. Drea: Well, you certainly never bought any.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: You certainly never indulged. But I think it's a bit unfair, and I agree with

the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that of the particular attitudes and the particular social trends of all of society, somehow the only thing we are concerned about is the implications and the practices that are adopted by the younger people.

I was very grateful to the member for the praise of the Liquor Licence Board, that they have been ruthless in terms of enforcing the legislation against consumption in a licensed premises by anyone under 18 years, or the purchase of it. I agree with him. I think we have gone about as far as we can go.

One of the difficulties is that in the hotel business there is a double standard, and I think we should look at it in exactly that light. If the hotel, for any reason, is found to have served someone under the age of 18, the penalties are enormous and the repercussions almost instant. By the same token—and I want to make myself clear, I am not commenting upon the validity of the judges' decisions—but I think we have to take into account what happens to the offender, the 16- or 17-year-old, the boy or the girl who went in and purchased that alcohol. It may very well be that they are charged, but when they go to the provincial court, there isn't a provincial judge in this province who is going to sentence them to jail, because if there were it would be raised the following day, or that afternoon, right on the floor of this House. Secondly, deep down within himself or herself, the provincial judge knows that even on the imposition of a very substantial fine the parent or somebody else is going to pay it. He knows this.

They already know that the probation services of this province are stretched almost to the limit, and telling a young person to go to a place two or three or four times in a month, is neither a punishment nor a deterrent in the future. So we do have a double standard, and quite frankly, it's no one's fault; on paper it looks the same.

I suggest that one of the things that we have to do in the field of enforcement is to come up with a sufficient deterrent that will at least be an attempt to keep younger people out of licensed premises. I suggest that one of the difficulties is that the young person now knows that the parents and society and, indeed, even the courts regard this much the same as the last speaker did, as something that was part of our society or part of growing up or what have you—at least it wasn't the end of the world.

To a parent who finds his teenage daughter with marijuana or some other form of drug, or has even heard that she is associating with

someone who uses it, it is the end of the world. They want to get them to a psychiatrist, they want treatment, they want everything. If the boy or the girl comes home and they have had two, three, four or five beers, all right, the parent levies some action, but it is not the end of the world. It is something that is acceptable in our society and is considered part of growing up.

I think this puts another unfair burden upon younger people. In short, it is one of the few offences they can do in society to show their independence and the punishment is not terribly substantial.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the last time that I spoke in this debate—and I think you were in the chair, because I congratulated you on your forbearance, your patience, your demeanour and so forth—I said that I was in favour of raising the age. I am. I am in favour of raising the age for one reason, I think it should be out of the high schools. I think that, indeed, this has become a substantial problem, because it is very difficult—pardon?

Mr. Moffatt: Move it to 66.

Mr. Drea: Move it to what?

Mr. Moffatt: To 66.

Mr. Drea: Well, we could take your attitude and drop it to six, too.

Mr. Moffatt: I didn't say that, I said 66.

Mr. Drea: The difficulty in the high schools today is that pretty generally the grade 13 people are over the age of 18, or at least in that reasonable position that they are entitled to go out, if they choose, at their lunch and have a beer or something with their sandwiches. By the same token, most of the children in the school are not. Also, Mr. Speaker, and you are a parent as am I, it is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly with young ladies, to tell the difference between a 15-, 16-, 18- or 19-year-old, and the same way with young men.

There is not a school principal in the province who doesn't want the age raised or at least enough to keep it out of the high schools. They want to go back to high-school dances without alcohol, and I don't think that that is an unreasonable request.

[4:30]

In my borough, in the borough of Scarborough, at a high school where my children go, they cannot have school dances any more because of the alcohol problem; and the problem does not relate to the

students or the teachers but to people coming in at 9 or 9:30 loaded to the gills.

Mr. Nixon: They could hire cops to keep them out.

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, one of the things that the teachers will tell you which strikes right at the roots of what the hon. member was saying, is that when they do find a student, particularly a 15- or 16-year-old, who has had too much to drink, and they call the parents, they get abuse from the parents for bothering them to come down and get the kid. This is a most frustrating and heartbreaking thing for a teacher who has given up his Friday or Wednesday night to supervise a school dance.

Mr. Nixon: You've got to be careful when you say that happens every time. Surely that is the rare occasion?

Mr. Drea: Well, talk to the teachers who have to go there—

Mr. Nixon: It is kind of a generalization.

Mr. Drea: —talk to the teachers who have done it for years. Indeed it is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, coming back to the deterrent, I am very glad to see the Law Reform Commission—at least the federal one—is talking in this direction; and I would certainly hope that the federal Minister of Justice acts on one of its suggestions, which is that instead of jail sentences, community work projects should be assigned under the auspices of the federal Criminal Code. Indeed, while not being a solicitor, I understand that under the present legislation it apparently would be extremely hazardous for a provincial judge to give a work assignment in lieu of a sentence because the person, if he didn't like the work assignment, could immediately appeal that sentence. Therefore, the sentence would be null and void, and the person could not be brought in again, tried and given an alternative punishment.

I certainly hope that the federal government moves in the area of community work assignments. I think this might balance the scale somewhat. After all, for a proprietor or an employee—and remember the employee, although he is not going to lose his licence, certainly is in for a very substantial fine; and invariably an employee who is convicted in court of supplying alcohol to somebody under the age of 18 simply does not work in that establishment again—the penalties on that side are substantial.

I don't think that the penalties on the other side, because of youth and the problems of adolescence, should be that substantial. But I suggest they should be somewhat more than they are now. Because right now, for practical purposes, what is involved is a bawling-out by the parents, a second bawling-out by the parent who has to go to court, and the promise to be good.

I think that work assignments in the community might reinforce the attitude that there are responsibilities towards society; one of them is to obey the law, and that if you do not obey the law, at least you can reconcile yourself to doing adequate work in the community. I think that indeed would be a deterrent and I think it would balance the scales.

Coming to the question of local option and special-occasion permits, as you know, one of the regulations that was part and parcel of the liquor control legislation last year did provide, if the municipalities wanted it, for an almost immediate lessening of the time from three years to two. As a matter of fact, one of the things the hon. member didn't mention is the tremendous cost to a small municipality of having a vote. As a first step toward modernizing local option while still respecting the principle, we were prepared to allow the local option ballot to be conducted at the same time as the municipal one; in other words, every two years. We have taken the first step.

I can sympathize with the particular problems of the member in that you can get a special-occasion permit in your area to give it away. If you want to sign a statutory declaration with the Crown and say you are giving it away and definitely not selling liquor, you can get a special-occasion permit. In short, community groups are being forced—if you want to put it that way—to break the law. I have much more regard for community groups. I don't think they break the law.

I suggest that on something as personal as alcohol no two people, not even in this particular House today, agree on any two facets of alcohol; perhaps they do in principle but certainly not on the mechanisms. On a thing that personal, which has to do with one's environment, culture, religion, education, attitude, economics, what have you, I suggest the only responsible way in the areas still left under local option is that they remain under local option. To do otherwise would be to change the rules of the game.

I am not going to suggest that when one is in a dry area or a no-sale area everything is

virtually cut off and one has to motor down the road to find an oasis. I recall that the former member for High Park used to pursue this from time to time because a great deal of his riding was a no-sale area. Members will recall that during the last Legislature there was a vote there and it remained dry yet the beer trucks roll in upon request to the households. The truck from the LCBO would deliver to a household even though this was a no-sale area. One didn't have to leave home to buy. The former member for High Park, great crusader as he was, would always come forward charging and I would reply to him very simply, "All right, just give it to us in writing and we will stop the practice." He pulled back because the consequences were obvious.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and I agree, that local option is indeed the root of Toryism in this province. I find it very strange that the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk—

Mr. Nixon: Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Drea: Oxford?

Mr. Nixon: Part of Oxford.

Mr. Drea: Part of Oxford?

Mr. Nixon: Oxford; part of Norfolk, part of Brant.

Mr. Drea: Let me keep getting it straight. I am just thinking of all these dry areas where never again will a permit be issued.

Mr. Nixon: What kind of a stupid threat is that?

Mr. Drea: I am not; I am making a facetious one. You're the one who is sitting here. You are the one who has insulted every community group in your riding.

Mr. Nixon: All right. I am sorry. Your sense of humour eludes me sometimes because you are quite capable—

Mr. Drea: You sat there. You stood there not half an hour ago and insulted every community group in your riding. You hinted very strongly that they were applying for no-sale liquor permits and certain things took place. You suggested that very strongly.

Mr. Nixon: Will the assistant permit a question? Is he aware that the Liquor Licence Board did not even have our township down as a dry township and were awarding the sale permits as if it had voted wet? What kind of an organization has he got down there? It has been very convenient for many people.

Mr. Reid: He must be running it.

Mr. Drea: I can reply that if it hasn't been down it—

Mr. Nixon: They were breaking no laws.

Mr. Drea: If it hasn't been down until today as a dry it certainly will be down in about 15 minutes as a dry area.

Mr. Nixon: You finally got around to fixing it.

Mr. Drea: I do not like negligence. I never approve of negligence or carelessness.

Coming back to the local option thing and the principle of Toryism and the hypocrisy the member suggests, I suggest that it's the other way around. When he opened his speech he attacked my minister. He said he was trying to interfere with local autonomy and a democratically-elected council. What is more democratic than to let the people in an area decide whether they want liquor? Whether they want it sold? Whether they want stores? Whether they want hotels? What is more democratic? You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Nixon: You changed the rules after the vote. That is why they have to have another.

Mr. Drea: We didn't change any rule.

Mr. Nixon: You certainly did.

Mr. Drea: You probably changed them by bringing to the attention of the Liquor Licence Board that it was a dry area. You did, now suffer.

Mr. Nixon: I certainly did not. Your voting procedure is completely out of whack. You are going to have to amend it. What about an amendment? Will you recommend one to your minister? Do you talk to him?

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, I would suggest to you despite the fact that you say I am capable of doing certain things, it's not in the form of an amendment; it is certainly not in the form of a draft yet because it could be done by regulation. It could be done.

Mr. Nixon: The way you do most of this is by regulation.

Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. Nixon: Yes.

Mr. Drea: That is not true.

Mr. Nixon: Except you want to save Talisman or you want to do a favour to the private clubs.

Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. Nixon: You are the one who has it both ways. Yet you allow people to vote local options so that certain people can drink. Now you call that democratic? I think you are out of touch.

Mr. Drea: No. No, you have misread the whole thing. Once again, when we introduced the legislation last year, one of the commitments to this House—

Mr. Nixon: Was that there would be—

Mr. Drea: Just a moment. Control yourself. Restrain. Having confessed to being a teenage tippler, why, just cool it an hour later.

Mr. Nixon: No, no. It was 21 in those days, Frank.

Mr. Drea: You mean you were 20? I thought you were 19.

Mr. Nixon: You are drawing conclusions.

Mr. Drea: Well, in any event you were an under-age tippler at one time.

Mr. Nixon: For medicinal purposes.

Mr. Drea: I would have thought it was for romantic, but we won't go into that.

Mr. Nixon: I don't need that kind of stimulation.

Mr. Drea: There is the concept of the local option, particularly in regard to the area that does not want a large number of licenced premises, may indeed only want one or may indeed only want special occasion permits for a community hall for a special community function. There is the feeling that because of certain developments in the area, because of other considerations, that the time period now indeed is a bit too long. Now, as I say, we have already offered. That was done through the municipal-provincial liaison committee last year. This was brought to their attention. Would they like liquor votes every two years if they could be conducted on a municipal ballot which would save money?

At that particular time they said they did. Unfortunately some of the people who were prominent in that committee the last time are no longer prominent in it. Certainly we have moved that far. I can assure the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford and all of western Ontario, or wherever those places are, that that is under active consideration. But I would be less than frank with you were I to say that I don't really think that you can have votes every six months.

Mr. Nixon: I thought you were Frank all the time.

Mr. Laughren: Please be more than frank.

Mr. Drea: I am just warming up.

Mr. Nixon: How about an application to the board?

Mr. Drea: What?

Mr. Nixon: How about an application to the board by a motion of the council so that they could consider the possibility of special circumstances?

Mr. Drea: I think we would be inclined to consider that.

Mr. Nixon: Let's do that.

Mr. Drea: No, no. There may be some considerations under there. I would think that most people agree in principle with your position. I think the other thing that we have to realize is that where people are delayed a long time in a vote by the artificial restraint, there is a tendency by the community group to come in and to ask for a "no sale" permit and hope that nobody casually drops in from the provincial police or nobody complains.

Mr. Nixon: Or the individual does as they used to do—brings a bottle and puts it under the table.

Mr. Drea: That's right, and neither one of those particular practices is, I think, within the meaning of the operative word in liquor policy in this province which is "control", because first of all the local authorities are not aware of the fact that alcohol is being consumed by a large number of people, and secondly, when people feel they are having an illicit drink, I think, being human, they tend to drink a little bit harder or longer. I must say that as a statesman and as a suggestor, the former leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario is doing much better as a back-bencher than he ever did when he had the big microphone in front.

Mr. Reid: That is certainly worthy of you, Frank.

An hon. member: Is that nice, Frank?

Mr. Drea: I meant it very much as a compliment. After all he was—

Mr. Laughren: Always the hired gun, aren't you, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Never. I haven't said a word about the other fellow yet. I was going to be nice to him but you are dissuading.

Mr. Swart: You will never catch him yet.

Mr. Nixon: We have been in here since 2 o'clock.

Mr. Drea: The other fellow?

Mr. Nixon: You and me.

Mr. Drea: Yes, the vanishing breed.

Mr. Nixon: Hurry up.

Mr. Drea: That's all with liquor. You can leave. One last reply to the member which concerns advertising. I share his concern about the volume, the attractiveness, the scope of beverage alcohol advertising in this province, particularly on TV, which is beer. [4:45]

Mr. Laughren: If you don't stop tampering with the free enterprise system you're going to destroy it, Frank.

Mr. Drea: First of all, the alcohol beverage industry is neither free nor enterprising nor anything else.

Interjection.

Mr. Drea: One of the problems we have with it is that it is probably the most socialist of all industries; its prices are regulated, its practices are regulated and it is a monument to the inability of any government to tinker with the free enterprise system.

Mr. Bain: So you're going to let it be a free open market then?

Mr. Moffatt: Liquor at every grocery store.

Mr. Bain: Anybody can sell their own, brew their own, do whatever they want with it.

Mr. Drea: You can brew your own now. You don't even know the Act.

Mr. Bain: I said sell it. Sell it and brew it.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, coming back to the advertising, one of the difficulties—and I recall in this province, because I was part of the lobby at that time from the publishing industry—I can recall when print advertising was banned in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Leslie Frost.

Mr. Drea: Oh, the member's father had something to do with that. Institutional ads

were permitted. I'm sure some of the older members of the House can recall the days when Red Cap would tell you how to buy a used car. There would just be a little Red Cap down at the bottom. One of the great difficulties with print advertising is the court decisions that say you cannot ban a publication that has that advertising in it provided it was produced elsewhere.

I am very proud to have been part of the lobby. The lobby included labour, it included all the printing trade unions, and it included periodical publishers in this province. The thickest periodical in this province is *Week-end Magazine* from Montreal. It is just loaded. Why, it is half as big again as a telephone book. And all of that work was going into the Province of Quebec.

You will recall when the senior Mr. Bennett banned alcohol advertising in the Province of British Columbia. *Time* magazine took him to court and the court came down and said Quebec is where *Time* is published and that *Time* had every right to carry that advertising and to be sold in the Province of British Columbia.

Again, with television, I can recall when there was no beer advertising on television. I think too the members should remember the distillers have stayed away from television advertising both in the United States and here, and to a large degree I compliment them on that. But I can recall the National Soccer League games in downtown Toronto, when they used to bring the truck over from channel 2 in Buffalo. They used to hire Eddie Fitkin, who couldn't have found Buffalo if he had to go back with the truck. Labatts sponsored it. For four hours the people in Buffalo were deprived of any TV at all; it was aimed into the Toronto market. This was being done all the time.

I suggest that an attempt to ban advertising in Ontario in isolation would not work, particularly in the more densely populated areas where access to television signals, to radio broadcasts and to print from other jurisdictions is available. Now, the suggestion has been made that it is up to the provinces to get together with the federal government to discuss this problem rationally and to come up with an efficient solution. For the past couple of years that the Liquor Control Board—not the Liquor Licence Board, the Liquor Control Board—has been meeting, I think you have seen an improvement in the quality of the beer advertising on TV.

Mr. Nixon: They're great ads.

Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, the one that I like the best really is the one that features the two geriatrics, Madame Benoit, the fat lady and the old colonel, or whatever his name is, from Carlsberg.

Mr. Nixon: Are they on a trampoline?

Mr. Drea: No, she is talking about the quality of the yeast in her bread and he says he uses it in his beer. They munch bread and beer together, and since both are obviously way up there, obviously this is not intended for the youth market. As a matter of fact, quite frankly, having had a lot to do with keeping Mr. Rimstead afloat in his commercials, I enjoy Mr. Rimstead's commercials.

Mr. Martel: Not you, Frank. Not you.

Mr. Drea: I enjoy his commercials. I don't think they imply—

Mr. Nixon: Nobody says that those are bad commercials. I think they're the best commercials selling anything. But they sell, and that is what we are talking about.

Mr. Drea: I'm not so sure that Mr. Rimstead—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, they're just on for entertainment, are they?

Mr. Drea: I'm not so sure that Mr. Rimstead sells to the younger set. The ones that bother me are the Molsons ads, particularly the jock ads which are offensive to females—Charlie and the boys all going around together in their second childhood—

Mr. Nixon: A little pick-up ball—pick-up ball.

Mr. Drea: —also the Labatts commercials which feature the happy young couple coming home. Presumably they're a couple; they live together.

The one I find most offensive, and I think something has to be done about it, is the one where the middle-aged man on Labatts is coming home on the bus and he's in terrible shape. He's standing; his face is very hot; he's obviously worked all day or at least stood in line at the unemployment insurance wicket for a considerable period of time. When he gets to the door, there is wifey with two right there on the tray. And then he retreats to his beautiful back yard and he feels so refreshed.

Interjection.

Mr. Drea: When is the last time your wife met you at the door with two bottles of beer?

Mr. Martel: There has never been a first time.

Mr. Drea: I agree with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I think that is the kind of advertising that we're trying to get at.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, there is a joint committee of the provinces that meets with the CRTC to discuss these problems. There has been some progress made—I would be the last to disagree with the member—but not enough.

In terms of the hard liquor ads and the wine ads in the magazines, one of the difficulties in this country is that there isn't a broad enough national advertising market to sustain many Canadian periodicals. Thus, those there are are virtually saturated with alcohol ads.

I think that is a fact of life of having to live in Canada. If those ads were to be discontinued, then I suggest some government is going to have to face up to that very, very difficult task of replacing that revenue for those magazines without getting into state-supported periodicals and all of the things that go with that. But I do appreciate the concerns of the member for Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford and somewhere.

Mr. B. Newman: Scarborough?

Mr. Drea: Not quite yet. The last time he came there, he stayed out of my riding. He went right around it. Block by block. He's a nice friendly fellow.

Mr. B. Newman: You mean that regional government hasn't included Scarborough yet?

Mr. Drea: Regional government? What's that?

Mr. B. Newman: Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Metro.

Mr. Spence: Aren't you allowed in there, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, turning to a couple of other topics—it seems to me that there has to be considerably more responsibility in society, particularly in regard to some of the activities where we, as individuals, do have control over our own destiny. One that I would like to talk about is in the field of insurance, particularly automobile insurance.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, please do.

Mr. Drea: I am not going to read off, although I just happen to have it here, all the sins of British Columbia. Just be quiet and I won't go bang, bang.

Mr. Moffatt: Who read it to you?

Mr. Swart: Saskatchewan and Manitoba, of course too.

Mr. Eaton: Just mention BC.

Mr. Drea: Sure. They're getting ready to bail out. Here come the parachutes.

Mr. Eaton: Just mention British Columbia and they all get excited.

Mr. Martel: Are you not running again, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Sure I am—

Mr. Martel: What for?

Mr. Drea: —absolutely. The member's leader said I would run third the last time. I always like making a liar out of the leader of the NDP.

Mr. Martel: My leader?

Mr. Drea: The member's leader.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member continue his debate please.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I would be glad if you could bring some decorum to the democratic left.

Mr. Martel: What does that mean?

Mr. Drea: I want to talk about the concept of compulsory insurance in this province.

Mr. Martel: In auto insurance.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we can no longer, as a society, really afford the tremendous costs that accrue to the rest of society because of automobile accidents. Not just in terms of the economics, which are either picked up by OHIP, or perhaps, for someone who is utterly incapacitated, by some form of social assistance, but also in terms of the unfairness—

Mr. Moffatt: Explain that.

Mr. Drea: If you are hit by a non-insured driver whom nobody can find, there's going to be no court judgement; there's going to be nothing. So you're going to have to go.

Mr. Laughren: I was referring to your comment that social assistance in Ontario incapacitated people. You're quite right.

Mr. Drea: I did not say that.

Mr. Bain: You did so, check Hansard.

Mr. Martel: We want to correct it, so you can correct it tomorrow Frank.

Mr. Laughren: That sounded just terrible.

Mr. Drea: Were you the one who has just spoken?

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: Yes, I've got to get involved to correct your erroneous statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: We all volunteer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Mr. Bain: The comment you refer to was that social assistance in this province incapacitates people.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. members will allow the hon. member to continue his remarks.

Mr. Laughren: Tell him to stop being provocative.

Mr. Bain: The problem is we are the only ones listening.

Mr. Drea: My friend, if I spoke as poorly as the man who made that last interjection, I wouldn't dare be up on my feet.

Mr. Laughren: You should sit down.

Mr. Drea: As long as I'm here this afternoon, my friend, you sit there and listen or there's the door and you can leave.

Mr. Laughren: Always the hired gun.

Mr. Moffatt: Shoot from the hip.

Mr. Bain: Continue, we await your next words.

Mr. Laughren: You haven't changed since your days in Sudbury, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Never.

Mr. Laughren: You should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, coming back to insurance, it seems to me to be utterly unfair that a person who deliberately chooses not to buy insurance for a payment of \$60—

Mr. Young: That's not insurance.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: —can receive the right to operate a motor vehicle in this province.

Mr. Martel: Your government did that.

Mr. Drea: A motor vehicle that can do a tremendous amount of damage. I don't want to talk about the economics of it now, I want to talk about the human problem.

Mr. Laughren: Tory free enterprise.

Mr. Drea: I must admit I was very outraged today—or yesterday—reading in a newspaper that a man who drives an Oldsmobile Delta said he drives in fear because he cannot afford automobile insurance. The man can afford an Oldsmobile Delta and all the gas it takes to drive a fancy one like that; all of the car washes and all of the oil and all of the finance payments and what have you. Surely the time has come for compulsory insurance in this province.

Mr. Laughren: No fault and public.

Mr. Drea: If we cannot have compulsory insurance because there are those irresponsible enough to want to take a chance—

Mr. Bain: What were the contributions?

Mr. Drea: —I suggest that instead of paying \$60 into the unsatisfied judgement fund—

Mr. Young: That's not insurance.

Mr. Drea: —because I cannot see why the people who are responsible—we subsidize that to a degree and that's fair because we might be a hit by a stolen car or by somebody who vanishes. That's a form of insurance protection; the part on one's driver's licence.

It seems to me the time has come when \$60 is far too low a fee for that type of thing. I would suggest that perhaps the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—I hope he is listening—next week might raise that fee to \$150 as a start and that in his subsequent budgets he might bring it up to \$300 or \$400.

Mr. Swart: First change it into public auto insurance and we'll have the best.

Mr. Drea: If you brought in public automobile insurance in this province you'd bankrupt us almost as much as you did British Columbia. You blew your brains out in British Columbia.

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: Public automobile insurance in this country is D-E-A-D; and the guy who buried it was Barrett and all the rest of them out there.

Mr. Swart: It will come back. I heard that for Saskatchewan; I heard that for Manitoba too; but the Liberals and Tories kept it.

Mr. Drea: Not in British Columbia. It's gone over and your fellow is out there taking a subsidy, cap in hand, saying: "Please let me have a job; please let me back in."

Interjections.

Mr. Drea: The voters were not misled by you. They turfed you out. The flagship sank with virtually all hands.

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: All the Tories sank.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order.

Mr. Drea: You were building the promised land out there and the only thing that happened is you went on the reef; you fell apart; you broke apart; your captain is still on the shore and looking for work.

Mr. Swart: How many Conservatives have they got out there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: That's the government.

Mr. Swart: I convinced him.

Mr. Laughren: You're in the right party, Frank. What's going to happen in Ontario?

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: Do you believe in Social Credit principles?

Mr. Young: What happened to the Tory party in British Columbia?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member would direct the question to the Chair, rather than to the member.

Mr. Drea: I'd be very glad to answer but I want to get this over with in about 10 minutes. I can tell you what happened to the Tory party—

Mr. Martel: It wouldn't take that long to tell us.

Mr. Swart: They are not in coalition with the Liberals like you are doing here.

Mr. Drea: In a coalition with them? We're not in a coalition with them. They just hang on our coat-tails; it's not our problem.

Mr. Swart: What's your problem?

Mr. Drea: The same thing happened to the Conservative Party in British Columbia as has happened to the NDP in the Province of Quebec. Some time you and I shall have a very nice discussion about it. They are calibres that equate to each other. I suppose that will bring up from Charlie Boy, or whatever his name was from last night, that we're destroying the fragile country again.

[5:00]

(To come back to the question of insurance I suggest, Mr. Speaker, through you to the Treasurer, that the fee for the unsatisfied judgement fund for somebody who deliberately eschews insurance goes up to \$150 and then to \$300. If someone is deliberately going to say: "I am better than everybody else, I do not have to accept my responsibilities, I do not have to pay my debts, and yet I am going to accept all of the privileges." I think the time has come. Why should he pay \$60? Why should he be allowed to buy an insurance policy that lapses after 30 days? Certainly I don't want to change the time payments on insurance. I know that people when they renew, and renewals come at a particular time of the year, it is very expensive, and there are families. I think payment on time is very acceptable.

Mr. Martel: Overly expensive.

Mr. McClellan: Why is it so expensive?

Mr. Martel: Overly expensive.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Drea: Overly expensive?

Mr. Martel: Right.

Mr. Drea: After the experiment that you people did out there? After the experiment—

Mr. Young: Come off it, Frank. Tell us about Saskatchewan insurance.

Mr. Drea: The greatest experiment there ever was. They are going to write books about what you did in British Columbia—books, books, books.

Mr. Martel: You are right.

Mr. Drea: They won't be doing what the member for Brant-Haldimand, whatever it is—Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—was saying about

the worm in the glass at Sunday School. In future the books are going to be this high. Little kids are going to be given the books about the Barnett experiment in Canada, in British Columbia.

Mr. Swart: It was the Conservative-Liberal coalition in BC, the same as here, that caused your extinction. Now the Tories and Liberals have all jumped to Social Credit.

Mr. Drea: And you are going to have substantial problems in saying that you people had nothing to do with it. It was in a place west of the Rockies.

Mr. Swart: And you know what the Conservatives will use as their text book, 10 and 20 years hence? They'll use democratic socialist legislation—

Mr. Speaker: Order please, I don't think we should have a debate back and forth across the House. Let's have the hon. member finish his speech.

Mr. Martel: We're ten years behind in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Martel: You remember the Machiavellian scheme?

Mr. Speaker:—order.

Mr. Drea: The what?

Mr. Martel: The Machiavellian scheme on medicare.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member continue with his remarks please.

Mr. Young: He is being provocative.

Mr. Drea: Listen, I was even trying to be nice to the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) today, except he didn't come.

Mr. Martel: He was playing tennis.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I want to come to two other aspects of legislation in our own ministry. One of the particular problems that is going to face this Legislature one way or another in a relatively brief period of time, and I say this in the utmost seriousness, is the question of film classification or censorship. Without commenting upon the merit of certain court decisions that I feel almost lay open the doors to a concept of the direct election of judges, we may have to face in this province in the very near future a

totally new concept in the rating or the censorship or the classification of film.

I can truthfully say that I don't think there is anyone in this House who really is enthralled with the principle of censorship. My personal opinion is that I really couldn't care less what you want to see. However, there is an obligation to society and, repugnant as the concept of censorship is when considered in isolation, it is very essential in our society today.

As you know, I had a great deal to do with the amendments to the Theatres Act that were passed in the last House. I am very pleased that at that particular time, there was a dissenting voice in this chamber as to the need to extend the jurisdiction of the theatres branch to 8mm film and videotape. Indeed, were the circumstances the same today and we still had that tawdry, carnival-like atmosphere on Yonge St., which was really the exploitation of sex for the sake of sex and the dollar, I am sure there wouldn't be a dissenting voice today.

One of the interesting things in the assumption of that jurisdiction by the theatres branch was the suggestion by the solicitors for many of the—I suppose I should call them porno houses; they never really did feature hard-core pornography. Nonetheless, the suggestion was there that you could see something that you couldn't see in a first-run theatre. The suggestion was that their clientele and their operations be treated differently within the law. Their argument was that they appealed to a peculiar and a particular segment of society that expected much more than those who frequented the more conventional movie houses where most of the population attend. We destroyed that argument by saying that if there is going to be a law and a classification and rating system, it was just as applicable to the patrons of Cinema 2000 and other places that people are not so prone to discuss, or where the films aren't reviewed, as indeed to those going to any of the Odeon, 20th Century or Famous Players theatres.

What concerns me a great deal these days is that the movie industry has turned full circle. It is now some of the first-line distributors who are suggesting that we should no longer censor or classify films on the grounds that if they are distributed by a first-class organization and shown in first-run houses therefore they are of such overwhelming artistic content that they deserve an exemption from the things we would take out of something if it was being shown in one of the 16mm theatres downtown, or on

videotape or in some other cubbyhole; that such films as the "Emmanuelle I" are artistic by virtue of the fact that a first-rate cinematographer did the photography on it; that the contents should no longer be of any particular concern to us.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker—and I would hope that we have the full support of the House on this—that the same standard that applies to the types of film and to sexploitation, the exploitation of violence or other peculiar aberrations that are being featured in Cinema 2000 or any of the 8mm or the 16mm places, is going to have to prevail on the first-run movie house. Whether you pick up some broken-down actress and use her in a soft-core, 8mm semi-pornographic film, which you are charged a quarter a reel to view in a machine, or whether you get a first-line star with a name that produces an audience response in a first-run house, I cannot see the difference. In terms of our society, I don't think there can be a difference. I don't think there can be a classification Act for the depraved and a classification Act for the normal. I think it is that simple.

I'm also very pleased to note—and my friend from Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) has long been an advocate of this; he must be quite pleased too—that you now see in the theatre ads that there are cautions about very coarse and very profane language. That, to me, has always been a particular problem. If there is something wrong in the film print; if there is something that would tend to be depraved, obscene or what have you, it is very easy to take out that scene. By the same token, you can also argue that the customer who takes a look at the billboard knows what is going to happen inside and, therefore, should have no complaint. The problem is with language.

As someone who respects the English language a great deal, I'm personally saddened by the fact that the English language appears to be in decline and that a great deal of street language now substitutes for a great many of the adjectives and other expressions that our language has enjoyed over the years. The particular problem now is that a great many people find that kind of language offensive. They do not use that language in public, they do not like to hear it and they find they are utterly defenceless when they go into a movie theatre because, after all, it doesn't say on the billboard that the guy curses every two minutes. The film may have been reviewed very highly. As a matter of fact, it may be a film of such merit as "All the King's Men." It may be a film of

such merit as "Taxi Driver." I don't go to the movies very much but I suggest that one particularly for those who are devotees of the British Columbia automobile insurance experiment.

Mr. Samis: Did you see them both?

Mr. Drea: There are some lines in there that should warm their hearts—

Mr. Samis: Name them.

Mr. Drea: —because they are headed in exactly the same direction.

Mr. Samis: Which film? I saw them both.

Mr. Drea: Which film?

Mr. Samis: "Taxi Driver"?

Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Samis: Which line?

Mr. Drea: The existentialist lines.

Mr. Samis: There are a lot of those. They are heavy with those.

Mr. Drea: The problem for the moviegoers is that when they get in there they are confronted with bad language, and many of us have always felt that they did have a legitimate objection, that there should have been a warning outside so they could make up their minds before they entered the premises.

I commend Mr. Sims, the director of our theatres branch, in that we are now seeing those warnings about the language. Some people will say, "Why not cut out the language?" Unfortunately, with the sound married to the film, it is impossible without really ruining what otherwise would be a film of considerable merit. One simply cannot expunge any longer a word or two in a sentence.

I realize in the old days that when words like that were used in isolation for pure shock value and it was very easy in those days to snip, snip with the scissors. Today it is not.

I want to commend Mr. Sims because those cautions are now appearing in the advertising. I also want to commend the distributors, because the distributors are aware of this problem and the distributors have co-operated.

Mr. Samis: How many Canadian films are they showing, though?

Mr. Drea: Well, one of the problems with Canadian films, my friend, is that one couldn't be shown in this province, and it was pro-

duced by taxpayers' money and there is no one in this Legislature who wouldn't have been physically ill to see it. That's one of the problems.

Mr. Samis: Which one?

Mr. Drea: That's one of the problems. It was done with a first-class cast and I would be prepared to discuss with the member outside exactly why it wasn't shown in this province, and I think he would agree with me.

Mr. Samis: There are lots of those that could be.

Mr. Drea: Pardon?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: That one was financed by the taxpayers through the Canadian Film Development Corp., which to me is unbelievable. However, I think the work of Mr. Sims will produce something in this province that is most desirable.

First of all, it will reinforce the attitude of the moviegoing public that they can take a reasonable look at the billboards of the advertising outside and make up their own mind on the quality of the production. Secondly, it will discourage the unscrupulous theatre distributor from putting that kind of a warning on every film in hopes of bringing in the suckers.

I think that step is long overdue. I think it is something that will benefit the public and I think the theatres branch should receive a great deal of credit for that.

In conclusion, I just want to say that for many years in this House, and I remember starting the battle single-handed, I argued most vehemently on gun control. As a matter of fact, I campaigned within my own party and I campaigned in this House. I was very gratified, just prior to the last election, when the legislation for an Ontario gun control programme was drafted. At that time I agreed with the position of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Attorney General-to-be, my friend from Eglinton (Mr. McMurtry), that the federal government should get one last chance to produce the legislation, in the interest of producing a uniform gun control programme across Canada.

I just want to say, for all the names that I called the federal Solicitor General, and they were many—"Swift Warren" was my favourite, which always used to bring a laugh—I want to say to him that I have badly misjudged him. I didn't think he would ever

quite get around to producing the legislation. He has. I don't agree with all of it, but then I am quite sure that despite the fact it is based upon our legislation it would be nit-picking.

Mr. Roy: You are too much.

Mr. Drea: After the remarks that you made—

Mr. Nixon: Give it to him, Frank, give it to him.

Mr. Drea: I haven't seen the member for Ottawa East since he was on TV and lost.

Mr. Roy: When was that; last week?

Mr. Drea: Last week.

Mr. Roy: Can you understand television, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Well, the member's speech came across so beautifully. It was the first one I ever saw him make without subtitles that I understood. I want to applaud him.

Mr. Roy: You are the only one, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Now he can sit around tonight with his paranoia and come back tomorrow and say I called him names again.

Mr. Roy: Do you like talking to yourself, Frank?

Mr. Drea: Okay, the member has provoked me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gaunt: The war is on.

[5:15]

Mr. Drea: I am tired of kicking losers. I was trying hard to avoid you today. I was going to try to be nice to you, now that you're down and out and your own party has repudiated you, and wouldn't even vote for you. I was going to be nice to you, then you provoked me.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member please continue his remarks this way?

Mr. Drea: I just want to say one final word in regard to the federal Solicitor General. His legislation is based upon our legislation. All of his reports came from our Solicitor General and Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) and the member for Ottawa East knows that because he is a crony of the federal Solicitor General, a very intimate crony.

Mr. Nixon: They phone judges together.

Mr. Drea: The member said that, I didn't. I would hope that he would modify certain parts of it because I do believe that certain parts of it will be a hardship upon the people in organized agriculture and also some of the people who have proved their responsibility over the years as hunters. I would certainly also hope that the federal Solicitor General would choose to include the very legitimate gun clubs which have done such an outstanding job in regard to gun control and gun education in this province.

I say that because the gun clubs in this province and organized hunters in this province, despite tremendous pressure on them from people outside our jurisdiction who oppose our gun control legislation, by and large recognize their responsibilities to society and they did support our legislation. I would hope now that the federal Solicitor General will be inclined to modify some of his views in regard to hunters and people in agriculture as well as target shooters, because certainly they are the kind of people who have demonstrated responsibility and shouldn't be punished now.

With that, Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on yet another session starting. We have got through the hired gun portion of the Throne Speech without a riot for about the seventh consecutive time. We are still here and, Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope you will rule with the firmness, the decisiveness and the force which has changed the question period in the last couple of weeks into something that is not only enjoyable but productive. Prior to that, I must say with some sadness it was far more enjoyable than productive.

As one final note, since you have achieved that miracle, could you find a reliable electrical contractor who can put in a sound system that works? We have a bureaucracy that is threatening to take over this whole building; every time you look around another office is gone. They are even coming up and threatening me on the fourth floor. With that morass of accountants, auditors and people who phone you up, send out mimeographed sheets and tell you that you can do this, or you can do that, surely it is not beyond their ability to find an electrical contractor and a sound man who can make a microphone do what it is supposed to do.

Mr. Roy: If we could turn it off sometimes that would be progress.

Mr. Drea: If the member had been here for the past couple of weeks—why does he come?

Mr. Roy: I didn't mean the member at all.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I hope you can convey that message to those who labour on the first floor, with the unemployment that has been mentioned at this time of restraint, I am sure there are a great many electricians and a great many audio men who would welcome the chance to show that a microphone really can work.

Mr. Nixon: I understand they have spent \$200,000 on this sound system already.

Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. Nixon: That is what they tell me.

Mr. Drea: Don't look at me.

Mr. Nixon: It is your money, isn't it?

Mr. Drea: No, no; if they have shot \$200,000 on that one, it is all our necks because they represent everybody. But I would hope, Mr. Speaker, because it is discouraging—and I notice the improvement today—that the remarks that I have made through your firmness and your decisiveness will stimulate them into some action.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, a few years ago MGM made a film, a romance, called "A Dot on a Line." In this romantic story the line fell in love with the dot. Unfortunately the dot was in love with a squiggle. You can understand this because the squiggle was able to move all over the place; it was highly flexible. It could be kicked in any direction and it took whatever shape the particular kicker or kickee, as the case may be, wished it to take. The poor line had the problem, of course, that he was so rigid and inflexible. He was really no match for the squiggle.

The line decided that perhaps he should look at the whole situation and set some kind of objectives. He worked very hard and he developed all kinds of objectives of turning corners and going this way and going that way and eventually he became a flexible line. All of sudden, the dot realized that perhaps the squiggle really wasn't that attractive because no matter what happened the squiggle went in every direction. The line at least had some kind of stability and some kind of flexibility. The end of the story, of course, was that the dot married the line. I think it's a highly educational film and perhaps the

government members would like to look at the film at some time.

If there's a damning criticism of this government it is that it's a squiggle type of government. We in the opposition really can't object to the objectives of the government when it has no objectives. This was perhaps fine three decades ago when society was moving at a slower pace, when powerful interest groups were less able to give a strong kick to the big blue squiggle and send it in whatever particular direction they wanted.

In the past decades we've learned a lot about planning. We owe this to business research. We talk about management by objectives. We talk about five and 10-year plans for corporations. It's only too bad that the government which pretends to be the friend of big business hasn't learned any of the kinds of techniques that big business, management consultants and management experts have developed over the years. What kind of planning, what kind of objectives are there in a government which ignores our needs as 26 acres of farmland disappear in this province every hour of every day?

Mr. Eaton: Where does it disappear to? Tell us the whole story.

Mr. Philip: This isn't a new problem. All members have been aware for some time of the declining farm acreage. We saw the bulldozing of fruit trees in Niagara in the Sixties and we saw the wastage of prime farmland in Ottawa and the "golden horse-shoe" areas.

Mr. Villeneuve: Expert farmer.

Mr. Philip: I have a membership in the Federation of Agriculture; show me yours.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have one, too.

Mr. Philip: You do? You certainly don't attend very many meetings.

Mr. Eaton: He had one before you knew what it was all about.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Etobicoke has the floor.

Mr. Philip: One would think that after 10 years of this, 10 years of MPPs driving through the farmland and seeing it devastated, it would occur to the government that perhaps the 25,000 members in the Federation of Agriculture are not talking nonsense when they ask for a legitimate freeze on

prime farmland; when they ask for a farm income stabilization programme.

Mr. Eaton: Did the 25,000 members ask for a freeze?

Mr. Philip: Perhaps the leadership of the 25,000—are you suggesting that the leadership of the Federation of Agriculture does not represent the democratic wishes of that organization?

Mr. Eaton: You ask some of the leaders.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Etobicoke is making the speech.

Mr. Philip: If I may continue after that slur against the one major farm body in this province; several months ago the OFA at its annual convention passed a number of fairly sensible, realistic, concrete resolutions. We on this side of the House questioned the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) as to what specifically he was going to do with these resolutions. His answers were the squiggle type of answers that we continually get from this government, and months later, we can only look at them and see that very little has been done.

So it is with other small business concerns. Let me quote to you from a letter dated March 7, 1976. The letter is signed by James R. Conrad, Director of Policy and Research, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. He says: "Since the recent election in fall, 1975, there has been no significant legislation passed to support small independent business in Ontario."

When the leading spokesman for small businessmen is so upset with this government? There is no doubt that this government stands for private enterprise; the real question is does it stand for free enterprise as they side with the multi-national conglomerates against the small businessmen in this province? Where is the freedom for the private entrepreneur who operates, or should I say used to operate, the independent service station?

I would like to read to you from a letter written on Sept. 20, 1975, to the Premier (Mr. Davis) by a service station lessee.

At the top of the letter there's an obituary notice. It says:

Service Station Business, Died, Sept. 19, 1975. Funeral and burial was held the same day. No mourners or pallbearers were present. Unfair economic conditions caused by the oil-company-operated-and-controlled

gas bars, car washes, self-serves and private brand outlets were the cause of death.

Amen

Months later, the following letter is written to me by a private service station operator.

Dear Mr. Philip:

I have been a Sunoco dealer in Windsor, Ont., since 1947 and a lessee at the above location since 1951. I have enjoyed good relations with the company but I am very worried now, because for the last six months I have been operating without a lease while they made up their mind to conform with the lease guidelines.

Once the company reached this decision, they apparently decided that they should develop a new rent formula and attach it to the new lease that was being presented to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations on Dec. 23, 1975. I suppose Sun Oil Co. hopes to get the blessing of the ministry on this new rent formula and then they will feel much better about presenting it to all Sunoco dealers. The ministry will not realize what drastic effects this new rent formula will have on Sunoco dealers until it is too late.

The results will force many dealers to go out of business because of sharply increased rents that Sun will be demanding. The Sunoco dealers in Ontario need immediate anti-inflation controls on commercial rents similar to those on residential rents.

This new rent formula was not original with Sun. I enclose a copy of Shell's formula dated 1973 and have made a similar chart for Sun's new formula. I am sure you will note the similarity. Sun has probably looked at all other oil company rent formulas and decided that something similar to Shell's would be most profitable and easiest to implement.

On Jan. 28, 1976, our local Sun representative phoned the station and said that the company had reconsidered their proposal and thought that the proposed rent of \$784.93—a 104 per cent rent increase—for the first year of a lease would be unreasonable. He stated that the new proposal would be \$560 a month, which was only a 45.5 per cent increase for the first 12 months; and \$740 per month, a 92.2 per cent increase for the following 24 months.

[5:30]

I still have not been presented with a draft of the new lease for study, but have been told that it would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1976.

Sun Oil Co. operates three locations with car washes in the city of Windsor. Sunoco dealers have been able to purchase car wash coupons from the company for 75 cents, to sell to our customers for 75 cents if they filled up. This let us keep our customers for gas sales and still allowed the customer to get a cut-rate price for a car wash. Sun Oil is discontinuing this practice because they want to sell all the gallons themselves, that will be cross-merchandised with the washes. We will lose a lot of gas sales because we can't sell wash coupons.

Sun Oil has a long-standing policy whereby dealers with good credit ratings could pay for the first load of gas when the second load was delivered. That is what we call "load-to-load." The dealer had to provide a collateral deposit of \$2,000 as one of the requirements. The company is discontinuing this practice and now wants c.o.d. for all deliveries. This means that a dealer receiving 10,000-gallon drums will have to invest at least another \$5,000 in inventory. Purchases from all other suppliers are paid for the 10th of the month following.

The oil companies maintain high wholesale prices which they like to charge their franchise dealers. It is their practice to sell "distress gasoline" to private branders, jobbers and their own company-operated locations at a price well below what the franchised dealer must pay by special discount and not by lowering the wholesale price. Sun Oil practices this type of marketing policy. This creates price war or distress prices at the retail level, and soon oil company locations are retailing below the dealer's wholesale cost.

Dealers cannot compete with these conditions and so the companies offer dealers a temporary special allowance off the wholesale price if the dealer agrees to retail at a specific price. The dealer gives up as much as 50 per cent of his margin and the right to set the retail price. The company does not set a retail price that will allow the dealer to compete with a company-operated location, and so the dealer continues to lose gasoline sales. Loss of gallonage, loss of profits soon force many dealers out of business.

In October, November and December, 1975, I purchased 116,460 gallons of gasoline from Sun Oil with a special allowance of 5.5 cents per gallon. This amounted to \$6,405.30 off the wholesale price. It would appear that the company is trying to recover some of this amount with the new rent

formula. Dealers have lost their required gross profits to stay in business and now are faced with ever-increasing overheads.

Just on a rough calculation from increased rents, insurance, payroll, fringe benefits, additional investment and so forth, the operating expense of my business for 1976 will increase by \$10,000, or \$50 a day. What can we do to recover this additional expense? Our gross profit on gasoline is 10 per cent and sales are dropping because of lower prices at company-operated locations.

Last week, BP offered their dealers a 5.8 per cent margin with retail price of 76.9 cents. This is only 7.5 per cent gross profit. We need 18 to 20 per cent gross profit to stay in business. How long will it be before Sun Oil offers their dealers the same deal? We cannot increase our gross profits on TBA and parts and stay competitive with the mass merchandisers.

The only thing left would be to increase our charge outrate for mechanical labour, about \$4 an hour. This would provide us with additional gross profit per day if we didn't lose all of our customers. Any loss of gross profits from reduced sales of gasoline and TBA, will only make matters worse and bring an end to us much sooner.

You don't have to use your imagination. This same set of circumstances applies to many service station dealers in Ontario; no lease, no security, no tenure, unfair competition, unfair treatment from our landlord-suppliers. If the government does not act at once the oil companies will have complete control of the retail market. We need sudden action now. Can you help? [It concludes]

I am sorry, but I must ask that you keep my name confidential at this time because I fear more repercussions from the oil company. You will understand my concern from the above facts. I do not want to jeopardize the livelihood of myself and my five employees and their families.

Mr. Martel: Signed by William Davis.

Mr. Philip: I have a letter from the city of Windsor. A resolution was passed by the city of Windsor and it was sent to the Minister of Treasury and Economics and Inter-governmental Affairs.

Council, at its meeting held Dec. 1, 1975, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas there is in the city of Windsor a rapidly increasing number of self-serve gasoline facilities through conversion of the

existing attending stations or construction of new facilities;

And whereas there is concern by the public with the lack of adequate regular maintenance checks, the potential danger from fire or other hazards from the use of such facilities by irresponsible and/or careless persons and the inconvenience caused mothers with children and elderly or disabled persons;

And whereas there is presently no provincial legislation which clearly establishes the authority of municipalities to control the number and location of self-serve stations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Inter-governmental Affairs be requested to introduce an amendment to the Municipal Act to clearly establish the authority of municipalities to control the number of locations of self-serve gasoline stations as distinct from regular gasoline stations;

And further, a copy of the resolution be forwarded to other cities.

I was talking to the city clerk at Windsor before I came into the House today. His quote was: "Tell the members of the Legislature that there has been no encouragement from the ministry that the government will be introducing any legislation to meet our city hall's request to control the company-operated self-serve stations in our own area."

Let me read just one more letter as an example of the kind of insensitivity of this government to the small entrepreneurs who happen, in this case, to be involved in the retail gasoline and service industry.

Dean Mr. Philip:

As requested by your phone conversation here is a summary of our talk.

Starting in December, 1974, or January, 1975, during several talks with BP sales representative Bob Stewart, I was asked my opinion on reducing my retail gas price. Each time I told him I didn't think I could afford to drop the profit on gas and hope to offset the lost revenues by increased sales. In one such talk, Mr. Stewart admitted himself that he did not think it was possible to make the same profit but his only interests were gas sales.

Around the second week of January I was asked by Mr. Stewart to lower the gas price. I again expressed my complete disapproval on lowering the gas price unless BP was going to compensate the loss. This, of course, was out of the question.

A day or two later I received a phone call from Mr. Stewart saying that the company had reconsidered and other methods would be tried to increase gas sales.

On Friday, Jan. 17, 1975, on returning to the station after lunch, I found on the office desk a retail price notification. Questioning my employees, they informed me that it was left there by Mr. Stewart. Shortly afterwards, the Trafalgar plant phoned me and advised me that my wholesale price had been reduced as per a phone call from BP head office. I informed them that I was not reducing the price, therefore, the wholesale price should not be reduced. I also tried unsuccessfully to get hold of Mr. Stewart to inform him of my intention.

On Monday, Jan. 20, Mr. Stewart returned to the station. During a heated discussion I asked him who he thought he was, trying to "fix my gas prices," and at that point he suggested that I forget the whole matter and he would put me back on a regular wholesale price. He also suggested that I return the price notification, but I would not.

Also at that time, I told him that I considered what BP had done by leaving the form unsigned by me with the "stated selling price," as price-fixing and I would not forget the matter. In February, 1975, myself and two other station operators had a meeting with Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I have not had any response from them other than the letter which is enclosed.

The letter that was enclosed is signed by Mr. D. D. Bennett, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Director of Investigation and Research:

Dear Mr. Norton:

Please find enclosed documents which you gave me during our conversation with Mr. Stafford and Mr. Schindler on Thursday, Feb. 6, 1975.

The contents of these documents as well as other information which you provided me will be reviewed in respect to indicating a possible violation of Combines Investigation Act by BP Oil Ltd. At this time I would like to thank you for both your interest and co-operation.

A month and a half later there has been no further communication from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

All this merely indicates the insensitivity of this government to the plight of the retail service station lessees. There has been petition after petition; there has been representation after representation; and the government continues to say they need more and more time to investigate, that the Isbister commission will somehow come up with some great enlightenment that will cast some light on the service station retailers' plight. But as they are talking and talking and talking and talking and talking, private service station lessees are going out of business.

I have on tape here the stories that clearly indicate oil company intimidations of service station lessees. There is no question in my mind after listening to these tapes, after listening to the voices of the private service station lessees, that the oil companies are using what may not be illegal, but certainly I think most of us would consider immoral, forms of coercion against their own retail service station lessees. I hope in the next few weeks, by contacting each of the dealers who have spoken on these tapes, that I will have their permission to release them to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell) and possibly to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurry).

I have a service station that I deal with in my riding. I have my car cared for by him. I rather like the fellow, he happens to be a rather effective mechanic. He keeps the rather late model cars I am able to afford on the road. However, a couple of weeks ago, he too threw in the wrench.

The ministry knows about Bob Pike. Bob Pike is president of the Ontario Retail Gasoline and Automotive Service Association. Recently, after eight years in the business, he had mortgaged his home just to stay above water, but even this wasn't enough.

The tragedy is that Bob Pike and others like him across the province need not have been forced out of business. They need not have the kind of situation we have in the city of Windsor today where it's impossible to find a mechanic in the centre core of the city. These people who have devoted their lives to building a business, to serving people in the community, these private entrepreneurs, have been ignored by this government that says it is the representative and the spokesman for free enterprise. There is nothing free about it. They are clearly the spokesmen for the large multi-national conglomerates and not the free enterprise people.

[5:45]

Let me direct my attention to another area where I feel that the Davis free enterprise system appears to be floundering. A few years ago, condominiums were hailed as the great new advance for the working person who at least if he couldn't afford a home, then he might be able to afford an apartment or possibly even a townhouse. There is a great deal of mistrust among condominium owners in my riding; distrust with the developers, distrust over the whole process of transferring ownership and the length of time it takes for that transfer. There is a considerable number of people who feel that somehow they don't happen to have the skills to go in and inspect the construction and the workmanship on a condominium because they don't happen to be electricians, mechanics, plasterers, plumbers and so forth.

There is considerable dissatisfaction by purchasers of condominiums who, because they know the Ontario Mortgage Corp. holds or guarantees their mortgages, somehow felt the government was doing something to protect their investment and at least be able to say the place isn't going to fall down in a few years.

The idea of condominiums as a moderately-priced alternative to renting has gone. One only has to look around in the Toronto area and see that the \$17,000 one-bedroom condominium that some people were able to afford a few years ago is no longer available because they are now in the \$30,000 range.

There is frustration in a few condominiums that the government is doing little to assist their board members in developing the kinds of skills necessary to run what in fact amount to large corporations. The government has done very little, although there are a few courses given if one happens to want to search for them at community colleges and if one happens to be available on the particular night. But the whole process of democratically running an organization is not just something one runs a course on at a community college. It is something that one works on with the people in a particular group, and works on with their elected officers and helps them to see the processes by which they can effectively run this new venture.

Lastly, there is the growing frustration by many more people who look around and see that the ratio of condominiums to rental apartments is very high. They can't afford a condominium, but they look around and they see that rental units are not being built.

Is it just popular mythology that certain construction companies that build both ren-

tal and condominium buildings put inferior materials into the condominiums, but the buildings that they are going to rent and are going to keep renting for a number of years seem to have superior kinds of materials and superior kinds of workmanship?

That's the story of condominiums in this province. In many cases, the government appears to be sitting by while cheap construction and materials go into the building and higher maintenance costs follow. In one condominium in the riding just south of my riding the monthly maintenance fee has gone from something like \$40 to \$200 inside of two years. The reason is, the whole place is falling apart. The people who bought that condominium in good faith and saw Ontario Housing or Ontario Mortgage Corp. in evidence thought that somehow the government was doing something to inspect these buildings—that there was some kind of consumer protection for them.

One looks at walls that are falling in. One even looks at drains that are actually taps that are below the surface of the lawn, so that if fertilizer is applied and then one happens to get a high rain, the fertilizer can back up into the drinking water. One looks at walls that are ready to cave in on children or on the parking lot. One looks at multi-million-dollar suits that the directors of these condominiums are in some cases faced with having to launch to try to get their money out of the developer. One asks, "What kind of leadership in housing is this government giving when it allows this kind of thing to go on and apparently seems to be on the side of the developer?"

There are a lot of good developers in this province. There are a lot of developers who want to build good condominiums and give people their money's worth. But this government is ruining the name of the condominium by doing nothing in allowing a few fly-by-night shysters to get away with the kind of shoddy workmanship that is going into some of these buildings. The whole thrust of middle- and low-income people is that they bought these condominiums with an expectation that they were somehow going to stabilize their costs for housing, and suddenly they found enormous maintenance costs as a result of the roofs caving in and walls that no longer stand up and that need to be repaired.

Mr. Speaker, lest you think that condominiums are the only area where the government is faulted in housing, let me tell you about this morning. This morning I received a call at 6:30 from constituents at 75 Tan-

dridge. It happens to be an Ontario Housing building.

The problem was that the people in that building found themselves once again in several inches of water. The poor superintendent, when I met him, was almost in tears. I'm told that the night before then he'd shed gallons of perspiration over what had happened, apparently in the middle of the night. The building is eight years old, yet the pipes have to be completely replaced. Some of the maintenance people that I talked to and some of the plumbers I managed to have a chat with in the hall, estimate that the cost to the taxpayer will be somewhere around \$200,000. I don't know how accurate that figure is. All I know is that pipes that were put into that building eight years ago are having to be replaced and the taxpayers are paying for it; and the people in that Ontario Housing building are faced with the inconvenience of having their property destroyed by water seepage.

One woman today told me she had had no less than eight calls for the plumber because of leakage; that's the kind of harassment these people are suffering as a result of poor construction.

Not only does the government not protect the investors of condominiums, it doesn't even protect its own investments, when we get a building like this where the plumbing is falling apart.

It can only be hoped that this government will be sensitive to some of the things that are going on in the building industry, that it will show some empathy for the concerns of not only the investors but also of the taxpayers regarding some of the construction that is going up.

No inspection of material, no control; it's more than just popular mythology. Let's look at the problem and let's do something about it.

The last area I'd like to deal with briefly is that of transportation. If ever there was an area where the squiggle approach is used, it's in transportation. The fact is that one cannot help but conclude there is no transportation programme, merely an ever-changing assortment of starts and stops depending on which pressure group happens to push hardest.

First there was Spadina, then there wasn't Spadina; now there is—well, it's kind of Spadina.

Then there was an airport to be built at Pickering. A few people in Malton breathed a sigh of relief and said: "My goodness,

maybe that will take a little bit of the traffic from over our heads"; although we have some concerns about destroying farmland, which this government has never been too concerned about.

Then, of course, there wasn't Pickering. But there is still noise and no concrete evidence that this government is prepared to do anything after it has stopped Pickering to really look at the kinds of problems in the Rexdale and in the Malton area, particularly the noise pollution that we are suffering as a result of a decision, which may have been a good decision—and was a good decision and one I happen to agree with—but nonetheless was a decision that affected another part of the population and no counter measures are being taken to counterbalance it.

Somehow the problem is not in the government's picture. The government does not have a global picture of transportation. Oh we know that the government isn't too worried about us up in the northwest corner of Metro. They certainly want to put more and more people into our areas; they even want to allow companies to build large buildings along our valley lands and destroy some of the finest nature trails in the whole city. The only consolation we have is that we're going to have more and more people to accompany us as we take 1½ hours to go downtown on the bus every morning. What we do know is that the government is interested in doing very, very little in terms of a global plan.

During the last session, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) and I introduced a resolution asking that a select committee of this Legislature look at transportation needs in this part of Ontario, and in particular to consider the problems faced by the Malton area over noise pollution. The government has in no way responded to this. We will be reintroducing that kind of resolution.

I am encouraged by some of the remarks by the member for York West (Mr. Leluk), who at least expressed some interest and some understanding of some of the transportation needs in the area, and I would hope that he at least would urge his colleagues to set up a select committee to look at this problem.

What is at stake in transportation is not whether we build an airport here and an expressway there. What is at stake is whether we develop some kind of long-term objectives for transportation so that our citizens know what the rules of the game are, what is at stake is whether or not we are serious in

levelling with the public instead of playing one riding off against another. What is at stake is whether we are willing to take transportation out of the realm of political caprice.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether there will be an election after April 5. I am really not concerned. I understand that one of the ministers feels that God is on the side of the Conservatives—at least that's what he said; he said, if I quote him correctly, "Christianity and Conservatism are natural allies." God is on the side of the self-righteous Conservative government. It's so evident: They have been in power for 32 years; obviously God put them there.

This is the same man, of course, who says that order and Christianity are somehow linked. He says that he would like to see our teenagers carrying identification cards with their signatures, fingerprints, photographs and Lord knows what else on them.

Mr. Speaker, if this is his version of Christianity, I can only suggest that Joe Stalin should have been canonized, because he employed that technique far more precisely and far more scientifically than the Conservatives will ever master in Ontario.

In the next election, what we are facing very simply is a choice of government—a choice of continuing the kind of government by squiggle that we have experienced in the last few years, government without any objectives, or a government by the NDP with concrete objectives that everybody can examine and that people can vote for.

Mr. Eakins: Never.

Mr. Germa: Call the election. Call the election.

Mr. Riddell: Wishful thinking.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, March 30, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your high office and I know that you will give us, who sit on your left, continued fair treatment.

Coming from the riding of Grey, which is 50 per cent rural, I find it encouraging that the Throne Speech promised legislation enabling a voluntary farm income stabilization plan. The discouraging part is that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) will not give us a date when we can expect such legislation.

The government does nothing to hold farmers on farms in Ontario. This is quite evident by the fact that 1971 census figures show that between 1966 and 1971, 26 acres of improved agricultural land went out of production in Ontario each hour. This may have slowed up some in the past five years, but it is questionable.

Considerable amounts are going for Hydro corridors without thought or input from the farmer. Hydro argues corridors don't take up much land. I wonder how many of them have ever tried to steer machinery around or work a field that had a Hydro corridor going angularly across it. If they would keep these corridors along lot lines the farmer would certainly appreciate it. I believe that the power stations at Douglas Point should be stopped from further expansion and power stations shifted up north to encourage development away from good agricultural land.

The way to make sure this land stays in agriculture is to make sure the farmer gets a decent return for his labour, his interest on investment and his management ability. If this was being done, you would not have to worry about land going out of production because it just wouldn't be for sale.

You may say that we have too much production now and this is true. I will say that Ontario has had a good agricultural research programme for some years now, probably too good. The farmers have been quick to pick it up. Farmers have greatly increased their

efficiency over the last 20 years, only to find that their talents, hard work and increased efficiency have worked against them to create surpluses, to lower prices and to give a reduced net income.

The result is that farmers in Ontario are quickly being reduced. Some are leaving because it doesn't make economic sense to stay there when you can get more money from the interest on the sale of the land than you can by farming it. Some are going bankrupt, not because they are inefficient but because their costs have skyrocketed. They have large debt loads and their incomes have been reduced so that they cannot meet their payments.

Some are retiring and not being replaced because their sons don't like the odds they face—such as unstable markets, surpluses, debt loads of \$200,000 to \$300,000—to establish what is supposed to be an economic unit. Unless his father gives him a terrific start, he is better off to put on his hat and walk down the road where he can pick up a \$5 to \$10 per hour job with nothing invested, every holiday and weekend off and finishing promptly at 5 o'clock whether it looks like rain or not.

We are making a mistake by letting these farmers go. Farmers are the only people I know who will work for \$2 an hour, 14 hours a day, and never tire or squabble—as long as they are making money. But when they lose money they get tired and squabble—and rightly so.

Overproduction seems to be our problem: We overproduce and our incomes drop. No wonder I'm a bit skeptical when our party whip, the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman), keeps at me to produce in the Legislature. Being a farmer, I can't help but be a little afraid of overproduction.

I wonder how many in this House have ever worked a whole year for nothing. Just suppose the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) said to you: "We didn't make any money last year, so you'll have to pay back all the money we gave you; and it depends on what kind of year we have this year whether you get any wages or not this year." This is exactly the kind of situation the farmers

face. Not all the commodities at the same time but most of them, in their turn, come up to this situation sooner or later.

I say again we are making a mistake in letting these farmers go. Once they leave the farms, they will not come back. Agriculture is a continuous, ongoing resource. Too many of our resources are terminal by their very nature, not by lack of attention as in farming. For the benefit of the producer and the consumer alike, and Ontario as a whole, we should be giving agriculture some really deep thought as a resource that has established this country and as a resource that will pull it through again if we prepare now to give it a chance later.

The government should be coming in now with an income protection plan for farmers to make sure that all efficient farmers are able to stay on the farms with a decent income that will allow their sons to follow in their footsteps, without fear of falling markets putting them out of business.

We were promised, by the former Minister of Agriculture and Food, that an income protection plan would be in place before the seeds went in the ground a year ago. Evidently he missed seeding last year.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has offered to help administer this plan. This is an offer we cannot refuse. If we are working with agriculture, we must fully involve the farmer. If we are working with industry, we must involve the industry people. If we are working with energy, we must involve the energy people.

Surely nobody would grudge the farmer \$5 an hour for his labour—a secretary makes more than that—as interest on his investment and a nominal fee for his management ability. This cost would be worked out on a per unit basis and each farmer would be allowed to produce enough units to allow for an economic operation. Price per unit would be worked out between the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The farmer would be paid accordingly for the number of units that would provide him with an economic operation. If he produced more than this amount, it would be sold on the open market at market price. If, by reason of exceptional management ability, the farmer could produce cheaper than the established price, it would be to his gain. If, by reason of poor knowledge, he could not produce the product for the established price, he would be forced out of business.

No doubt there will be a small percentage of farmers who will be against such a plan; therefore, the plan should be voluntary. A questionnaire which I sent out in my riding showed a majority of farmers in favour of an income protection plan. The OFA has 25,000 members, representing a large number of Ontario farmers, and is pushing for legislation to allow for an income protection plan to be established. The plan should have a premium paid one-third by the farmer and two-thirds by the government. This plan would allow consumers to buy foods continuously at a reasonable cost and would allow farmers to farm continuously at a reasonable profit.

When I talk about a unit this could mean 100 lb of beef or pork or milk or chicken; or a bushel of apples or wheat or corn, etc. It could work for all farm commodities.

I have just briefly outlined the plan. I do not believe this plan would produce that much more, if any, than we are producing right now, but if it did it would be up to the government to establish markets for it.

Other provinces within Canada have established good export markets for food. There is and there will be in the future a great need for food. Once the plan is in place and we want more food, either for home consumption or for export markets, all we have to do in five or 10 years from now is increase the number of units in the plan and you've got it, because you are going to have those farmers still here.

It is just like having an oil well which never runs dry running at half speed; 10 years down the road open the tap a little more and you've got it. A little further down the road the oil may be done but maybe the Arabs will still have some and maybe they would like some food for it. If we don't make an effort to keep these farmers here 10 years from now when we go to open the food tap it will be dry like the oil wells.

We in Ontario who eat well and are used to sitting down at the first table will then be sitting at the second sitting. The farmer doesn't strike for more money not only because he feels strikes are senseless and a waste but also because if he did, he wouldn't even get a holiday which most strikers are able to enjoy.

If the farmer did strike and the food was destroyed and the milk dumped down the drain, there would be an awful public outcry about such waste. Think about it. It would be no more wasteful than a people strike because this is a waste of time. In

today's society you must agree that time is more valuable than food. If it were not the farmers would be the richest people in this country, and it just is not this way.

We talk about being held at a 10 per cent increase in pay. Give the farmers a 10 per cent increase in pay and you will see a very happy lot of people. The dairy farmers in Ontario have had their federal subsidies cut 25 per cent. This gives them a six per cent cut in total income. If we had a provincial income protection plan in effect now it would take over in Ontario and protect our dairy farmers. We in Ontario have to stop leaving things that concern this province to the federal government. This province continues to decline each year in its share of agricultural production in Canada. The consumers' association should be pressing government to make sure we keep all the efficient farmers we have left in Ontario now—

An hon. member: Where's the minister's assistant?

Mr. McKessock: If we don't and we let the production drop and the production gets into the hands of a few, watch the prices rise. Then we will be lucky to get enough to eat let alone trade some for oil.

Mr. Speaker, before I leave agriculture I would like to mention a little about community pastures. Community pastures within the community are tracts of marginal land which are bought and developed by the rural development branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in consultation with the community pasture board. This is a board set up within the local community.

Community pastures allow farmers, especially young farmers, to rent this pasture at an economical rate per animal while they use their capital to build up their other farm operations. The land is too expensive for them to purchase all the land they need at one time. Community pastures have been a great influence on land use, turning land which produces very little into land producing ten-fold more.

This land in the past has been bought for \$150 an acre and developed for another \$150, for a total of \$300 per acre. With increased costs today it will take \$450 an acre to purchase and develop. The rural development branch pays only \$300. In order to carry on this very worthwhile project we would ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food to supply interest-free loans to provide for this extra \$150 an acre. This loan would be paid off by—

Mr. O'Neil: Any Ontario farmers here?

Mr. McKessock: This loan would be paid off by the income received from the farmers pasturing their cattle in the community pasture programme. A surcharge would be charged per animal to discharge the loan.
[8:15]

I would like now to cover another area that affects a great many of the people in the riding of Grey. This is the Niagara Escarpment control area. This affects not only farmers but developers and landowners of any kind. The Act reads that once this plan is finalized it will be renewed every five years. We would like it shelved for five years now, to take another look at it five years from now. We are the people who have preserved it for the last 200 years. We would like to continue for at least another five. By that time we expect to have a Liberal government in Ontario and they just might not steal our possessions on it. The have told me they are going to be fair and just, allowing the individual to maintain his rights. That's why I joined the party.

Mr. Riddell: If the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) wants to keep his farm, he better come across the floor.

Mr. Cunningham: Not to mention his nursing home.

Mr. McKessock: If by some unjustified move this Niagara Escarpment plan continues, the control area of 1,280,000 acres must be reduced to about 300 ft, more or less, from the face of the escarpment. This would entail less than 22,000 acres which could be purchased by the government at a fair market value.

There are many areas of marginal land within the Niagara Escarpment area. The contour of the land and tree cover is such that many building lots could be created and never noticed. It would not change the natural environment one little bit, but it would provide beautiful living quarters for many people who would like to live in our area.

An hon. member: Minister of Housing, sit up and take note there.

Mr. McKessock: It would also provide some income for the farmer who would like to sell a lot or two and retire on the farm.

Did you people realize that a landowner cannot even sell, or give, a lot to his son or daughter unless he is going to remain on the farm; and then it is limited to one lot?

I have four children. I think I should be able to sever a lot for each one of them. I would—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What happened to your agricultural land policy? Out the window!

Mr. Kerrio: You didn't hear the rest of it, you just got here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: Why didn't you wait a little while, John?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You guys are all awake anyway.

Mr. McKessock: Read it in Hansard tomorrow—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey has the floor.

Mr. Riddell: The question is, where is your agricultural land?

Mr. Ruston: Answer that, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Right here.

Mr. McKessock: To sever a lot for each one of my children would improve the look of the countryside.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey has the floor. Would the rest of the members give him the courtesy of listening instead of speaking?

Mr. McKessock: These lots would improve the look of the countryside, especially for that family. I would like to think that families are still important. I would like to refer again to the questionnaire I sent out to my constituents. I asked the question: "Should a landowner be allowed to sever a lot for any member of his family?" Eighty-four-point-seven per cent were in favour.

What some farmers don't understand is the difference in locality. What is good for one part of the province is not necessarily good for the other. What is good for one part of Grey riding, which stretches some 90 by 60 miles, is not necessarily good for the other part. This is why we believe the final decisions on regulations should be left to the local municipality and their elected members of council and not undertaken by appointed people in Toronto or other areas.

I would like to give you an example of how these restrictions work. A person who owns a 35-acre piece of property, all grass and weeds, in Kimberly, sold it subject to

approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission giving a building permit for a nice chalet which would have enhanced the beauty of the countryside. The building permit was not granted by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. This means that this party now has to hold this parcel of lands and weeds for the rest of us to look at for ever and ever, at his expense.

Interjections.

Mr. McKessock: I have had people call me who have fought in the last world war for freedom in this country. They say although they won the war, they are now losing their freedom.

Mr. Nixon: We might as well live in Russia.

Mr. McKessock: In 1973, the government of Ontario established a Pits and Quarries Control Act. This Act makes it difficult and in some cases impossible to obtain gravel for our roads within a short hauling distance. This increases the cost in maintenance of the roads. Our roads are mostly gravel roads. Is this government going to give us increased grants to cover these imposed extra costs or are our roads going to continue to deteriorate?

In times of inflation such as these, this Act is unacceptable in its present form and must be changed. We agree with the rehabilitation of gravel pits when they run out, but not every time you take some gravel out of them. We, in our area, can live with gravel pits. You never really notice anything wrong with them and still don't. Nothing looks better than a nice pile of fresh gravel or a freshly gravelled road. It gets rid of the bumps.

If we don't get some of these laws changed we may have to have another election and get rid of some of the bumps in the government.

Mr. Eaton: Are you going to call it on Monday?

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: Don't provoke them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McKessock: The controls embodied in the Pits and Quarries Control Act and the Niagara Escarpment Protection Act are putting the small operator out of business and cutting competition, and the large operator is laughing all the way to the bank. Give the small guy a break. Don't force us to come

down here to the big city. I know you are nice people, but instead of us coming down here we invite you to our area.

We would like to develop the small towns and villages and the countryside more. We like it there; you will too. In order for us to develop, however, we must be allowed to keep our schools, our churches, our nursing homes and our senior citizen apartments; and in order to do this we must also be allowed to keep our hospitals.

I question the reasoning and economics of some of the programmes of this government. When we are told that Chesley Hospital keeps per day bed costs at \$77-a-day; and Durham, where the per-day bed cost is \$70 must close to save money; and then we move the patients to a hospital where the per-day bed cost is \$85 to \$105; and when we learn some city hospital beds run nearly \$200 a day it just doesn't make sense. Maybe this is another new math in our new educational system.

Small-town people have always worked together to raise money and help support the local hospitals. Durham even has a volunteer ambulance service. The people in the small towns didn't create the health cost problem. Why should we be penalized for it?

There is something about the nursing home regulations I don't like. I believe so many units should be allowed in each town or village, not a blanket of so many in each county. When the regulations say so many beds in a county, they can all end up in one town. I think retiring in dignity means being able to retire in the town, village or area in which you spent your life and where your friends are.

If, when you get older you have to move out of your area, and away from your friends to go to a hospital, a nursing home, or a senior citizens' apartment, you might just as well shoot us. I hate to say that, because the way we're being pushed around in the small communities, I'm afraid by the time I reach retirement that is what will be happening.

Mr. Nixon: Unless we have a Liberal government.

Mr. McKessock: Before I get too far away from the Ministry of Natural Resources and its infringements on our rights, I would like to say that landowners should not have to put up signs to keep people off their property. It should be automatically trespassing if people go on land without written permission from the landowner. This must be made law.

I'd like to refer again to my questionnaire. I asked the question: "Should it be law that hunters and fishermen must carry written permission from landowners to be on their land?" Response was 80.4 per cent in favour.

Mr. Norton: They should enforce it with shotguns too.

Mr. McKessock: Why should a landowner have to go to all that expense and waste of time putting up signs every 50 ft, or whatever it is, to keep people off his own property?

Interjections.

Mr. McKessock: Why shouldn't it be that potential trespassers have to get permission before entering private property?

One other thing we would like to see changed is that the hunting season should be determined by township councils in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources for each local township.

Mr. Angus: Councils? You're kidding.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a minute about small businessmen and the small wage earners. They are sometimes run down by saying they have the same chance as everybody else. This is not true. When the fellow making \$5,000 a year gets a 10 per cent raise, he gets \$500. When the man making \$25,000 gets a 10 per cent raise, he gets \$2,500. Is this fair?

Mr. Nixon: Or a cabinet minister making \$42,000.

Mr. McKessock: Is that giving the small guy an equal chance? The \$500 to the low wage earner is a necessity. The \$2,500 to the high wage earner is a luxury. No wonder the rich get richer and the poor get poorer; we encourage it.

Mr. Eakins: Are they still taking the five per cent off?

Mr. McKessock: Why not give a guy who makes under \$8,000, \$500 off on a new car or a used car instead of giving the sales tax rebate to everybody like the government did?

An hon. member: Restraint, but you still will be getting your five per cent.

Mr. McKessock: Ninety-five per cent of those who took advantage of the sales tax on cars would have bought cars anyway.

Why don't we give a \$1,500 first-home buyers' grant to people who make under \$15,000 or only on homes under \$35,000?

Mr. Nixon: They like to buy votes from the rich people, too.

Mr. McKessock: This would help to keep down inflation by encouraging people to buy lower-priced homes.

We should give lower interest rate loans to small businesses of \$100,000 or less instead of always giving the breaks to the large operator. We seem to forget that the small businessman still employs over half of all working Canadians. This information was taken from the most recent taxation statistics. The small businessman doesn't want a lot of handouts but he wants equal opportunity. Given equal opportunity the small operator will never go broke.

I don't want to have more than one negative paragraph at a time without coming in with a positive one. During the election campaign I stressed one thing that I thought should be done by all governments. That was to put three or four questions of importance regarding government on the ballot on election day for the voters to answer. For example: "Are you in favour of compulsory seat belts?" "Are you in favour of capital punishment?" "Is there too much violence on TV?"

At the close of election day we would have the answers, far better than any royal commission; and the voters wouldn't charge a cent.

I mentioned capital punishment. We may say this is a federal issue but here again I think we should take a stand as a province. If Ontario could say to the federal government the people in Ontario are in favour of capital punishment or they are against, I think it would have a lot of weight in the decision-making in Ottawa.

Right now I have a petition with 1,100 names on it from a small town in the riding of Grey, supporting capital punishment. When I sent out my questionnaire to the riding that was one of the questions. Seventy-nine point four per cent were in favour of capital punishment. I think we should find out what the people feel and want and take a stand as a province.

I would like to mention a little short bit on education. I don't believe that students should be out of school for 30 days or even 30 minutes due to strikes. A few years ago, we went to school from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with no spares; and that is the way it should still be. Go into the secondary school yard

today and we find students out in the yard smoking almost any time of the day. This doesn't only promote, it prolongs the drug situation which exists in our schools today.

I would certainly like to persuade the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to put a stop to students' free time during school hours. I would also like to persuade him to encourage more discipline in the schools. Coupled with no free time this would make it much easier for parents and teachers trying to raise our children.

I would like to mention a little bit about the tourist area—the great tourist area we have in the riding of Grey.

[The growing town of Meaford on Georgian Bay, with its great harbour and greater potential, hopes to embark on a harbour development programme, in co-operation with Environment Canada's small craft harbour branch and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Great Lakes access programme, to further develop the harbour there so as to enable it to tie up several hundred small boats. I took a delegation from Meaford to meet the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) today, and we hope to get the programme under way in about eight weeks' time.

The Georgian Bay Sports Fishery Advisory Board has been working for many years to promote fishing in the area. This harbour development will certainly give the sports fishermen and these commercial fishermen a greater opportunity to expand. With pleasure craft in Canada increasing at a rate of 12 per cent a year, a marina of this magnitude in Meaford will certainly be an asset to the town and to the province as a whole.

The riding of Grey consists of 13 of the 16 townships in Grey county; the towns and villages of Hanover, Meaford, Durham, Markdale, Thornbury, Dundalk, Flesherton, Chatsworth and Neustadt; the township of Minto in Wellington county; and the towns and villages of Palmerston, Harriston and Clifford and the township of Melancthon in Dufferin county. I believe I have the most beautiful riding in Ontario in terms of countryside—and the most beautiful people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say how happy I am to be here representing the riding of Grey. While I am here I will try to inject honesty, fairness and common sense into this government. Thank you.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of privilege that I rise to participate in the Throne Speech debate as the member of this Legislature for York

Mills, which for those of my colleagues who do not know, is a riding of almost 30,000 households in the northwestern area of the borough of North York in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Reid: I am from the northwest too.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Slightly farther northwest. It was a riding which was designated during the last election as significant by certain of the print media for, I believe, the wrong reasons. York Mills was described by the *Globe and Mail* as the riding of affluence. There are some within that riding who do in fact fit that description—

Mr. Reid: There are a lot of doctors there, we understand.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —but in truth the riding of York Mills encompasses the complete range of socio-economic classifications which are so dear to the heart of classical sociologists. The significance of the riding of York Mills lies not in its affluence, so-called, but in the quality of its citizens. They are concerned and committed human beings of all races and all creeds, with dozens of different national backgrounds, all living in harmony.

Mr. Nixon: This speech is going to be mailed out at public expense.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Only the Grits do that.

Mr. Reid: You are meeting a multicultural group tomorrow night; they'll be surprised when they hear that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The citizens of my riding are concerned not only about those issues that touch them personally, but also the larger issues which face their community, their province and their society as a whole. The list of occupations of the citizens of York Mills spans the total glossary of human vocations—in the trades, in the professions, in labour, in management, in business, in industry and in all of the arts. But whatever their occupation, the citizens of York Mills demonstrate daily, with their diligence, the value of work as a human need.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Do you hear that word, Pat?

Hon. B. Stephenson: They are all workers, whether they are labourers or lawyers, tradespeople or teachers, musicians or managers, employees or proprietors. They have interests ranging far and wide beyond their elec-

toral boundaries, they devote time to informed support of community activities, and energy to invaluable voluntary service in a wide variety of organizations directed toward social and cultural progress, service which I think none of us in government should ever ignore for it is, in fact, priceless to the advancement of society. It is for me a real honour to represent each and every one of those citizens within that riding.

Mr. Reid: Each of whom is going to get a copy of your speech.

Hon. B. Stephenson: As a matter of fact, they are not going to get a copy of my speech.

Mr. Reid: You are getting politically wiser every day.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think they deserve a copy of that excellent speech.

Hon. B. Stephenson: For me it is a great pleasure as well to function as the Minister of Labour of this province, and I believe that I fit that role reasonably well, because I lived almost all of my life in the work-oriented riding of York Mills and I've spent 27 years as a worker in the field of community health services.

Mr. Mancini: Now you sound like Stephen Lewis.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I don't. I sound like me. These are very difficult times, troublesome times, troublesome for all of society and rampant with change and economic stresses. Almost the only constants in our society at the moment are change and stress and they're reflected, I think, increasingly in the visible conflict and confrontation and the general disenchantment which our society seems to be expressing about the world in which we live and the institutions with which we function. These conflicts certainly have a disruptive effect in both the industrial and the service sectors of our society.

I don't really think that the reportage which we get in all of our media does much to improve our disenchantment with certain institutions. Certainly it does nothing but to fortify the disenchantment which a very large number of the citizens of this province feel presently about the labour-management relationship in this province and in this country. Unfortunately, the reportage usually ignores completely the almost 95 per cent success rate which the collective bargaining negotiations in the Province of Ontario achieve every year.

Mr. Martel: That's the Tories, crying all the time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: And it does tend, I'm afraid, to emphasize those situations where failures of collective bargaining result in work stoppage.

Mr. Martel: It is your colleagues who stress that continuously over the years.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Unfortunately, the recent failures of collective bargaining have had a very serious impact on our provincial economy and on our national economy, and they are perceived, unfortunately as well, by the public as symptomatic of some dreadful distortion within the process of collective bargaining which it is felt, I'm afraid generally, may yet precipitate economic disaster in this jurisdiction.

Flawed it may be by continued emphasis upon the adversary system, but the collective bargaining process, I believe, is the least imperfect of all of those methods yet devised for relationships between employers and employees. It does suffer today from the lack of recognition of many things. It suffers from a lack of recognition of changing characteristics within our society. It suffers from a lack of understanding of the increasing interdependence of the groups within our society. It suffers from a failure to appreciate the general improvement in the level of knowledge of all citizens in this province. It suffers from a failure to utilize the increased ability which most of the general public now possess, and it also suffers from a failure to assimilate sophisticated information as readily as it should, as well as a failure to exploit new skills and new expertise devised by a variety of disciplines.

But I think it suffers most from a slavish perpetuation of old, ill-founded and poorly developed bargaining techniques.

On behalf of the public generally, and on behalf particularly of the parties to the bargaining process, the Ministry of Labour of this province is embarking now upon a thorough examination of the entire collective bargaining system. Our objective is not simply to examine it, but to isolate those defects which can be demonstrated therein, and to propose, to develop, and to implement improvements which will be therapeutic to the system itself, and further to the entirety of the labour-management relationship.

I am sure that my colleagues within the House recognize that recent personnel changes within the ministry, with the appointment of several individuals with great expertise in

labour-management relations, will enhance the Ministry of Labour's capability in carrying out this very important task.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board, as well, has been strengthened recently by new appointments, so that its service, I believe, will be very much more readily available to both labour and to management throughout the length and the breadth of the province.

Mr. Reid: You will have to change the law.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Augmented as it has been by recent changes in the Labour Relations Act, I was very much disturbed to find that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has persisted in making misleading statements, particularly throughout northern Ontario, towards the end of the late, very disturbing, pulp and paper strike. He was consistently—

Mr. Reid: He is consistent anyway.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —you are right—moving from town to town in northern Ontario, telling the local labour leaders and the local municipal leaders that it was the responsibility of the government to lay charges of bad-faith bargaining against the pulp and paper companies, knowing full well that the Labour Relations Act empowered either party to bargaining to lay those charges.

I further learned that not only was he making those statements falsely throughout the north, but at a public meeting at York University, which in fact was recorded, I learned that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, without any supportive evidence or shred of documentation, when asked by a student to explain what he meant when he said the government should lay charges of bad-faith bargaining, said well, of course, it was the government's responsibility.

The student who responded stated that it was his understanding that either party could lay such a charge at the feet of the Labour Relations Board, and could have a hearing. The Leader of the Opposition then publicly stated that the Labour Relations Board in the Province of Ontario was a joke and a farce and that no self-respecting union in this province would ever—

Mr. Martel: Hear, hear; absolutely.

Mr. Makarchuk: Absolutely.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —lay a case before the Labour Relations Board. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to know that, in

fact, one union has taken up his challenge. The result was reported last week and the case was found in favour of the union.

Mr. Makarchuk: After how many years?

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That was the very first application that had ever been made by any union with the changes in the Labour Relations Act and the union won the case. I can really only wonder whether, in fact, the hon. Leader of the Opposition considers the recent board decision regarding a man very close to his own heart, which found in that gentleman's favour, to be equally farcical with his view of the Labour Relations Board.

If he does, I hope he remembers it for a long time.

Mr. Renwick: There are significant changes with a minority government, aren't there?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The favourable opinions expressed generally by organized labour, members and leaders throughout the province regarding the work of the Labour Relations Board in this province certainly do not support the view presented by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Renwick: They certainly did up until the last year, no question.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There have been significant reorganizations as well within the labour services division within the last two months. As you know, we are attempting diligently to improve ministry responsiveness and effectiveness in terms of employees' and employers' needs and requests related to safety programmes, and to legislation, employment standards and employment—

Mr. Martel: That's a farce.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The branches have been co-ordinated into a labour services division which, I want the hon. members to realize, will ensure better communication, and enhance co-operation with district officers and between the programmes of the labour service division.

In addition to that, we have established a pilot project to test and to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of decentralization of ministry service. The pilot project region which has been chosen is southwestern Ontario with its headquarters in London.

Mr. Renwick: It's always southwestern Ontario benefiting. Just try it in Riverdale.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is proposed that this pilot project will be tested and evaluated consistently throughout the next year and the report will be made available to this House upon its effects and efficiencies in March, 1977.

Mr. Renwick: This is a death bed repentance.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Martel: Your industrial history is a disgrace.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What are you chirping about?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Just to make the hon. member for Sudbury East a little happier, I'll now talk a little bit about occupational health and safety.

Mr. Martel: Your record is a disaster.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It's not nearly as disastrous as the hon. member for Sudbury East is, but that's a minor detail.

Mr. Renwick: Talk about occupational health. Don't be cheap.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The importance of occupational health and safety is growing within this ministry, with the assumption of responsibility for co-ordination for in-plant pre-development reviews which will assist us to ensure that potential occupational health hazards—

Mr. Martel: Only the seals behind you believe that.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —in proposed industry will be fully recognized in order that maximal health protection of all workers—

Mr. Renwick: You cannot do it by structural changes, you have got to do it by law.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —may in fact be built into a plant before it is constructed. In addition, the Ministry of Labour is going to be responsible for, and is responsible now, for ongoing monitoring in existing industrial sites, utilizing the consultative services of the occupational health specialists to augment this role of continuing—

Mr. Martel: Another disaster area.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —critical surveillance of the industrial workplace on behalf of Ontario workers.

Mr. Renwick: What increase in staff are you going to have for that purpose?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The Occupational and Environmental Health Advisory Council is in place and I'm happy to say functioning.

Mr. Martel: Oh fine, it has been in place for a long time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is indeed. Its membership, as I'm sure the hon. members know, is tri-partite in nature and it is an extremely functional group, a group which is working actively and effectively together in a non-partisan way on behalf of the health and safety of the workers of this province.

Mr. Renwick: Like scurvy in the Mutiny on the Bounty.

Mr. Martel: It's too bad somebody wasn't partisan in favour of the worker for a change.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That committee, along with the health accord mechanisms about to be implemented, will ensure that the government's high priority in occupational health will benefit from the total co-operation and co-ordination of prevention and correction policies, and programmes of the four ministries involved under a co-operative framework which is headed by the Ministry of Health.

The advisory council right now is examining and recommending standards for safe levels of a number of chemicals and compounds which may be found within the workplace in this province, but it is also examining very carefully the possible role and function of an institute of occupational health and it will bring its recommendation to the Ministry of Health within a very short period of time.

Mr. Renwick: This is unbelievable.

Mr. Martel: In another 100 years.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think it is important to know that in fact there is a strong commitment on the part of the government through those four ministries to the total picture of occupational health and safety in this province.

Mr. Renwick: There is no strong commitment and the minister knows it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Every effort is going to be directed toward improving Ontario and making it truly the safest place in Canada or in North America in which to work.

I would like to say a little something about the other ministry—

Mr. Kerrio: You are shirking parliamentary responsibility.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —for which I have assumed some responsibility during the last 10 days and I think that probably the thing I should talk about is the restraint programme.

Mr. Mancini: You don't want to talk about that.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, I do want to talk about it, because all of you keep talking about dollars all of the time and that is not the only purpose of this programme within the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Renwick: That wasn't the purpose and you can't waste dollars.

Hon. B. Stephenson: But restraint is, in fact, necessary if we are to introduce any degree of real rationality into a health care system which, although it provides the best services available to any citizen in North America, is out of control in terms of its financing.

Mr. Martel: There must be another way of saving money.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There was a bias introduced into the health care system, very dramatically, by the hospital insurance programme in 1959. It placed excessive emphasis upon treatment and care within the acute general hospitals. Of course, this was done in order to ensure there would be some insurance coverage for those individuals who required services.

Mr. Renwick: That's right, that is why it was done.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Over the next seven years, unfortunately, more and more services were covered by the hospital plan and the hospital became the focus of the delivery of health care services. I will tell you that it was quite inappropriately the centre and the focus of those services.

Since 1968, as a matter of fact, there has been a series of reports of task forces and special committees, not only within this province but in four other provinces of Canada

and some commissioned by the federal government, which have recommended very strongly modification of the direction of health spending from that very costly area, the acute general hospital, to the less costly ambulatory and community level services. As a result of these recommendations, early in this decade the government of this province developed and expanded programmes for home care, extended care within the community, coverage within nursing homes, within chronic care institutions, and established more than a score of innovative primary care programmes within various communities of this province.

One would have hoped that with the increased encouragement of primary and ambulatory care, there would have been decreased use of the acute general hospital as the focus and centre of treatment or of providing services, but that was not to be. It has been my experience that if Parkinson's law applies in any situation, the corollary to Parkinson's law pertains to this situation more than to any other. That law, of course, is that as long as there are acute general hospital beds, doctors will make sure that there are patients in them, and they will be filled constantly.

Mr. Riddell: So who is to blame for the system?

Mr. Germa: Doctors make the system.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Unfortunately, the medical profession in this province, and across this country, must assume a major part of the responsibility for this imbalance within the health care system.

Mr. Reid: This government should assume some responsibility. It set up the programme.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Over 33 years you set up the system.

Mr. Renwick: Come on; you deal with the doctors.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would like to let my hon. colleagues become aware, as well, that over the past decade there have been innumerable studies of the quality of patient care within hospitals, and the results have been strikingly similar in almost all of the studies in a variety of jurisdictions, not only in North America but also in Europe.

Mr. Renwick: If you want to speak to the doctors go and speak to them at the convention.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The result is that there is, in fact, a critical size of acute general hospital below which it is impossible to provide the range and scope of high quality care which a patient who requires admission to an active treatment acute general hospital deserves, in terms of specialized care and support in this day, in this age, with the degree of our medical services development.

Incidentally, I think the report made by Dr. Chance in yesterday's newspaper, a report which was delivered to the Clinical Research Society of a study which he is carrying out, financed by the Ministry of Health of this province, emphasized the validity of this concern when he raised the problem of the fragility of premature infants in transportation shortly after they were born.

If in fact we could persuade small hospitals to close obstetrical units in which there are only 200 or 300 deliveries a year and in which there is no specialized service in terms of pediatrics or obstetrics, we would have much less difficulty with the transportation of those infants. If we did what can be done—that is to congregate obstetrical services in central hospitals within each county or each region or each town so that all the obstetrical services were provided in one institution and so that high quality specialized care by both physicians and nurses could be supplied—then we could be assured that those small fragile, premature infants would not have to be transported except under exceptional circumstances, and that could be done relatively easily with a premature ambulance.

It is relatively easy to do this. It is relatively easy for the conscientious physician to assess prenatal patients, to establish an APGAR type rating for those patients so that high-risk pregnancies and the high risk of prematurity can be predicted with some accuracy. This is not impossible—

Mr. R. S. Smith: You are still building that type of hospital.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —but it does require co-operation and co-ordination of medical services within community hospitals so that we will not have a myriad of small, inefficient and unfortunately not totally safe obstetrical units scattered in small hospitals throughout the country.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You are still building them.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is an example of what I am talking about in terms of the

maintenance of high quality care, the care to which any patient in the Province of Ontario is entitled if he or she requires acute general hospital treatment. They do require an institution which is of sufficient size to enable that institution to provide the scope of services and facilities necessary to—

Interjection.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —ensure all of the care which can be provided within those hospitals in this day and age

Mr. Renwick: Is that a justification for the closing of the community hospitals?

Hon. B. Stephenson: As a matter of fact, it is a justification for closing some small hospitals because the level of care—

Mr. Renwick: Are you suggesting there has been inadequate care in the community hospitals you closed?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am suggesting—if the hon. member across the floor would let me continue I shall explain to him—

Mr. Renwick: You would never have dealt with this question if it had not been in the *Globe and Mail* over the last two days.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The hon. member for Riverdale fails to remember that in November, 1975, I spoke briefly on this subject in this House. Of course, he doesn't remember; he probably wasn't here; or if he was he wasn't listening. At any rate, in my medical judgement—

Mr. Renwick: When you have been here long enough you will know that kind of argument doesn't get you anywhere.

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —this has been one of the major factors in the programme of decision regarding the closing of small hospitals.

Mr. R. S. Smith: But you are still building the hospitals.

Mr. Renwick: Justify the closing of community hospitals.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We are attempting to improve health care services for the people in this province.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member for Riverdale try to contain himself?

Mr. McKessock: The people in Durham would rather have their babies born in a small hospital than in a snowbank on the side of the road trying to get to a larger one.

Mr. Renwick: I know I am right when I get applause from all sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that continence in a male is a virtue.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: It sounds like a female chauvinist remark to me.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I can be just as chauvinist as the member.

Mr. Reid: No, you can't.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, I can. You haven't tried me yet.

Mr. Reid: You just were.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is a very real need to restrain rapidly escalating costs of health care. They are escalating most rapidly within that field in which it is important to ensure that the services which are provided are adequate to the patient needs.

It is therefore important to ensure that we direct the money which is available to that area of service which will meet the needs—the medical needs, the health care needs—of 80 per cent of all the demands which our society can place upon a health care system. Eighty per cent of all health care needs can be provided on an ambulatory care, primary care basis. That is the way we must move.

This is certainly one of the basic reasons for the programme of restraint in hospitals. We are rationalizing our health care expenditures in a way which will, in the near and distant future, provide better health care for the people of this province.

Mr. Warner: Going to control private labs?

Mr. Makarchuk: Not what the people say. [9:00]

Hon. B. Stephenson: We must continue to move in that direction, with the help of responsible people in the communities in which small hospitals are being closed, with the help of responsible boards of governors of those hospitals, with the help of district health councils concerned about the services which those people require.

Mr. Renwick: When you have been here long enough you will know that kind of argument doesn't get you anywhere.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We shall, in fact achieve that purpose and we will go on building a health care system in this province which is the envy of all other jurisdictions and will continue to be so.

Mr. R. S. Smith: But you are still building the hospitals.

Mr. Renwick: Justify the closing of community hospitals.

Mr. Swart: I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the amendment to the Speech from the Throne and the amendment to the Speech from the Throne. I'm sure that everyone on this side of the House, as both leaders have committed themselves, will be voting in favour of both the amendment to the amendment and the amendment.

Mr. Angus: Put the signs out.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We'll take you on any day, particularly you.

An hon. member: Okay, call the election.

Mr. Swart: We are ready for it if either of the other two parties wishes to call the election. I want to say, as I said last fall, that I'm proud to represent the riding of Welland. I'm proud that it's going to be re-named, I expect, and I'm hoping I'm not being presumptuous, the riding of Welland-Thorold since that is now appropriate because that riding is made up solely of those two cities and completely of those two cities.

I could spend a great deal of time extolling the virtues of that area, I suppose, but I had intended, really, to say very little about the virtues of that area until the Minister of Labour and the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) made comments about the working riding which she represented. After the minister made that comment, I thought perhaps I should give some proof that I also represent a working riding. Perhaps the fact that I did work in industry for some 37 years and the fact that I was a member of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Union for over some 30 years may indicate that I too have some connection with labour.

(Perhaps, more important, the real connection that you have in labour is I suppose whether you associate with the working people, whether you have worked with them for years and whether you therefore know the trials and problems they experience in the

workplace and don't get it just second hand from other people.

Mr. Norton: Such arrogance! How dare you, sir?

An hon. member: You ought to know what arrogance is all about.

Mr. Martel: Allan Lawrence used to hold a card too as a summer student in some labour movement. He used to brag about that.

Mr. Swart: The Minister of Labour made some reference to the fact that collective bargaining has perhaps suffered from some outdated methods and suffered from a few other things. I have to say here this evening that what collective bargaining is suffering most from now is the Anti-Inflation Board which the government of this province has sold out to lock, stock and barrel.

Mr. Warner: Wage without price controls.

Mr. Norton: You don't recognize wage controls.

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: I would just point out that—

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Who voted for them last fall? Who supported this government last fall? You are all big talk but you voted for it last fall. Remember that.

Mr. Martel: We'll see how you vote on your amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon member for Welland has the floor. Do him the courtesy of listening to him.

Mr. Swart: I would just point out, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Ferrier: Why don't you call the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) to order?

Mr. Swart: —that the application of the Anti-Inflation Board policies in this province are totally the responsibility of the federal Liberal government and the provincial Conservative government. They both must share the responsibility.

Mr. Hodgson: You have never had that responsibility. You have never had any responsibility so don't worry about it.

Mr. Swart: I want to say that I'm not going to speak at any great length in extolling the virtues of my riding because I believe my constituents want me to deal with the problems that are facing them. I think that's perhaps why they elected me instead of returning another member on the other side of the House.

Mr. Ferrier: Another trained seal.

Mr. Swart: Before I get into some of these problems, I would just like to make two suggestions for the consideration of this House, and I make these suggestions rather humbly as a new member.

The first of those suggestions is that I personally would like to see the term MPP changed to MLA again. There is confusion across this province with that terminology. Throughout most of the provinces the members of the provincial Houses are known as MLAs and I would think there would be some value in returning to that designation for us.

The second recommendation that I'd like the House to consider—and this, I guess, is not done in other jurisdictions—is that this House, instead of sitting for a session of several months, I would think should sit perhaps for the first two or three weeks of each month for 10 months of the year. I think there's merit in this because it would give those who don't live close to Toronto an opportunity to get back to their ridings for a week or two of each month. It would give them a chance to find out the feeling of the public. I think it would do particular good to the government members at this time if they went back and talked about hospitals and about government cutbacks. I think it would give the members' staff and the ministers' staff and the staff of the government the opportunity to do a bit more fruitful work than the panic work which perhaps has to be done when a session sits for three, four, five months and then doesn't sit for another two or three months. Therefore, I would like the House to consider that sort of programme with regard to the sessions.

The problems that I'm going to deal with this evening—that my constituents, and I'm sure, most of the people across this province feel—are very much the same that we dealt with last fall. They are the same because the Throne Speech did nothing to solve them. In fact, most of the problems that existed last fall in my riding, and elsewhere I think, now are compounded by the action the government has taken in some fields and the inaction that it has shown in others.

Last fall I brought before this House the problem—injustice perhaps would be a better word—of the freezing of hydro commissions where regional municipalities were created, particularly in the Niagara region. When the Niagara region was planned in 1970, the government of this province took action to freeze the hydro commission. Some 26 municipalities were made into 12 municipalities. In most of these municipalities we then had hydro being supplied to part of the municipality by the utility commission or the hydro commission of that municipality, and the remainder of the municipality being supplied by the Ontario rural hydro. The reasoning given for this was that they wanted time to investigate new structures of hydro before they determined that the new districts should all be put in with the old hydro commissions.

So there was a task force of the government appointed which sat for two or three years and in 1972 brought in a report that the municipal utilities should be rationalized into upper-tier regional utilities where and as new municipal government is implemented.

That created quite a stir; the result was that the Ontario government then appointed another committee to examine that task force report. That committee reported in 1974. It recommended, believe it or not, that another committee of local people be appointed.

Mr. Martel: Some of them were defeated Tories, were they not?

Mr. Swart: Yes, quite possibly. There are a lot of them around.

Mr. Martel: They don't want to go on the unemployment roll so they get a job in government.

Mr. Swart: It is now six years—

Mr. Martel: They should do that for the hospital workers.

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: It is now six years since the hydro commissions were frozen; it is over six years, we are going on to the seventh year. This committee said it hoped that it would report by October of this year, and just in March there is a new report by that committee which they say would result in the technical subcommittee reporting to that committee in October of this year.

After that they will hold public hearings. It will be seven or eight years from the time the commissions were frozen—at least that much. In fact, we are no further ahead now

than we were six years ago, not a bit further toward resolving this problem. It certainly will be seven or eight years.

The people in those municipalities can't even elect their hydro commissioners. In the city of Thorold, for instance, there is not a single commissioner left who has been elected by the people; they have all been appointed.

The areas are developing and growing. They are connecting, even right adjacent to the urban municipalities, to the rural hydro. The city of Welland, to put it mildly, is frustrated by this. The mayor, who happened to be my Conservative opponent in the last election, has taken real issue with that government over this stand.

I am asking here this evening that the Ontario government—I believe the freezing was done by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—lift that freeze and let the municipalities proceed on their own to supply hydro to their own urban area. It just makes no sense to carry on with the so-called freeze of boundaries and of commissions.

I want to turn for a few minutes, to the question of the preservation of agricultural land. Here again, the situation is no better. If anything, perhaps it is worse than it was when I spoke last fall in the Throne Speech debate.

There is no mention in the Throne Speech of the preservation of good agricultural land, except some vague reference to greater productivity on good land. There is no reference, in spite of the public sentiment in the last election. That was expressed at least partly, in the defeats of an number of government members. There is no reference in the Speech from the Throne, even though last December the agrologist of this province brought down a report, titled "Preservation or Starvation", which said that by the year 2000 we will be short two million acres of land in this province to feed the people of this province; that said the government of this province should enact legislation within one year to preserve class 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land.

There is not even any mention in the Throne Speech of what must be recognized as the continuing destruction of the very best agricultural land in this province.

I drive frequently, of course, from Thorold and St. Catharines to the Legislature; and all along the way, year by year, month by month, and day by day, I see further destruction of the best agricultural land in Ontario. The John Deere company—and there must be a bit of irony here—a company that manufactures farm implements,

has just built a new plant near Grimsby on 72 acres of the best agricultural land in the Niagara Peninsula. They are destroying the very land they are attempting to service with their farm implements.

Mr. Wildman: They should be building factories up north.

Mr. Swart: That is correct. I just point out to this House that from 1971 to 1975 there was an increase in population in the Niagara region of 19,653. Of that increase in population, more than 17,000 took place on the one-fifth to one-quarter of the land below the Niagara Escarpment or within two miles above it, where the climate is moderated from Lake Ontario and still able to grow either fruit or grapes. Something like 80 per cent of all population growth has taken place in that one quarter and yet nothing is being done about it.

I sat on the Niagara regional council when we were discussing the regional plan for Niagara. We almost begged the government to give us guidelines on what form the plan should take. We never got those guidelines.

The regional council, over the objections of many of us, passed a land-use plan that provided far more land than could ever be used even on the best agricultural land during the 20 years of the plan. It was submitted to the government in September, 1974, but nothing was heard from the government until Sept. 8, 1975. It seems to me, if I remember correctly, that was about 10 days before the election was to take place.

There was a letter from the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Irvine), under whose jurisdiction that came at that time, which said something to the effect that he was requesting council to reduce substantially the encroachment of future urban development on this irreplaceable resource and therefore recommended that the plan not be approved.

A bit later, the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) on Oct. 22, 1975, sent another letter to Niagara region. In it he said:

It has been indicated by both the Minister of Housing and the Premier of Ontario that this government does not wish to see urban development infringe on the unique agricultural resources in the Niagara region. This must apply to the unique and tender fruit and grape land north of the escarpment and also to the other prime agricultural land resources within the region. . . . Growth in the remainder of the region must also be directed to lower-quality land so

the best agricultural lands in the region are retained for agricultural purposes.

That is a very worthy-sounding objective, but what has happened in this period of time and what will happen now to that fruit land? The Niagara regional council will receive tomorrow, I believe, a report from its planner which will state that the boundaries for the urban municipalities in the areas of the good agricultural land should be reduced by something like 2,500 acres from the present 7,000 acres which have been designated for urban development.

Already the municipalities are fighting these proposals. Tomorrow, St. Catharines will appear before the regional council to tell the regional council it doesn't want its boundaries drawn in to that degree. The irony of it all is that the proposals now before the regional council are almost identical with the proposals put forward by the planner back in 1972 and 1973; almost identical to what they were at that time. The council enlarged it and we're going through the same process.

There is no doubt that the only way we can get a meaningful land use plan in this province is if the province itself is prepared to set the guidelines for developing a master plan for this province and is willing to give direction to the municipalities. It's too much to expect of local municipalities that they can bring about this preservation of prime agricultural land without getting guidance, without having a firm blueprint set for them by the Province of Ontario. I say that municipalities generally want this sort of thing and, believe me, the public certainly is anxious that this be done.

Another matter on which very little action has been taken is the matter of price control. I thought the new release by the Anti-Inflation Board on March 20 of this year perhaps depicted more clearly than any words from the labour leaders or anyone else the exact method in which that Anti-Inflation Board is functioning.

Mr. Mancini: What about Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

Mr. Swart: There have been charges made over and over again, and rightly so, that it is a wage control board. Last Saturday the Anti-Inflation Board—I'm quoting now:

Stung by criticism of its failure to control prices, the Anti-Inflation Board plans to make public a list of companies that have agreed to reduce planned price increases after talks with the board. Late this week the board was still contacting

the companies to get their permission for the public statement expected about Thursday. It will be a short list, less than 10 companies.

Let me point out the significance, really, of what this is saying.

Mr. Mancini: What did Ed Schreyer do?

Mr. Swart: It says, "Plans to make public a list of companies that have agreed to reduce planned price increases after talks with the board." They're going to the companies to get permission to do this and there is a maximum of 10 companies. To the best of my knowledge those have not yet been released.

Mr. Martel: Five. Great stuff.

Mr. Swart: They have released five companies, have they? They released that for five companies. Surely, if anything proves the board's attitude towards prices it is its own release.

Mr. Mancini: What about your wages, Mel?

Mr. Swart: When the Irving Co. overpaid its workers the board didn't go and ask permission to release it; it fined the company \$125,000. It isn't just five or 10 groups of workers or contracts which have been signed they rolled back, there are literally hundreds of them. I say that what the Anti-Inflation Board provides is compulsory wage control and voluntary price control. That is really what the Anti-Inflation Board is doing at the present time.

Mr. Kerrio: What are you doing here with it?

Mr. Reid: What a bunch of gobbledygook.

Mr. Mancini: You guys had a chance to vote against wage and price controls and you let it go right by.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We don't need these side debates. The hon. member for Welland has the floor.

Mr. Swart: The government of Ontario has taken exactly the same sort of attitude as the federal government with regard to any control on prices. Nothing, in fact, is being done.

Mr. Kerrio: They are partners.

Mr. Swart: You know the price of natural gas, for instance—

Mr. Kerrio: You made them partners.

Mr. Swart: —in December went up in my area—and in the Toronto area—by 35 per cent to 45 per cent. That followed other increases over the last 18 months, which made a total increase in natural gas prices between 80 per cent and 90 per cent. Those were approved by the National Energy Board and by the Ontario Energy Board.

When I complained about these kinds of price increases in a press release a week or so ago, I got a very sharp letter from the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), who objected because he said the Ontario government had not really permitted this sort of thing. They really had no control over it, and anyhow, they had made great input to the federal government in objection to it.

I want to read one paragraph of the letter that I received from the minister. I quote:

The Progressive Conservative government of Ontario welcomes your concern. We have been making it a major issue for over two years now, and we will continue to fight battles on this issue and hopefully win most of them as we have in the past.

I just say in reply to that letter, if an 80 per cent or 90 per cent increase in gas prices is a win, I would hate to see what a loss is by the government of this province.

The same lack of concern for price increases has been shown in the field of auto insurance. We know that on Feb. 1 of this year the speed limit was reduced and the wearing of seatbelts became compulsory. Any examination of the facts from other jurisdictions where these two things are in effect will show that there is a drastic reduction in deaths, in injuries and in damage to automobiles. Yet the government refuses to take any action to assure that the savings from these lower speed limits and from seatbelt use are passed on to the motorist of this province.

The savings are substantial. It is estimated that it will cut the cost of accidents by at least 20 per cent. That's a very—forgive me for using the word—conservative estimate, that they will be cut by 20 per cent. This will mean something like \$120 million to \$150 million in savings to the insurance companies in this province. And you know what the insurance companies say about this? The president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada said, and this is dated Nov. 19, 1975, after the legislation was enacted, that the Highway Traffic Act amendment will probably have a beneficial effect in reducing accidents with an

obvious reduction in the insurance level. But, he added, it will be more than two years before insurance companies will be clear enough about any reduction in the number of accidents to adjust their rates. More than two years!

Just more recently, on March 15, I see where the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) said that motorists deserve insurance savings. Speaking in Waterloo, I believe, he mentioned the 27 per cent drop in fatal highway collisions last month. He said that there should be a reduction passed on to the motorist, but the companies have already increased insurance rates for this year. And the Premier said later in an interview he doubts they will be reduced no matter what the savings. Then he goes on to say that the companies will need another three or four months to get a more accurate picture of cost savings. It is still very early but the signs are encouraging.

The Premier says three or four months. The president of the Insurance Bureau said it will be more than two years. I ask this House, who will win out? Is the government prepared to bring in legislation so that rates will be controlled and the savings passed on to the motoring public? I doubt it very much. [9:30]

Finally, I want to deal a bit with the cutbacks, the cutbacks in the hospitals, the cutbacks on assistance to municipalities. The first thing that I want to say with regard to this is that it is all being done in the name of inflation. This is what we're told—it doesn't matter whether it is a federal government or whether it is provincial government, it's all being done in the name of inflation.

I want to say that we don't, in fact, have inflation. The definition of inflation, according to any dictionary we look at, we will find that, one way or another, it says there is too much money chasing too few goods. We know this was the situation during the war years. That of course is not the situation today.

There is not too much money chasing too few goods. People are unemployed because others can't buy the goods which we can produce in our society, and what we really have is a period of price escalation. That is what it is, and not true inflation; it's price escalation that we have in our society, and I say to this House that the best way to control price escalation is to control prices. That's where the emphasis should be, not on controlling wages, as is the total emphasis being put by the two levels of government.

In fact, we are saving little or no money of the people of this province by the cutback programme. Just look at some of the figures—the \$50 million. The 5,000 people who will be laid off in the hospital field at a saving of \$10,000 per person. If they go on unemployment insurance they will be paid \$5,000 a year on unemployment insurance. There will be some \$2,000 a year which will be lost on taxes of one form or another. That's \$7,000 a year. That's \$35 million that, in fact, won't be saved at all. If we consider the graduates from the nursing schools, if we consider the graduates from the teachers' colleges who will not be able to get jobs, the social workers who graduate, if we consider the investment that we have put into these people over the years and then have no jobs for them to go to, there is, in fact no saving whatsoever to society as a whole by these cutbacks.

Of course, we know in the field of the cutback in the labs, it's a myth. The OPSEU did some studies on the costs of the tests being done, what OHIP is paying to the private labs, and regardless of whether it's clinical or whether it's the other, the facts are that it costs about 50 per cent more to have these tests done in private labs than in the public labs, and in the long run it's going to cost more. There is no saving in this sort of thing.

So there is going to be very little saving from the cutbacks in that field and in the municipal field. Again, people are going to be laid off or there is going to be a pass-through to the property taxpayer. It still has to come out of the same people and that pass-through is going to be pretty substantial.

The real problem with this cutback programme—the whole SPR programme—is that it's being done in isolation. It's being done in isolation from the overall problems that face our society and the major problem is unemployment. That's where the emphasis should be, because if we can solve the problem of unemployment we won't have to worry about the price escalation.

The second point that I want to make on the cutbacks, and it has been made before, is the way in which it was done. It's an about-face and the methods of implementation make no sense at all. The acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), when she was speaking this evening, made some comments about the rationale for the cutbacks. I suggest that the rationale in the method of cutback, and even for the cutback, is totally missing.

Surely one or the other must be true. Either the government has colossally over-spent in building hospitals and in staffing them in recent years, or now it's a mistake to cut back. It has to be one or the other, because our population is increasing, the needed usage of hospitals and all the other facilities must be increasing, and yet they have now made an about-face and are cutting back.

Mr. Wildman: An oversight.

Mr. Swart: If, over the last two or three years, they had not allowed the private nursing homes to be built to the extent that they did; if there are too many active treatment beds, if they had diverted floors to nursing care treatment, we could have saved the 3,000 beds and the cost of operating those that are now in the private nursing homes. But, of course, the government of this province is opposed to the public operation and favours the private nursing homes.

Another point that I want to make on this issue is that what is going to happen as a result of what is being done is that the new health councils are going to be destroyed before they ever get started. In some areas, health councils are now being asked to report back to the Ministry of Health on where the cutbacks should be made in their area. If they report that no cutbacks should be made, the Ministry of Health is going to ignore that; they're going to make the cutbacks anyhow. If they report that cutbacks should be made, it is going to destroy their credibility in the community. Where they are not being asked to report on this, and these major decisions are being made in the health field without their being consulted, then their credibility is also going to be destroyed. The whole purpose of the health councils when they were instituted—in the news releases and all the rest of it—was to rationalize health care in the various areas of the province. They are, in fact, going to be destroyed by the policies of this government.

I want to say a few words about the cutback in assistance to municipalities. The first point I want to make is that the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has stated that the province this year is going to get by on a 10 per cent increase in its expenditures. Included in that 10 per cent increase about which they are bragging is the cutback to the municipalities. If we exclude these transfer payments from the government's total expenditures, we find in fact that they are going to be spending closer to 11 per cent more than

they are the 10 per cent to which they say they are going to limit their own expenditures.

The simple facts are that the municipalities are being penalized because last year the government cut back in an election year in the hopes of winning support from the public. Because they based their transfer payments to municipalities on the revenue to the provincial government and when they cut back the sales tax and they cut off the tax on machinery to industry, it meant that municipalities then had to get along on a lesser amount this year than they otherwise would have.

I would just point out that revenue to the province increased from 1972 to 1973 by 13 per cent, and from 1973 to 1974 by 18.9 or 19.5 per cent, depending which government document you're looking at; but in 1975 it dropped down to 8.5 from 10.8 per cent and this year it is going back up to 14.7 per cent. The municipalities are being caught in a political decision by the government of this province.

The municipalities, by law, must provide many programmes that the provincial government has initiated and delegated them to carry out, and yet the money is not being given to them by the province to do this job. In addition, they are providing services and they have commitments that they simply can't cut back; for instance, in the primary treatment of sewage, the treatment of phosphates, which increases the cost by perhaps 25 per cent, was initiated by the provincial government.

Let me relate briefly what is happening in the Niagara region with regard to social services. The regional levy there is going to be up some 14.4 per cent, and the director there has stated that it is doubtful if that budget will provide sufficient funds to last to the end of the year. So far this year in the Niagara region, the expenditure for social services is up 25 per cent over the corresponding period last year. There has been a nine per cent increase in the welfare case load in the Niagara region. So it is doubtful, even with this increase, if the money will last until the end of the year.

What have their cutbacks meant? The dental programme for social service recipients in the Niagara region is proposed to be cut back this year from \$330,000 to \$50,000, a reduction to less than 20 per cent of what they spent last year. The daycare cost to people who can pay the full costs has gone up from \$5 per day to \$11.50 per day. And,

perhaps worst of all, there will be no increase this year to the welfare recipients.

The situation with regard to the homes for the aged is perhaps even worse. The Niagara region operates about 1,000 beds for the aged. So far their cutbacks have meant they have had to lay off about 32 people. The expenditure is still up 13 per cent after their cutbacks, but the levy at present is slated to go up 41.6 per cent. If the province comes through with higher payments to the extended care section of the homes, the increase may be only 29 per cent.

The homes can continue to operate. But they won't be quite as clean, and there won't be quite as much nursing service. In addition, they have to make sure that they don't admit chronic cases or what are likely to be chronic cases. In fact, they have to exclude from the home those who very well may need the service the most.

Another aspect of this just simply makes no sense at all. The director of the homes for the aged in the region of Niagara has been told by the Ministry of Community and Social Services that a freeze must be put on foster homes. This was a programme, first developed in the regional municipality of Niagara, where people who were ambulatory and were able to be taken care of in private homes, were put into the foster homes and payment was made for them in the foster homes.

The gross cost of keeping people in foster homes now runs at \$3,430 each, compared with \$4,300 each if they are kept in the homes for the aged. But the significance of this is that the net cost for putting them in foster homes runs at \$560, whereas if they are kept in the homes for the aged it runs \$1,430, or 150 per cent more, and yet the ministry has told them that they must have a freeze on foster homes and cannot move additional people out of the homes for the aged into the foster homes.

[9:45]

I suggest that the comments which have been made by my colleagues in this group have been sufficient to prove that the policies of this government have reached the point where the public should have a say on whether they want that government to continue.

Mr. Kerrio: We think you should resign.

Mr. Swart: So I and my colleagues are prepared to vote so that the government comes down and the public of Ontario can pass

judgement and if they so wish they can bring another government into this province.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate. I intend to speak only briefly. However, with the undivided attention which each speaker receives it is tempting to go on for an hour or two. I must say that if any changes were being made in the House, the one which I would make would be some limitation on the length of speeches.

I'd like to recognize first our friends from Halton-Burlington who are under the Speaker's gallery here, constituents of the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed). It was a pleasure meeting with them earlier this evening and we certainly welcome them to the House here tonight.

Mr. Gaunt: Great riding, great member.

Mr. Eakins: That's right.

An hon. member: Tremendous.

Mr. Eakins: One of the pleasures in coming into the House has been to renew acquaintance with many of the people whom I knew when I served in the municipal service as a councillor and as a mayor and many from all sides of the House who are here tonight. I know that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) and the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) have both been very kind to our municipal associations, and in particular the towns and villages, and I note in tonight's paper the member for Cochrane North is not going to seek re-election. I don't believe he's in the House, but I just want to wish him well.

There is one person I believe who deserves to be in this House as much as anyone and it's the member for Welland (Mr. Swart). He's a good municipal friend of mine whom I've known over the years and who made a good contribution to municipal affairs. He served on the mayors and reeves executive and certainly the member for Welland is one of the people who has spent many elections endeavouring to get here and I'm delighted to see that he is here tonight.

Mr. Kerrio: Actually, they need him worse back in the region.

Mr. Ruston: Overnight guest.

Mr. Eakins: As I said I feel very honoured to rise and participate in the Throne debate and to speak on behalf of my constituents in that great riding of Victoria and

Haliburton. I want to say first of all that I'm most grateful to the people of my riding for allowing me the opportunity to be of service to them here at Queen's Park. I feel very humble as their member, especially as I look back over the years on the history of these two great counties and of the quality of the members who have served. While the history extends back to when Victoria and Haliburton was divided and had two members, I'm sure most people recollect and recall the days in a more familiar way from the 1930s onward. Perhaps I'm more aware of it because there had not been a Liberal member elected since the election of 1934 until last Sept. 18.

Hon. Mr. Snow: May be short-lived.

Mr. Eakins: For a number of years from 1934 this great area of the province was served by the late William Newman of the village of Lorneville in Eldon township. Mr. Newman served with distinction and a record to be proud of and made a great contribution to this House.

Mr. Gaunt: He was the late William Newman. The present member is the great William Newman.

Hon. W. Newman: He was the wrong side of the family.

Mr. Reid: There was one smart one in the family.

Mr. Riddell: It seems to me you were a Liberal in college. Were you?

Hon. W. Newman: No.

Mr. Eakins: It is interesting to note that the last election the late William Newman won was in 1934. This was also the year of the only election defeat ever suffered by his opponent who was a gentleman by the name of Leslie Frost. Mr. Frost ran again, as members know, in 1937 and was successful and, of course, from that day to this, the events of those years are well recorded.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Great man.

Mr. Reid: We need him back now.

Mr. Eakins: The Hon. Leslie M. Frost, who became Premier in 1949, will, I'm sure, be remembered as one of the outstanding figures in Ontario's political history. He was a leader in every sense of the word. He was astute; he was understanding but most important, and what some politicians seem to forget today, he knew and understood the common man.

Hon. W. Newman: That's because he was a Tory.

Mr. Reid: He's the last Conservative who did.

Mr. Eakins: In private conversation, one was able to learn first hand of the high regard he held for many of his political opponents.

For the past 12 years this seat was held by Glen Hodgson, a gentleman for whom I have a very high personal regard. I am delighted to see that this week the riding is having a dinner in his honour.

Having come up through the ranks of municipal service and knowing the history and representation of my riding, I feel very humble and most honoured to have the opportunity to represent the people of Victoria-Haliburton at Queen's Park.

I want to mention first and to express very strongly my deep concern over the closing of the small community hospitals in Ontario, as many other speakers have mentioned in their speeches. If this government is serious in any way regarding the need for decentralization, to my mind it is going about it in a very awkward way. The order to close Bobcaygeon's Hillcroft Hospital is a very deep blow to this community and its surrounding area.

I question very seriously the advice and the wisdom of the Ministry of Health in the manner in which this was carried out. I find it unbelievable that these closings would be announced when the House was in recess and without any opportunity to debate the merits of these orders. I'm sure that anyone who has served in municipal office would know that if municipal councillors carried out their discussions and business this way, they would be removed at the next election.

Mr. Kerrio: That's going to happen here.

Mr. Eakins: It is quite apparent that neither the minister nor his staff even knew where Bobcaygeon was located. Even the minister was quoted as saying that he didn't realize the distance between Lindsay and Bobcaygeon, a distance of some 24 miles, was as great and that with adverse road conditions the drive was much longer than anticipated.

I believe that whoever gave the minister this poor advice also did not take into consideration the fact that Hillcroft Hospital serves a very large summer population of upwards of 100,000 people. With the beautiful Kawarthas on the doorstep of Metro Toronto,

many find it convenient to use the services of Bobcaygeon and Ross Memorial in Lindsay when they have sudden illnesses and accidents in the summer. This should not be overlooked because many of the Metro people find it convenient to have their accidents in this part of the province.

The cutback at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay is one of the heaviest in the province. When this hospital was built a few years ago and opened about two years ago, it was built according to the specifications and the requirements of this government. Now the government says it is too large and has to be cut back. I believe and I say that the ministry must bear full responsibility for the poor planning of which it is the author. Please don't put all the blame for restraints on the citizens for asking too much.

Mr. Ruston: Mismanagement.

Mr. Eakins: When you close hospitals and close beds and lay off people in small communities, you are in effect tearing the heart out of the community and telling the towns and villages of Ontario they haven't much of a future.

I would like to ask the Health ministry and the Premier (Mr. Davis) some questions and I would appreciate their response. Does the Ministry of Health have an overall plan with regard to health care and the place of each hospital within that plan? If so, this should be communicated to the hospitals and to the public.

Is there an actual plan with regard to the present restraint programme as it effects all hospitals? It has been suggested, though this has not been substantiated, that one yardstick you are using is that the ministry is to cut \$1,000 per bed. If this is so, why is it so unevenly applied? If this is the case, then the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay has about the equivalent of \$3,000 per bed removed from its 1976-1977 budget.

Why is the whole programme handled in such a manner? Is it actually for shock value; and why has the Ministry of Health been placed so drastically in the forefront of the government's total restraint programme?

The letter from the ministry to the hospital notifying them of the sudden switch in policy with regard to this hospital suggested there is no appeal mechanism. This does not seem right to me, that they cannot appeal the orders from the ministry.

The present method of handling the whole situation actually suggests a state of panic in the Ministry of Health. Of course, this

might be passed further up the line to the responsibility of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

I recognize that restraints are not only inevitable but advisable. I also recognize the method in which they have been brought about and how unevenly they have been applied across the province.

I am also very concerned about the lack of government initiative to develop our smaller communities. I think we must all give serious thought to the need to develop a system of balanced growth in Ontario.

Urban development is progressing in some areas at a pace which is clearly out of control from the point of view of housing and transportation facilities. The entire social/economic situation is a matter of real anxiety for some people living in the Metro area. There is a great need for a slowdown in the development and expansion of many of our larger cities.

In England, for example, the capital city of London, faced with a similar situation, took action to bring some control to development by creating a greenbelt around the city and giving enormous incentives to the location of industry in areas away from the metropolis.

Many small communities in Ontario experience great difficulties because of the small tax base. They are losing their young people and skilled workers to the cities because that is where the jobs are to be found. At the same time, industry is attracted to the city because of the availability of manpower.

We have, in effect, a vicious circle. We must take action before we have a serious crisis on our hands. Sooner or later we must take the bull by the horns and inaugurate an all-over provincial plan of development to assist our small communities. I know that in many of our communities, an increased population of 2,000 would be a tremendous assistance. But in others, up through my riding, even 500 people would make a noticeable difference. At the same time, we would be removing some of the intense pressure being experienced in our urban centres.

Any effective means of bringing out a degree of balanced growth in Ontario must be based on a considerable amount of government participation. In many respects I think governments have been far too much involved in our day-to-day lives. When I say that considerable government participation would be necessary to achieve balanced growth, I certainly don't mean I feel less concerned about the extent to which government bureaucracy

tends to infringe on the rights of the individual.

However, there are some results which can only be achieved by the direction and participation of the government acting on a province-wide basis, and balanced growth falls into that category.

When one is considering a problem as complex and wide-ranging, I see centralization of growth in the urban areas and development of our last densely populated regions. This has to be dealt with under the auspices of the provincial government.

[10:00]

One suggestion that has considerable merit in this connection is the concept of some form of land servicing programme. But one of the many obstacles in the way of opening up or improving specific areas for residential or industrial development is the expense of making available sufficiently serviced land. If a provincial servicing programme were to be established, the government could, in consultation with municipalities, designate specific areas where it is agreed that residential, commercial and/or industrial development is desirable and necessary.

The availability of comparably inexpensive serviced land in underdeveloped areas would encourage the location of secondary industries, with the attendant residential development in the vicinity of the new employment source. Capital grants, low interest and long-term loans would be additional incentives for secondary industries and small business enterprises to locate in areas away from the big cities and the highly industrialized regions.

At one time, the private and public sectors of the economy were clearly defined and separate. However, over the years they have become almost inextricably bound. Taxes on payroll, on income, capital gains on sales, on succession, by reducing profit and the ability to finance growth, tend to encourage the small businessman to sell out. On the other hand, the larger firms, the multinational corporations, the conglomerates, are in a position to obtain special tax advantages.

Capital incentives, the ability to deduct interest costs of borrowing for acquisition, the right to offset the losses of one firm against the profits of another, these are only a few examples of the way the larger companies can benefit. We must find a means to reverse the trend to larger and larger and to encourage the proliferation of smaller companies suitable for location in smaller communities.

Government intervention in the private sector has helped to bring about the drift toward larger companies at the expense of the individual, the small businessman; and no doubt only government intervention can bring about a change of direction in this area by providing the incentives necessary to encourage small operations to come into existence and remain afloat.

It is a pleasure to rise and to speak on behalf of the people of Victoria-Haliburton and to represent them here at Queen's Park. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I have the pleasure of rising to support the excellent address of Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. As the member for the constituency of Ottawa South and the Minister of Industry and Tourism, I feel it is most important to address the Legislature at what I consider to be a very crucial and critical time in the history not only of Ontario but indeed of Canada.

Before I get into my full remarks, I want to recognize an accomplishment by an Ottawa firm that in recent days presented its best foot forward in the Oscar awards, and that is the firm of Crawley Films from Ottawa, and to recognize that the feature length documentary they produced, "The Man Who Skied Down Everest," was awarded the Academy Award for a feature film.

I want to recognize the fact that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, realizing that this particular movie was in the competition for an Academy Award, sponsored, along with the firm, a preview of the film prior to the competition in an effort to make sure that Ontario and Canada's film producer and the feature film had been viewed by those people that would have some say in the award-winning decision.

I want to congratulate Crawley Films of Ottawa and Mr. and Mrs. Crawley for their fine effort in representing the film industry and in the success of this particular movie. I might also say to the members of the House, that I hope the opportunity will come early in the month of May for Crawley Films to have a showing of the film at Ontario Place for the members of the Legislature and other invited guests so that we can all witness this fine production by a Canadian firm.

Mr. Reid: Cocktails are on the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Maybe we can get the Liberal Party in Ottawa to supply that portion of the operation.

Mr. Reid: We just supply the judges.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I'm going to make some very quick comments on areas that I'm reporting for as the Minister of Industry and Tourism. I want to recognize the fact, first of all, that it's very simple and easy to sit back and criticize some of the problems that we face in the business community today. We listen to the discussion and the comments continuously about the imbalance of payments that we in Canada have as it relates to other countries of the world. One recognizes the fact that those imbalances are here for a multitude of reasons. I know some will say that it's the auto industry that is responsible. Others will look at other areas of a responsibility and say that it has been caused because governments have not invested sufficient funds.

While we're in the process, both federally and provincially, of analysing the impact of these imbalances to try to find some solutions to them, I say honestly and fairly to the House that federally and provincially we discussed them yesterday with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce from Ottawa in the hope that we will eventually find some corrective measures that can be taken. In the auto industry the discussions have been going on for some time. The Americans have felt that they have been taking the short end of the stick and the Canadians also believe that they have the short end of the stick so far as production is concerned.

We have, as a province, been invited by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to participate in a review programme that they are presently going through on the autopact to see whether some changes should be made at this time; and if they are to be made, what they will do in complementing the industry in our country.

Mr. Samis: It wasn't me; it was the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio).

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I heard that comment that the Americans might give it to us again. It was 11 years ago that we got into the autopact. We believed it was in the best interests of the industry of Canada, and indeed of North America. I would find it very difficult, in looking at the situation, to say that if we had not been in the autopact the conditions would have been a great deal worse

than they are today. We can continue to try to press our case, both provincially and federally, in an effort to find a greater opportunity for parts manufacturing in the Province of Ontario and the further assembling of cars in this country. I believe it's going to come through hard, tough negotiations; and as to whether we shall see those in the year of 1976, with the US presidential election pending, is a giant question mark.

Mr. Wildman: We have lots to lose.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: We might have a lot to lose in the autopact arrangement, but let me assure the member that not all of it lies with the government of Canada, there must also be a degree of co-operation and interest in opening up the pact by our American colleagues.

Mr. Samis: Tell Vance Hartke that.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Let me say that Mr. Hartke's remarks have created some interest. But if you were to follow the press releases, you'll find that most of the press that is being produced is here in Canada. The impression he's making in the United States in the American press is very insignificant.

Mr. Samis: He hasn't changed his tune though.

Mr. Kerrio: He has lots of support over there from unions.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I want to touch on two or three areas of the ministry. I recall at the time of my estimates the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) made some remarks on trade missions that our ministry has had in operation for some 13 or 14 years. I recall one of the remarks at the time by the member was that he considered them big drunks. I say to the member, an importer of electronics, that he should not try to make people believe that the missions have not produced positive results for our province.

The missions go out and abroad, in this country and the world, with the ministry paying the economy air fare for the participants, and in some cases, I might say, we're fortunate there are a number of participants who look after their entire financing of the trip. The ministry becomes the catalyst of the operation in making sure that at the other end there are appointments and arrangements for them.

They have produced some very positive, concrete results for our province and we shall continue to send trade missions throughout

the world. There have been many success stories as a result of missions, and I invite members of the House to look at some of the reports that have appeared in the various journals relating to the business community.

I want to clearly indicate that trade in this world has changed considerably and that programmes must be redesigned to accommodate the new direction. The Speech from the Throne indicated that, as a ministry and as a government, we are now going to start to put together a turnkey operation in the marketplaces of the world.

There are a number of countries that are building very sophisticated plants, people who are into educational and hospital systems and are looking for expertise and technology that we happen to have in the people and the industries in Ontario; and I would have to expand that to say other industries and companies across Canada.

Mr. Wildman: Lots of people in the hospitals are losing their jobs.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: In this next year, we shall put together these selected teams; and while we do not have all of the opportunities that exist in some countries where governments can indicate clearly which company will participate in a particular consortium, we hope that with the federal and the provincial ministers we will be able to convince companies that a Canadian firm, or a consortium of Canadians, will be better off in the marketplace than several competing for the same business.

One of the particular cases we are working on at this very moment, which I hope will produce positive results for a consortium here in Ontario and in Canada, happens to be in Caracas, Venezuela. We are participating, through the Urban Transportation Development Corp., in a bid for a quarter-billion-dollar subway system in that community. Both federally and provincially, we have worked with industries in Ontario and Quebec—indeed, there will be industries from other province of Canada—in trying to place a bid on behalf of the industry of Canada on that particular project. We shall continue to follow up that type of bidding in that country and in that marketplace at this time.

Someone said he believed we should look more closely at our foreign operations. The ministry has 5 offices in foreign countries of the world, and I want to indicate clearly that sometimes I have reservations as to the potential that they can develop for us, whether they are properly located in the year of 1976, whether some of them shouldn't

be relocated in other parts of the world, or whether some offices should be closed completely.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I hear the provincial secretary for—

Mr. Reid: He wants an appointment to one of those foreign places, Paris?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Let's not get into that one tonight. What we are looking at is the opportunity of perhaps realigning some of the foreign office operations of the Province of Ontario. In recent weeks, I have had some very lengthy discussions with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa in the light of the fact that the federal government believes there are too many provinces represented in the foreign field; that there is confusion and interference being run because there are eight or nine provinces represented overseas; and that foreign customers are never quite able to keep track of whether it's Canada, Ontario or Quebec, because they run them all into one as Canada.

I am willing to admit to Mr. Jamieson and others that there has been and definitely is confusion in the foreign market as a result of Ontario, Alberta, Quebec and other provinces participating. And I have asked the minister and his colleague, the Minister of External Affairs, to see if it is not possible that facilities could be made available to Ontario and other provinces to be located in the federal government offices in the various countries of the world where the province of its choice wishes to be located. I hope I will have the opportunity in the next short period of time of reporting conclusively to the House that we are able to enter into some special arrangements with the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of External Affairs.

I realize there will be some problems in the eyes of others that we will lose our complete identity in certain parts of the world. I want to assure the House that I do not think we will lose our identity. But I think it's essential at this time that we try to find ways of cutting down the expenses of doing business on behalf of Ontario and Canada.

[10:15]

I think we are going to have to look more closely at some of the trade shows. In other countries of the world, trade shows have become an extremely important part in industrial expansion and development of com-

mercial goods. I do not believe that we, in Ontario, indeed we in Canada, have made the best possible use of all of the foreign trade shows that exist in the European countries.

We are looking at, particularly in France, rather than establishing an office on behalf of the government of Ontario, the opportunity of locating a desk at the Canadian Embassy and Trade Council in Paris. Indeed, we are looking at the possibilities of using their trade shows to a greater extent than we have in the past.

It's great to talk about consumer goods if they can find a place in the foreign market—that is providing that Canadian manufacturers, both in this province and in other provinces, are going to spend some time appointing the right agents and are prepared to put up a great deal of money in the promotion, advertisement and advancement of those products. In our recent assessment, we believe it can be accomplished to a great extent, with great success, through trade shows. So we shall be pursuing that particular area.

May I also speak at this time, with regard to domestic goods going into a commercial market in foreign countries. There are a number of problems that confront Canadian manufacturers and I suppose we could say manufacturers of other countries of the world as well. More and more countries are putting up non-tariff barriers to eliminate or exclude producers from other countries in a particular market.

So we're going to have to become much more alert and aware of other opportunities we believe are present and available for us in various countries of the world. We're looking now at the possibility of our officers in foreign fields becoming more direct in the line of trying to relocate industries from those countries in the Province of Ontario.

I hope that in the next short period of time, with some of the films that we have produced—and we have produced them in five different languages of the world—we'll be able to go out and around to the various marketplaces and to bankers and industrialists, whether it be in Germany, France, England or any of the other countries, to indicate clearly by feature films what Ontario has to offer in the various communities across our province.

I was indicating earlier this evening, to several members of the House, that in recent days we have had a decision from the foreign investment review agency in Ottawa. I'm sure

most in the House realize that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism is responsible for reviewing all applications made to the bureau programme in Ottawa. Forty per cent of the cases examined since inception have been referred to this province for a decision or a position. I can only clearly indicate that within my ministry there are six people employed to do a constant review of applications as to whether the takeover by a foreign company really has a long-range benefit to the economy of Ontario; and in the long run the economy of Canada.

In Ontario's case, 74 of the takeovers have been allowed. We believe they will likely produce results for us. Nine have been disallowed, which is 11 per cent of the applications, and 40 cases are pending. There have been a number of cases withdrawn as a result of first hand indications that there would be some opposition at one or two of the political levels.

We have asked Mr. Jamieson, through his ministry in Ottawa, to find out if there is not a faster way of processing some of the fairer applications. Members of this House have complained to me that in the case of certain firms being taken over in their communities, the period of time taken by federal agencies, and I suppose by the provincial agency, has been too long.

We have now come to a decision, as of yesterday, that we hope we can cut the time of the process which averages out at about 77 days for each and every application. We hope on certain selected applications, where the employment is 100 or less, the value is \$200,000 or less, to be able to process to completion within a 10-day period.

It might be an opportune time to indicate to those members who have an interest in the White Corp. takeover of Westinghouse Canada Ltd., that it was announced in the federal House today by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce that the White takeover of Westinghouse has been disallowed for the second time. That leaves the case completely open to Westinghouse to make its decision as to which step it wishes to take next in the disposal of its Canadian assets. I only quickly add that in my personal opinion I think the right decision was made. We will wait to see, with the union having an interest in it, and the Canadian interests having an interest in this Westinghouse asset, what will transpire over the next short period of time.

About a year ago we implemented in the ministry an energy management programme to assist industry across the province. We

equipped a bus and put some experts on board, along with a great deal of equipment. We also hired two students from Mohawk Community College. Their job has been to go throughout this province to conduct on-site inspections and make recommendations as to the facilities that they're inspecting when they relate directly to either the consumption of electrical power or to heating of a particular office or factory.

Results have been pleasing, most rewarding, from industry after industry and community after community that they have visited. In a year they have covered 121 plants and they have analysed the heat loss and the overuse of electrical power. Projections would indicate that if the recommendations as put forward under the energy management programme were to be implemented by the industries it would have a potential saving of 18.8 per cent, or something in excess of \$5 million.

I apologize to members of the House, those who have asked us to send the bus into their particular communities. We will try to put in the second unit if it's within financial reason for the ministry and also if we can find the right personnel to run it. It will work on a constant basis throughout this province and I sincerely hope we'll find that its continuation will be pleasing, rewarding and will return financial dividends to the industries examined.

We've also produced for the energy management programme a brochure which has received great acceptance across the province, and of recent days the Baking Council of Canada has requested of our ministry sufficient copies so that they can distribute them to each and every bakery that is a member of their association from coast to coast in this country. I say again, this programme is important and will continue.

On May 4, 5 and 6 of this year in the city of Toronto we shall be holding the Manufacturing Opportunity Show. The show was last held in 1972 and it brings together a great number of companies in this province that are manufacturing goods or have the capability of manufacturing particular types of goods and are now looking for related industries that wish to purchase goods along their particular lines.

I think one of the more important areas of the Manufacturing Opportunity Show is for those industries now importing goods to this country which are unable, in their opinion, to find a supply of goods or a manufacturer in Ontario or Canada. They will

now have the opportunity to display the particular part or parts they are importing to see whether they can locate a Canadian or Ontario manufacturer to supply their needs.

In the venture this year at the Manufacturing Opportunity Show will be a corner of the building set aside to encourage and to give an opportunity to inventors to display their wares and their inventions. That particular area of the show, amazingly enough, has drawn a tremendous amount of interest and the capacity of the show, both for the inventors and in the regular exhibit, has now been exhausted. The show, I think, can be termed a tremendous success.

The 1972 exhibition reported that over \$50 million in new business was generated as a result of the show. I have no doubt that the success story will be as great for this year.

In 1975 the ministry went through the process of putting together 13 industrial sector analyses for the Province of Ontario, looking at industries section by section. I believe that the sector analyses will produce for this province a better understanding of the industries that we should be moving in to protect through our tariff negotiations. It will afford Ontario a better position in putting its positive points to the federal government in the relationship to the GATT negotiations that the federal government will be responsible for.

Both federally and provincially, we have gone about making decisions on tariff regulations, cutting tariffs, putting us into a free-trade position without really truly knowing the industries that we in Ontario and Canada should be putting up a very strong defence for with—I hate to use the word protection—with sufficient tariffs to make that industry continue to survive in the Province of Ontario.

A number of industries over the years, it has been said by federal and provincial people, should be let go because their economic impact on the community wasn't that great. Then we came to realize that some way down the road we had missed out by allowing the industry to slip through our fingers because when the product became a requirement or in a crisis time it wasn't available to us.

I think back to a situation which was decided on about four years ago, that the nylon cord industry in Canada should be allowed to drift to the United States and did. In 1974 when tire production was at its

peak nylon cord wasn't available to Canadian manufacturers and some difficulties happened to arise.

Those are the areas which, through the sector analysis, we hope we will be able to fend off. Copies of the sector analysis have received wide circulation. It is not a definite position of government, it is an opportunity for industry and the associations across this province to analyse and report back to government. I hope eventually that we will be able to draw some very positive conclusions, not only based on the bureaucracy that happens to serve the government but those that work in the private sector as well.

Tourism division: As many in this House will remember, it was reorganized into its present situation in 1973. It brought research, development and marketing into a single co-ordinated division and I think it has produced some very positive results for us. We believe we have a very sophisticated programme which sells the Province of Ontario, northern, eastern and central Ontario, not only to people of our own province and of our own country but in other markets of the world.

We will continue, of course, with our information centres throughout the province, with the 10 permanent ones we have and the 27 seasonal reception centres which have produced very positive and informative results for our people. Ontario has had good fortune in that while some provinces in 1975 lost some of their capacity and some of their tourist trade we were able to continue to improve and expand with an 11 per cent increase in the year 1975.

For every dollar that we spend in the field of promoting tourism in the Province of Ontario our returns statistically are \$260.

Mr. Reid: Does that include Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I shall come to that one.

Mr. Reid: I thought you might.

Mr. Laughren: How about Maple Mountain?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I shall come to that one. I don't think we will have to worry about Maple Mountain. I think it has been well taken care of by some legal actions which satisfy me as the minister, let me assure the member.

The expenditure by Quebec—for every dollar it spends in the field of tourism its return has been \$147; by the federal government,

for each dollar it has spent in the field of promoting tourism, the return has been \$175. So Ontario's programme has been very effective and has produced results for us.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if this would be an appropriate place for the hon. member to move the adjournment of the debate?

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: As previously announced, the member for York Centre has filed notice of dissatisfaction, under standing order 27(g), with the answer given on March 17 concerning the land freeze at the Pickering airport site. In accordance with standing order 28(a), I now deem a motion to adjourn the House to have been made. The hon. member who has expressed his dissatisfaction and an hon. minister may now speak for five minutes each. I will call on the member for York Centre.

LAND FREEZE

Mr. Stong: Thank you, sir. In 1969 the Province of Ontario developed a compatible land use table which dealt with problems of aircraft noise. It was in this context that a document called "The Annex of Understanding, relating to the Proposed New Toronto International Airport at Pickering" was drawn up and agreed upon between the federal and the provincial governments in 1972. Based on that table, a minister's order was issued which in effect froze the development of the land to existing uses. That was almost five years ago.

Immediately after the provincial election in September, 1975, the Premier (Mr. Davis) announced through the media that services essential to the development of the airport were to be withdrawn, thereby effectively cancelling the construction of that airport. Six months later, on March 17, 1976, I asked the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) when the freeze would be lifted, because in view of the announcements of the Premier, why should the government continue to cause hardships to the people of that area?

[10:30]

This most insensitive and oppressive situation can probably be best exemplified by the case of Mr. Albert Roberts. Mr. Roberts is a 67-year-old retired gentleman living in rented

premises on Avenue Rd. in Toronto. He bought 10 acres of land in Markham in 1962 using his entire life savings. His intention was to build a retirement home for him and his wife. The story of the treatment of Albert Roberts by this government as a result of its freeze is a sad one. If it doesn't bring tears to your eyes it surely does to his when he recounts his tale.

His property is in Markham and is located almost two concessions away from where the airport was proposed. He made an application to the planning committee on Aug. 3, 1972, requesting an amendment to the minister's order which froze his vacant land so that he could be permitted to build his retirement home. It was refused. Intervention was eventually made after all legal remedies were exhausted with the then Treasurer of Ontario either to purchase the property or to allow Mr. Roberts to build.

Both requests were refused by letter dated Oct. 24, 1973, over the signature of Donald Irvine, the then parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer, but only until Mr. Roberts could, and I quote, "prove that the rejection had caused him undue hardship." What kind of political games is this government playing—refusing a request, but in the same breath holding out as a carrot the very reason for the request in the first place, namely, undue hardship.

Again, on April 10, 1974, after efforts were made through his ministry for relief, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Handleman) refused. Reams of paper passed between the ministry and Mr. Roberts until Sept. 16, 1975, with Mr. Roberts asking and even pleading for help, on his own and through his then provincial member, Mr. Donald Deacon. But on each occasion he was put off by the ministry.

Then by letter dated Sept. 16, 1975, from the Premier's office, signed Bill Davis, Mr. Roberts received the final put-down. Not three days later the government had reversed its stand on the airport, but six months later again, on March 17, 1976, in answer to my question on the subject, the Treasurer said: "This matter is under consideration by the government."

Mr. Speaker, the freeze around the aborted Pickering site has been under consideration by this government for almost five years. When is it going to quit considering and do something? Six months ago this government announced the effective cancellation of that airport, so why hasn't the freeze been lifted? Why hasn't some relief been given to the people hurting the most?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the hon. member's question by the hon. Treasurer was in fact, I suppose, the only answer that could be given to him, and that is that the matter is under consideration by the government. It is a question of policy. As to what that policy will be, it will be duly announced in this Legislature and for the hon. member to realize. The Treasurer really cannot give any other answer, nor can I as the Minister of Housing, until that policy is established by the government.

I think it is fair to say to the hon. member, though, to suggest as he has that the question of the land freeze has been under consideration by this government for five years is not correct. It is true the freeze was put on in 1972, but it was in September of 1975 that the decision was made not to provide services to that particular site as it related to the airport. So the question of whether the land freeze will be removed or not has only been under consideration, if we wish to use that terminology, since September, 1975. Prior to then, in accordance with the agreement we had entered into with the federal government, the land freeze remained in place under the considerations that that site would probably

be the airport that was being proposed by the federal government.

At the present time, as I think the hon. member knows and other members of this House know, the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has been in discussions with the Minister of Transport in the federal government discussing what the future holds as far as that total area is concerned, because the federal government still has control over the land as it relates to any use for an airport. As far as the government is concerned at this stage, we want to conclude the discussions that are going on between the Minister of Transportation and Communications and the federal government, and at that time a definite position will be taken by this government. We have not removed the freeze at this date—that's quite correct—and when those discussions are complete, then there will be an announcement made as to the future of the land freeze in the area of the Pickering airport.

Mr Speaker: I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Wednesday, March 31, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Before entering upon the business of the day, I know that the House will wish to welcome a distinguished parliamentary visitor in the person of Sir Robin Vanderfelt, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Sir Robin is in Canada for consultations with Premier Regan of Nova Scotia in his capacity of chairman of the executive committee of CPA, and to meet with officials of the Canadian area of the association. Sir Robin is seated in Mr. Speaker's gallery.

May I also at this time just draw attention to the note which should be on your desks—I presume it is—about an event that will take place around 5 o'clock this afternoon. We'd like to see as many of you as possible. In connection with that, the magazine which is referred to there, the *Parliamentarian*, is available in somewhat limited numbers at the entrance to the chamber.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege as a member of this Legislature, and I seek your guidance. I would like to know how the members of this Legislature can transmit to the Ombudsman's office a request to have made available to the members of the Legislature a report on the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Detention Centre and conditions there. The report has been available for several weeks at the Ombudsman's office, and I seek your guidance, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps your help in expressing to the Ombudsman's office our desire to have that report brought before the House.

Mr. Speaker: I'm not familiar with the report. I shall look into it and take whatever action I deem to be necessary. Thank you.

Statements by the ministry.

GAINS INCREASES

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise members that effective April 1,

Ontario GAINS income guarantees are being increased to \$269.30 per month for single pensioners and to \$538.60 per month for married couples, where both spouses qualify for GAINS.

The purpose of these adjustments is to ensure that increases in federal payments resulting from the indexing of old age security pensions and guaranteed income supplements are fully passed on to Ontario's GAINS recipients. Provincial GAINS payments will not be materially changed at this time. Thus, Ontario's maximum monthly GAINS payment to single pensioners will remain at \$38.88; while the maximum for couples will be increased nominally by 40 cents to \$99.04 per month in order to round up federal OAS/GIS payments. However, for the more than 6,000 GAINS recipients who do not qualify for federal OAS/GIS, Ontario's GAINS cheques will be increased by the full amounts of \$4.30 and \$8.60 per month for singles and married couples respectively in line with the increase in overall income guarantee levels.

Members will recall that, in addition to routinely passing on changes in federal OAS/GIS payments, the province has also regularly increased its own GAINS cheques to compensate for cost-of-living increases. Most recently, maximum monthly GAINS cheques were increased in October, 1975 by \$6.02 for singles and \$12.60 for couples; while in January, 1976 they were increased by \$2.85 for singles and \$6.28 for couples.

In summary, the maximum income guarantee level will be raised in April to \$3,231 per year for singles from \$2,600 when the GAINS programme was introduced in July, 1974 and to \$6,462 for married couples from the original level of \$5,200. Over the same period, the number of elderly people benefiting from the GAINS programme has increased from 258,000 to approximately 282,000.

The increases in federal and Ontario payments since the introduction of the GAINS programme in July, 1974 have worked well to protect the elderly from the effects of inflation. We will, of course, continue to re-

view the guaranteed income levels on a regular basis to ensure their continuing adequacy.

RENT REVIEW

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yesterday while answering a question from the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) dealing with rent review, I told the House that so far no appeals have been filed with the Residential Premises Rent Review Board. Since answering that question, on returning to my office yesterday, it came to my attention that in fact four appeals have been lodged by landlords with the board. To the best of my knowledge, no appeals have been filed by tenants at this time.

I just wanted to apologize to the House if my earlier statement was in any way misleading.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to the House on the status of the appeals which have been heard by the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and by myself with respect to the hospitals slated for closing on April 1.

Clearly, since many of the appeals have been received within the past few days, the April 1 closing date previewed at the outset of the programme would be unfair. When the decisions on the appeals are announced, effective dates will also be announced. The closing date of April 1 for the hospitals at Kemptville, Virgil, Bobcaygeon and Copper Cliff stands. The Ministry of Health is now working with these hospitals to ensure appropriate wind-down procedures and caseload transfer.

However, in order for justice to be done to the constructive and informative appeal briefs which have been presented to the government, and in order to discharge responsibly the commitment made by the Minister of Health to the right of appeal, all figures and counter-proposals are being examined very carefully. I might say that, in some cases, the proposals indicate a preparedness to curtail operations or to modify the nature of service offered that is indeed worthy of very careful scrutiny.

The Ministry of Health is pursuing the examination of these appeals with the Premier in an open and positive fashion towards the goal of overall improvement of health delivery in Ontario as set by this government. Despite what may be implied by newspaper

reports, the government has not altered any decisions made with respect to any institutions slated for closing. What is indeed taking place is a careful and open-minded review of the briefs which have been presented, with a view to preparing a decision within the next few days.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: If you had done that in the first place, you would have got the comments at the beginning.

Mr. Speaker: Before I call the next order of business, I would like to point out to the House that we also have another parliamentary visitor with us today from one of our sister Commonwealth countries in the person of Mr. Jack Slater, MP for the Gillis constituency, House of Assembly in South Australia, who is seated under the Speaker's gallery.

Oral questions. The hon. member for Wentworth.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the acting Minister of Health—in fact, I have two or three questions.

Would the minister be able to explain to the House whether the statements that appeared in today's press and which seem to indicate that the government is prepared to consider alternative uses for Doctors Hospital—and I hope that I can assume for all other hospitals—are true; whether the opportunity to provide alternatives will also be made available to all of the other hospitals which are being told that they must close their doors or eliminate their active treatment beds, and how is she going to manage to save the money that she's talking about saving if she is going to allow the change to take place so that it becomes something other than active treatment but is still to be kept in use? What does she have in mind, in other words?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, certainly those hospitals which have appealed for their varied reasons the closures as active treatment institutions must be given the right to have those appeals heard. Their briefs are being heard and they are being read very carefully. There are alternatives which can be, in fact, utilized in some of those institutions and some of them are very reasonable I would think.

The major cost to the health care delivery system in this province is the acute general hospital cost and it is that cost that we are attempting to minimize. There are reasonable alternatives which cost very much less, which perhaps some of these institutions might, in fact, be put to.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Doesn't the minister feel that it might have been more appropriate to have done an evaluation of the health care delivery system of the Province of Ontario with an eye to finding out what those alternatives were and how they could be implemented, rather than disrupting entire communities with this threat of closing?

Hon. B. Stephenson: As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I would doubt that any other jurisdiction in the world has had as many surveys of its health care system as this jurisdiction has. We have a great deal of information about it—

Mr. Reid: How could you make so many mistakes then?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —a great deal of information about it, and that information has all been utilized in the decisions which were taken.

Mr. Cassidy: That doesn't stack up. That's nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Davidson: Your surveys are wrong.

Mr. Deans: If the ministry has already conducted the surveys and if the information has been considered, what new information does the minister now have then that makes the ministry believe that it is possible to change the use to which those hospitals are currently being put in order to keep them in service? Will the minister please show us what rationale she has for either changing her mind, whether you are prepared to extend the same benefits to all other areas, and how it is that we are going to be able to come to conclusions different from the conclusions which she claims she already has reached?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would care to look at various reports which have come from committees of the Ministry of Health—

Mr. Makarchuk: Particularly from Gallup.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —from the council of health of the Province of Ontario over the

last several years, he will find that those suggestions have been put to institutions in the past. It is, unfortunately, only under severe pressure that boards of governors of hospitals apparently are willing to consider this kind of alternative.

Mr. Angus: You've never tried, how do you know?

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, we do have a surplus of active treatment beds in the Province of Ontario related to any other jurisdiction and this must, in fact, be reduced if we are to make the kinds of modifications which will improve our health care system.

Mr. Roy: Why did you build the beds in the first place?

Mr. Speaker: Order please, the member for Hamilton West with a supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: Could the acting minister kindly give us the facts on which she bases the somewhat slanderous statement that hospital boards of governors would otherwise be unprepared to make constructive suggestions? How does she know if she has never asked them? When she finally asked them they were, in her words, "very constructive."

Mr. Speaker: Order please, this is not a debate.

Mr. S. Smith: What are the facts?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the suggestion has been made rather forcefully upon occasion over the past decade to many of them and—

Mr. S. Smith: Oh, come off it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —unfortunately some of them have not considered it. There are institutions—

Mr. Singer: Oh, come on.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Listen to the answer.

Mr. Cassidy: That is balderdash.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there are institutions in this province where, in fact, those suggestions have been taken up. One of the institutions happens to be Chedoke, as a matter of fact, in Hamilton.

Mr. Deans: Are you still closing it?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is a specious remark and the member from the New Democratic Party knows it because we met with him the other day and discussed the problem with him.

Mr. Deans: Nonsense.

Mr. Warner: Did you say inaccurate?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No decision has been taken at the moment on that situation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will have a final supplementary on this question from the member for Huron-Bruce.

[2:15]

Mr. Gaunt: Since the deadline of April 1 has been postponed, does the acting minister have a new deadline in mind with respect to the Clinton Public Hospital closing and will the decision with respect to that institution involve alternate uses?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I had hoped that I had made clear in my statement that the statement was in reference to all of the four institutions whose appeals we are considering at the moment. When the decision is made, the effective dates will be announced as well.

Mr. Roy: May I have a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I said that was a final supplementary. It is developing into a debate. I will call for a new question from the member for Wentworth.

Mr. Roy: How do you arrive at your decision on supplementaries?

Mr. Deans: You will get another chance. Wait a second.

Mr. McNeil: Be around once in a while and you will know what is going on.

Mr. Reid: There is a new rule for every question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CHEDOKE HOSPITAL

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the acting Minister of Health related to the same matter: Can the minister provide the rationale for her own statement that one of the hospitals that did in fact comply and attempt to

comply with the suggestions of the ministry was Chedoke and that the ministry still went ahead in spite of their efforts and tried to close the beds?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think that that is misrepresentation because we did not try to close the beds. The letter was sent as a suggestion because we did not have any other suggestions from the district health council at that time. The decision has been made to ask the district health council to make recommendations to the ministry to resolve this dilemma for the Hamilton bed situation, and we are hoping that they will do that on behalf of the citizens of that area.

Mr. Cassidy: Can the minister explain why she now says that? Hospital boards of governors have been ignoring ministry advice for the past 10 years.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: Then will she say why the government has approved so many thousands of beds?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member take his seat? Does the member for Wentworth have further questions?

INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

Mr. Deans: Yes, I have another question for the acting Minister of Health. Can the minister indicate what discussions have taken place between her ministry and the federal Ministry of Health with regard to the inoculations for swine flu? Can she indicate the rationale that is going to be used by this province in terms of who are going to receive the inoculations, how they are going to be administered and how they are going to be paid for?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, discussions are still taking place regarding this matter but it has been a federal-provincial decision that the federal government will be responsible for securing the vaccine. The federal government will provide for the provinces all the vaccine which it can acquire. It depends entirely upon the amount which is available to the Province of Ontario and other provinces, I would presume, but certainly to this province, which people will be inoculated.

If we have enough to inoculate the entire population, then I would propose that we should do so, with the reservation that those who are allergic to vaccines produced on egg

yolk would not be inoculated or would be inoculated in a different fashion. If we do not have sufficient vaccine to inoculate the entire population, it is proposed that those people who would be most highly at risk will be inoculated and we propose to use the health units throughout the province to do so.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question: Does the ministry intend to have a fee attached to this? It was indicated this morning that the federal government thought the costs might range between 60 cents and \$1 per inoculation. Is it the intention of the Province of Ontario to recover that directly through OHIP or is it going to be provided free?

Hon. B. Stephenson: That decision has not as yet been made. We are hoping, as I said, to use the services of the health units to provide the vaccine so that there should be no fee for the inoculation procedure itself. For the material, the decision has not been made.

Mr. S. Smith: Will the minister tell us will the vaccine contain immunization against types A and B viruses as well as swine flu, as we have been advised by some experts would be desirable?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There are two vaccines available and it depends, I suppose, on which is going to be more readily available to us. There will be a monovalent and a polyvalent vaccine available. It is hoped that those people at very high risk at least would acquire the polyvalent vaccine. Those at lower risk might acquire the monovalent vaccine.

BENEFITS INCREASES

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services, if I may, flowing from the statement of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). Is it the intention of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to make adjustments to the social family service benefits paid and to the general welfare assistance provided similar to those which are currently being made by the Ministry of Revenue for those under the GAINS programme?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have no plans at this time to do that.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question. Might I ask the minister how he proposes that people—

Mrs. Campbell: Send them to work.

Mr. Deans: —in receipt of those benefits, the disabled and others, are going to be able to meet the rising costs of living in the Province of Ontario?

Mr. Bounsall: They're behind now.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As the member knows, there has been a difference in rates. At one time they were kept parallel; that has lapsed and the intention isn't to keep those two rates consistent.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions?

Mr. Deans: One supplementary: Does the minister feel that somehow or other the disabled and others in the Province of Ontario don't feel the effects of the inflation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As the hon. member knows, the rate he is talking about, in terms of increases, certainly from the federal government, are geared to the cost of living index and they become automatic.

Mr. Deans: That's what GAINS was supposed to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. It's not based on need. Our programmes are based on needs testing, so total income is taken into consideration in terms of supplementation.

Mr. Deans: Is the ministry ready to make adjustments?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have no plans at this time.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. Deans: I have one final question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Can the minister indicate whether he has yet looked into the whole matter of the investment of capital by the president and his assistant at the Seneca College? Does he feel it appropriate that colleges, funded almost entirely, if not entirely, out of public funds, should be permitted to invest those public funds as they see fit? And does he think that perhaps some investigation of the matter might be carried out to determine whether or not it ought to be followed in this province?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm prepared to say to the hon. member that a statement in greater depth will be made shortly on that particular question. I replied in part last week to a

similar question. I would like to refrain, in fact I will not answer in greater detail at this time; but I will, in the next week, give a more detailed answer to the member's question.

Mr. Deans: By way of supplementary: Is the minister able to indicate, as a matter of policy, whether he deems it appropriate for public institutions to use public tax dollars to invest at the whim of the president and his helper?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No, I don't think public funds should be invested at the whim of the president or his administration, but I think there are some positive rules established and perhaps in the not too distant future we will be able to identify more positive guidelines in this respect.

At the moment, from any information I have, there is no doubt there is no mishandling of those funds. I think the amounts are adequate, not in excess of what is required in the way of surplus. There might be individual colleges with perhaps a larger share than some of the others. If one views the system in total, I'm quite convinced those funds are only a normal and adequate amount to handle the liabilities they could expect to have.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Is this a supplementary? The member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Is the minister aware of the fact that the figure quoted last week of an excess of \$2 million, in the most recent statement is now \$3.4 million; and that that represents about 15 per cent of the budget of that particular college?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Yes, I'm fully aware of all the facts and figures. As I indicated earlier, I'll make a more extensive statement in the next week or so.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Is the minister aware that while the college has been accumulating more than \$200,000 a year in interest, seven faculty members have been fired as of September of 1976 from the diploma nursing programme?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think it would be quite unfair to relate those two particular events. There are some very definite problems with the number of nurses who are needed in this province.

Mr. Davidson: As a result of your policies.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: It made good sense to ask the community colleges to reduce the number of people that they are accepting into their programme. I think the member would agree with me that right now there is a very considerable surplus in the number of qualified nurses in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I fail to see where that was a supplementary to the first question; I didn't get the portent of it earlier.

FUNDS WITHHELD FROM HOSPITALS

Mr. S. Smith: Another question for the acting Minister of Health. It's her day today.

Mr. Foulds: It was her day yesterday.

Mr. Martel: Out playing tennis?

Mr. S. Smith: Would she confirm a claim made by the Ontario Hospital Association that \$16 million was being withheld from hospitals over the past two months because of insufficient funds. When will she make up this shortfall?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that claim because I do not have that information. I shall investigate, however.

Mr. S. Smith: I will undertake to send the information to the minister.

USE OF COAL BY HYDRO

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of the Environment: Will the minister table this government's copy of the letter by the federal Deputy Minister of the Environment expressing concern about Hydro's plans to continue burning coal to produce energy for export to the United States?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I understand, Mr. Speaker, that that letter went to the National Energy Board. I don't imagine there is any problem in getting a copy of it, and if I do I will table it. All I would want to say at this time is that Hydro has been importing low sulphur coal from the United States for a number of years, and it isn't for the prime purpose of exporting hydro to the United States. This is to supplement high sulphur coal that is used from Canadian sources so that our ambient air quality standards can be met.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Is the minister in disagreement with the views of his director of the environmental protection service who gave the opinion that the environment would be poisoned unnecessarily if the exports are approved? It's the minister's own director who said that.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That was an official of Environment Canada.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary: Doesn't he feel himself, as Minister of the Environment, some concern about the fact that we are importing coal, burning it here, and polluting this area to export electricity to the US? As a principle, doesn't he sort of have concern about that for the future?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member how he would fire a coal-generating plant unless he used coal, and we are using the highest grade coal to do just that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Hamilton West, further questions.

Mr. Roy: That got you excited. That woke you up did it, Bill?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have been here for two weeks, where have you been?

Mr. Roy: I finally woke you up over there.

Mr. S. Smith: They're being very provocative, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: I will try to involve the Treasurer in something more constructive, Mr. Speaker. I will ask him a question so that he doesn't have to be out of order in his answers.

PROPOSED PLAN FOR ONTARIO

Mr. S. Smith: Will the Treasurer confirm that a proposed plan for Ontario will be released next week?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: Oh, you are a real genius.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, order. Supplementary question.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Will the plan that has been referred to in the news-

papers, of which the Treasurer I am sure is aware, just be another vague strategy such as the Toronto-centred region plan which is now 10 years old, or will it in fact be a real land-use plan with mechanisms for implementation?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, if, as and when these plans are tabled we will know those answers.

Mr. Roy: Are you proud of him, Bill?

Mr. S. Smith: This is another supplementary. These answers of course are very helpful, Mr. Speaker, and I would love to hear more of them. Will the plans supersede or elaborate upon the COLUC report?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the world will unfold as it will and we will know that next week.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: That's beautiful; I really like that one. In fact, you should patent that, that's very original.

[2:30]

PAYMENT TO DRAKE PERSONNEL

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Having had two weeks now to find out the answer, would the minister inform this House just how much is being paid to Drake Personnel for the hiring and paying of the rent review personnel? Will the minister tell us the terms of this contract?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the contract was entered into by the Chairman of Management Board and I believe he has that information.

Mr. S. Smith: May I redirect it, please, to the Chairman of Management Board?

Hon. Mr. Auld: I'm just looking for it.

Mr. Reid: There goes the question period.

Mr. Nixon: Get out the marbles.

Mr. Reid: You just happen to have a 12-page document.

Hon. Mr. Auld: I just happen to have it here.

Mr. Nixon: He said "how much money?"

Mr. S. Smith: We don't have the time to waste.

Mr. Speaker: I presume the hon. minister is going to start on page 2?

Mr. Reid: From one we get nothing; from the other, we get too much.

Mr. Roy: Can we revert to statements?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; let's get on with the answer.

Hon. Mr. Auld: On Dec. 9, 1975—

Mr. S. Smith: Please table it; we don't mind if he wants to table it. I don't want to ruin the whole question period with this sort of farce, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ruston: Time up, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I ask the hon. minister if it is a lengthy answer?

Mr. Reid: If it is the minister's, it has to be lengthy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member from Hamilton West indicated he would be happy with tabling it if it is lengthy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is obviously not of public importance or you never would have asked.

Mr. S. Smith: The way it is being treated is farcical, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Auld: I will attempt to give a synopsis and table the whole report.

Mr. Speaker: It is obviously an important question so we will hear the answer at least.

Hon. Mr. Auld: On Dec. 15, 1975, tender proposals were sent to three firms which were recommended by the Association of Professional Placement Agencies as having the capability to meet the province-wide requirements of the rent review programme. Only two of them tendered.

Mr. S. Smith: I didn't ask if there were tenders. I have just said, Mr. Speaker, that the question was how much is being paid? It is a simple question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It's too early to tell yet.

Hon. Mr. Auld: The contract called for the provision of 277 trained clerical stenographers, typists, clerks, other support personnel and administrative officers—

Mr. S. Smith: And they all lived together in a candy house in a forest.

Hon. Mr. Auld: —with salaries and wages equal to equivalent positions in the civil service plus 11.8 per cent for employee benefits and for replacements of those who came and then left.

Mr. Singer: That still wasn't the question.

Hon. Mr. Auld: The contract total is in the amount of \$1.6 million; approximately \$416,000 or 34 per cent of the total salary cost represents charges for employee benefits and the service fee. The service fee alone represents 22 per cent and that service fee covers all the personnel costs of administering this group.

Mr. Singer: How much was that?

Hon. Mr. Auld: The only administration paid by the government is the head office clerk. I will table the entire report.

Mr. S. Smith: Was it \$350,000? Approximately?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Would the Chairman of Management Board care to explain to the House why we didn't use the offices of Canada Manpower?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Yes, indeed, because Canada Manpower can supply personnel but not offices, office furniture and administration of that personnel; nor the actual interviewing of staff, and the replacement of them if they didn't turn out to be effective.

Mr. Deans: Office furniture?

Interjections:

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is that the answer?

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain to us why he spent \$352,000 and did not avail himself of the personnel services of the Province of Ontario and save that money?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, to employ people in all parts of the province through the central office of the Civil Service Commission would not be possible. The personnel departments of all the ministries are in Toronto, and they don't have to hire overnight about 300 people.

Mr. Nixon: I thought that is what they were there for.

Mr. R. S. Smith: How does the minister know?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will have a final supplementary from the member for Windsor-Sandwich.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, can the Chairman of the Management Board tell us why Drake Personnel was not asked in its hiring to contact the local Canada Manpower offices for referrals from them which, in many cases, was not done—certainly in Windsor—or to place a specific ad—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the question was asked.

Mr. Bounsall: —for rent control officers rather than the general ad which was placed?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, one of the specifications in the tender call was that the personnel provided will be recruited in accordance with the provisions of existing employment practices legislation which, I assume, would certainly imply to me that they would go to Manpower if they needed to.

Mr. Deans: What is the minister in charge of? Couldn't he have got the furniture?

TRAINING OF MINERS

Mr. Germa: I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities with reference to the committee inquiring into the matter of miners becoming a certified trade group. Now that the Ontario Mining Association has effectively frustrated the work of this committee, what is his next move in this regard?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Later today I had hoped to make a rather extensive statement in regard to the Speech from the Throne on the Industrial Training Council. I think matters of this nature are just prime opportunities for that industrial council to come effectively to grips with that kind of problem, and I'm sure it will do so in the not too distant future.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary: Isn't it a fact that the ministry and the government officials were the ones who scuttled any possibility of establishing a mining certificate for miners?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I don't believe so.

MINAKI LODGE

Mr. Reid: I have a question of the Minister of Industry and Tourism in regard to

his white elephant in northwestern Ontario. Can he explain how the cost of Minaki Lodge has escalated by \$3 million in the last year? Can he confirm whether or not—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Does your brother John know you are asking these questions?

Mr. Reid: —that just the maintenance charges of the lodge, which we understand will not be opened now for at least four years, are in fact \$30,000 per month? Is this part of his government's restraint programme?

Mr. S. Smith: They catch poisoned fish, mind you.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: To answer the last part of the question first, yes, it is part of the constraint programme of the government of the Province of Ontario, that they have decided to forego the completion.

Mr. Nixon: No wonder you are so successful. That is the way you save money.

Mr. S. Smith: Close hospitals and open lodges.

Mr. Nixon: That is why taxes are going up.

Mr. Reid: You could keep a few hospital beds open that way with that money.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: It's your time. We decided to defer the completion of the Minaki reconstruction programme in light of the constraint programme. Inasmuch as we've cut back in other areas in this province, we thought it was essential that we should also defer the final operation of Minaki.

As to the \$3-million figure, I'm not quite sure where the member happened to arrive at that cost. It was clearly said in this House at the time we took back Minaki Lodge, that we brought it under the ownership of the Province of Ontario so that it would not fall into the hands of the first mortgagees who happened to be Americans.

Mr. Reid: They can't afford it now.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: We clearly indicated that they would automatically have held it. Whether they could afford it or not, the fact is that they would have become heir to it because of defaults in payments on the mortgage.

Mr. Nixon: They don't want to pay that \$30,000 a month.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I indicated clearly at the time that we were going to do a refurbishing job on the lodge at a total cost in the range, in addition to the buy-back rights, of \$5 million.

Mr. Davidson: Who can afford to stay there?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: As to the cost of maintaining this lodge over the next period of time, I'm not sure of the monthly cost, but we will continue to operate Pistol Point Park that is presently on site.

Mr. S. Smith: Who wants to stay there to catch poisoned fish?

Mr. Davidson: Who could afford to stay there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Rainy River may have a supplementary.

Mr. Reid: Is the minister aware that the executive director of the tourism division is quoted as giving the \$6.3-million figure? Will the minister table in this House the cost; who the contractors are; and what is being paid for this sum of money? Will he table all the costs that he has to date and will he give us an idea of when this place may be open?

Mr. Foulds: It is already on the order paper.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: First of all, on the point of \$6.3 million—I've answered the question in the first part of the member's question—clearly it cost us, to buy back and to pay off the ODC loan that was outstanding as well as the first mortgage with the American firm, in excess of \$1 million. It was \$1,250,000. In addition to that, I indicated to this House that we would spend \$5 million in refurbishing and trying to put Minaki back into operation.

Mr. Singer: Isn't that awful? It's unbelievable!

Mr. Reid: But you have spent that much and it's not open.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That money has now been spent; that is correct, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The member is absolutely right. There is a further extension to

the plan, because we said it would be a phased operation, and we have the first phase completed. We have postponed the second phase. As to tabling the figures, I shall take that under advisement.

Mr. Reid: We didn't know you made a contract with a millionaire. A white elephant.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A final supplementary, the member for Fort William.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Industry and Tourism would now consider placing the Minaki Lodge development on the auction block to recoup the millions of dollars that the Province of Ontario spent on this project, in order that we may have some more money to spend on our hospitals and secondary industry in north-eastern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Do you want to sell it to the Americans? I thought you were a socialist.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am the one who first said that as far as I was concerned the lodge should go back into private hands, and over the last two years we have attempted with the federal agencies, as well as our own ODC and our own ministry, to secure an outside purchaser.

Mr. Singer: They are all white elephants.

Mr. S. Smith: Everybody wants a white elephant.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: You know, I have a great deal of advice from over there and they should know a great deal about white elephants in that party, let me assure them.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, if we are to dispose—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: —of this particular operation, or lodge, it will have to be brought to a completion and be first in operation. I would hope that the first step to persuade it to go back into private hands is that we'll have a private firm of hotel operators that would participate with the province at the completion date. Then, if the project obviously becomes a financial success, or can be a viable one in the private hands, it will likely go in that direction.

Mr. Reid: It will never be viable.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: As long as it is losing money, keep it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

LAYOFFS OF WORKERS

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour: With reference to plant layoffs, would the minister consider requiring plants which have layoffs of fewer than 50 in number to give notification to the ministry in order that it may try to be of assistance to those people who lose their employment?

Mr. Deans: Try to be of assistance? They are creating unemployment.

Mr. Kennedy: Also, would the ministry re-examine some of the assistance that is offered to see if it can be of further help to those employees who are laid off?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the ministry is at this time examining the termination legislation with a view to making modifications which will make it more equitable for all workers who may be laid off. There are mechanisms now which can be used in conjunction with Manpower which the ministry does, in fact, establish when the company laying off employees, or the union to which those employees belong, makes application to the ministry for that kind of assistance.

Mr. Deans: Are you going to give them jobs in the hospitals?

FALCONBRIDGE SMELTER EMISSIONS

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of "the statesman," if I can get his attention.

Mr. Hodgson: Jealous, Elie?

Mr. Martel: Well no, there is only one in the House, and I want to recognize it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who, me?

Mr. Martel: On Feb. 5, I wrote to the minister concerning the conditions at Falconbridge smelter and he replied recently stating the following: "These time-weighted studies are being done in the smelter and form the basis for providing relief where and when required."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Is this question directed to me?

Mr. Martel: Yes, you are the statesman. Could the minister tell me, based on the directive by Falconbridge that men cannot leave their place of work until concentrations of SO_2 have reached 15 parts per million, how that corresponds to the ministry policy of five parts per million over an eight-hour period?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I didn't catch the first part of the member's question. I wonder if he would repeat it?

Mr. Martel: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wrote the minister about the conditions at Falconbridge since the layoff and the minister responded to my letter recently stating: "These time-weighted studies are being done in the smelter and form the basis for providing relief where and when required."

Based on Falconbridge's instructions of recent date that the men could not leave the place of work until concentrations of SO_2 gas have reached 15 parts per million, how in fact are the men supposed to know that they can leave a work place which has been over-exposed, based on the fact that the ministry's criterion is five parts per million and the company is saying they can't get out until it is 15 parts per million?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to look into that detail and report back to the hon. member.

Mr. Martel: Would the minister at the same time tell me when was the last time an inspection was conducted at the Falconbridge operation, for both gas and dust?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to get that information.

Mrs. Campbell: That's a new question.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, a question of the acting Minister of Health: Will the minister tell this House if there is a surplus of chronic beds in the Perth area and, further, confirm a report that attempts by the Great War Memorial Hospital in the town of Perth to get chronic beds have been thwarted?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I don't think any attempts made by the board of that hospital have been thwarted at all. As a matter of fact, the hospital board and a committee of the ministry is examining the bed requirements and the situation in Perth at length right at the moment.

Mr. Conway: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does it concern the acting Minister of Health that her parliamentary assistant, the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) is perhaps in a position of conflict of interest, given the position of Wiseman private hospital and the chronic care bed situation there?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry; I can't hear the member.

Mr. Speaker: No answer?

Mr. Nixon: She said she couldn't hear.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry; I can't hear the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Conway: Doesn't it concern the minister in any way that her parliamentary assistant, the member for Lanark, given the fact that there is some family ownership in the Wiseman private hospital which is involved in chronic care beds there—does that potential for conflict of interest concern her? Would she inform us of that?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that any such statement has been made by a member of this Legislature—

Mr. Nixon: You mean it does not concern you?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —about an individual who has worked diligently on behalf of the Ministry of Health and on behalf of the people of Ontario. If a conflict of interest could be construed to exist, I shall most certainly investigate it, but I really do not like the innuendo that this individual has made.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Are you going to run for leader now? You have got the qualifications.

An hon. member: He ought to apologize.

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would simply state that because we have in this province a set of guidelines governing the conflict of interest potential on behalf of members of the ministerial bench, I thought perhaps we might be given a similar set of circumstances governing parliamentary assistants.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of privilege on the part of the hon. member.

Mr. Cassidy: A supplementary: In view of the minister's answer, will the minister return to this House within a couple of days and give us a specific statement about the possible

conflict of interest involved in the parliamentary assistant's wife running a private hospital in the area?

Mr. Speaker: Any answer? The member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Cassidy: There is no answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: What is the matter with that?

Mr. S. Smith: The minister is closing chronic beds there, but she has some chronic beds.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize the minister is entitled to refuse to reply but I would put on the record that the minister is refusing to reply.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Why doesn't the minister stand up?

An hon. member: Don't get so mad.

TEACHER-BOARD DISPUTES

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Premier: In view of the Premier's statement yesterday in reply to a question from the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) with regard to the Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie teacher-board negotiations, and on the understanding the cabinet considered the situations this morning, was he aware in his deliberations of a memorandum sent out March 8 by the Ontario School Trustees Council, which says:

However, under no circumstances should a school board agree to final-offer selection or arbitration on matters that are not directly related to salaries and fringe benefits. Matters relating to the control, nature and policy of the educational programme should not be left to third party adjudication.

Mr. S. Smith: Is this a speech or what?

Mr. Mancini: Is this a speech?

Mr. Foulds: Does the Premier not find that an obstructionist memorandum? Does the Premier not think that it could lead to bad-faith bargaining and does he not think that the ERC should look into it to see if it actually contravenes sections 3 and 9 of the School Board and Teachers' Collective Negotiations Act?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the particular document. I'd be delighted to bring it to the attention of the ERC. I sense that documents are sent out by both sides in these negotiations, perhaps even by the teaching profession from time to time, and I don't examine these either. I'd be delighted to bring it to the attention of ERC.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: In view of the four or five outstanding disputes that we've had in the last few months, and in view of the reluctance of the trustees in these cases to go to voluntary arbitration, does the Premier not think that the government should examine—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There's a conflict of interest for you right there.

Mr. Foulds: —whether or not they are involved in a concerted effort to avoid one of the legitimate routes provided for in Bill 100?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am only going by memory, but I think my memory is correct, and I mentioned it to the hon. member's leader yesterday. I could be wrong, but I recall that the Metro Toronto school board did suggest they would go to voluntary arbitration and this was not accepted by the teaching profession. The hon. member is saying that in his view now the legislation should be amended to make voluntary arbitration in fact—

Mr. Foulds: That's not what I said.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right. All I'm saying is he can't have it both ways. If he is saying that this should be really the case for both sides—

Mr. Foulds: All we want is enactment of the legislation in the way it was designed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that's tremendous, but please don't just put it on one side, as is that party's custom.

BROWNDALÉ OPERATIONS

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health: Will the acting minister tell the House if the audit that has been ordered into the affairs of Browndale Ontario is complete?

Hon. B. Stephenson: To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, they are not as yet complete. When they are, I shall be pleased to report on them.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will this be tabled in the House?

Hon. Mr. Stephenson: I shall most certainly report about the audit, Mr. Speaker. I shall have to check about the total report.

DAYCARE OPERATIONS OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Ms. Sandeman: A question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Is the minister aware that the ceiling imposed on expenditures of Children's Aid Societies has forced the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society to seriously consider closing its daycare centre? Further, would the minister assure this House that he considers daycare centres run by Children's Aid Societies are part of the essential protective and child care services provided by the societies, and that budgetary allowance must be made for their operation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, there are two parts to that.

Mrs. Campbell: That is obvious.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In reply to the first part, no, I don't accept that there's going to be any deterioration of service in connection with that Children's Aid Society or any Children's Aid Society in this province. I may say—

Mr. Moffatt: I don't believe it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —for the information of the members, that last year the average increase of all Children's Aid Societies—

Mr. Davidson: It's they who are saying it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in Ontario was 22.9 per cent; in other words, almost a 23 per cent increase over the year before.

Mr. Moffatt: Who is this guy?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: This year, they will be given another 5½ per cent over last year's funding, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deans: Whether it is adequate or not.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Additionally, I am reviewing every Children's Aid Society's budget to ensure—

Mr. Moffatt: Answer, answer.

Mr. Makarchuk: Will somebody pull the plug on the tape?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that no child will suffer because of the constraint programme. And that, of course, includes this society to which the member refers. That's the first part of the question.

As to the second part, insofar as daycare centres are concerned, normally daycare centres that are subsidized are either operated by the municipalities themselves or else they enter into contracts with the owners—

Mr. Moffatt: He talks automatically and makes no sense.

Mr. Davidson: If the minister has a statement, please table it in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and operators of those Children's Aid Societies—

An hon. member: Sit down, baldy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —so that they are eligible for provincial funding.

Mrs. Campbell: If he doesn't know the answer, surely he can be short and say so?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, as members know, provincial subsidies in terms of operating costs of daycare centres—

Mr. Moffat: Do you believe yourself?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in this province will be about \$27 million in the current fiscal year.

Ms. Sandeman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a short supplementary?

Ms. Sandeman: Yes, a very short supplementary.

Mr. Singer: Shorter than the answer.

Mr. Nixon: Ask Michael Houlton.

Ms. Sandeman: I had some difficulty following the convolutions of the answer, but I understand—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the question.

Ms. Sandeman: Did I understand the minister to say that he did not consider the closing of a daycare centre to represent a deterioration of the service offered?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I didn't say that. If the member had listened, she would have heard the answer.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: Well, what can you say—

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Has the ministry yet decided which insecticide will be used in Ontario in the mosquito control programme to prevent encephalitis outbreaks this summer?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand the insecticide being recommended by the pesticide advisory committee is Abate.

Mr. Reid: Yes, that is the one we were going to recommend.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary: Could the minister tell me why the larvicides Altosid and Flit MDL were not on the ministry's approved list because they are very safe and non-toxic to humans, even more so than Abate?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the application for approval of that particular larvicide wasn't made to the advisory committee in time for this particular season—in the event that there is any problem this season.

Really, the article in today's Star and the answer by Mr. Ruf would be our answer. This is information that he gets from the advisory committee and basically, as it said, Altosid is only in its testing stage and does not act on all species of mosquitoes and is not as effective as Abate.

Contrary to what the hon. member has said, Abate is considered just as safe as the other one recommended.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Lawlor from the standing private bills committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the Borough of Scarborough;

Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the Township of Nepean.

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr2, An Act respecting the Township of Wicksteed.

Hon. Mr. Snow presented the annual report of the Ontario Highway Transport Board for the calendar year 1975.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry presented the first annual report of the Ministry of the Attorney General for the year 1974-1975 for the consideration of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is too much background noise in the chamber. Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: There is too much foreground nonsense as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister with a further report.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, in response to a request from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), I am pleased to table a report of the air quality assessment of United Asbestos to which I have referred publicly on a number of occasions. I have also included a copy of my own ministry's report which shows that the levels of asbestos fibres from that particular plant are slightly higher. The members would also be glad to know, I am sure, that the meetings at Matachewan and Kirkland Lake to which I referred publicly will take place on April 13 and 14.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

Orders of the day—I am sorry, there is a bill; I didn't notice it. The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.

Mr. Mancini: Stand up, Frank.

Mr. Drea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought perhaps the sound system hadn't improved since my remarks yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: And you didn't do it any good?

ABORTION REFERRAL REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. Drea moves first reading of bill intitled, An Act to register the Referring of Abortions.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, the bill provides for: 1. The registration of individuals charging a fee for referring individuals outside of

Canada for abortion; 2. The bonding of abortion referrers; 3. The setting aside of abortion referral fees in a trust account pending the results of post-operative medical examination by the local medical officer of health of the woman who has undergone the abortion.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. Minister of Industry and Tourism.

Mr. Cassidy: That's the \$28,000 man.
[3:00]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I shall conclude my remarks in spite of the sarcasm of the member for Ottawa Centre. That's fine. He can keep it any way he wants it, sir.

May I continue with the programme of tourism and its development? In my concluding remarks yesterday evening, I indicated the return we are receiving in Ontario for a dollar spent and related it and compared it to the Canadian expenditure and to the Province of Quebec's expenditure for promoting tourism. There have been some great success stories in the tourism field for us.

Last year 56 per cent of all the Americans travelling in Canada came to the Province of Ontario as the principal destination for their holiday period. That's a remarkable increase, because in 1967 that figure was 46 per cent. Through extra expenditures and wise placing of advertising, it is now 56 per cent. We hope that in this year of the Olympics in Montreal we will retain that percentage for the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if we could have a little less noise in the House so that we could hear the hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Province of Ontario was fortunate to produce for the economy, through the field of tourism, \$2.6 billion which is a very substantial return to the individual communities. Just short of \$1 billion of these funds was from our American visitors to Ontario.

Tourism missions have been taken by our ministry to the European market on three

occasions in the last two years. I can sincerely report that the success story as a result of those missions is more than worth the cost to the province that is expended by the ministry. The last mission was to England and Scotland a week ago and I am pleased to report, having discussed the situation with some of the people on the mission, that they felt after the first day or two on the mission that the journey was indeed worth their time.

We shall continue to promote tourism for central, eastern and northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are too many conversations being carried on.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The objective in promoting tourism to northern Ontario is to try to increase its percentage of the overall expenditures in the province. At the moment we have about 18 per cent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are too many conversations being carried on during the throes of this debate. Would the hon. members kindly give courtesy to the hon. minister so that he may continue his remarks?

Mr. Bullbrook: I suggest you name this fellow.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I was indicating, Mr. Speaker, that the objective of the ministry between now and 1980 is to try to increase the revenue position of the overall tourist market for northern Ontario from its present 18 per cent to a 26 per cent level, and we believe that can be achieved.

Let me for a moment just mention that we have gone along with the government's programme of decentralization from the city of Toronto and Queen's Park to try to offer our services in the various areas of the province. Over the last three years we have been fortunate enough to establish 21 field offices in this province which we believe now serve the individual communities on a much more sophisticated basis than we could achieve from a central point here in the city.

Mr. Cassidy: Nothing has been achieved from that.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: While some people say nothing has been achieved, I would suggest that if one would open his eyes and look around, he might find there has been a fair amount of achievement even in eastern Ontario as well as in the northern part of our province. When one does not want to look at the situation openly—

Mr. Cassidy: Talk to Smiths Falls about that. They are beside themselves trying to get assistance.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Smiths Falls has had the assistance of this ministry and if the member would just listen for a moment, we are also assisting the people in the field of opening up their new municipal industrial park.

Mr. Cassidy: They weep when they come to Toronto. There is more industry along a mile of the 401 than in all of eastern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: There is no doubt that there are certain advantages along 401. That's why we have some incentive programmes in our ministry, to try to encourage industry to locate in various parts of the province where not all of the services are as conveniently located as one might find in this part of our province.

Mr. Cassidy: But those programmes aren't working.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Very clearly the programmes have been working. Municipalities have been applying for them and I will give the member the facts and figures.

Five hundred and seven industries last year made application for and received financial assistance through the loan programmes of NODC, ODC and EODC for a total of \$89 million, a sum far exceeding anything we have had in the years prior to this. May I say that over \$22 million went into the tourism field to develop and enhance that programme, something we have never achieved before. I think it's a step in the right direction. Eastern Ontario and northern Ontario were the two parts of the province which principally received those funds, and I think it speaks well for the interest of those communities in developing their industrial programmes and getting on with creating meaningful employment.

Mr. Cassidy: Does six per cent unemployment represent success?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, at the moment we are in the process of implementing the completion of the programme for municipal industrial parks under the Ontario Land Corp. and with the Ontario Development Corp. I am pleased to report that at this stage there have been some 40 applications by municipalities across the Province of Ontario. The incentive, of course, as was clearly indicated in the time of the legislation, will

be that in the first year there will be no interest charged and the amount of interest charged in the second, third, fourth and fifth years will increase proportionately. The interest rate has yet to be established, but I hope that will be achieved this afternoon at a Management Board meeting that we are having.

I say to the members of the Legislature that there are many programmes within the ministry that have been functioning extremely well. Trade conditions have changed in the world and are continuing to change. We have to be able to modify our programmes that would be compatible with the federal programmes so that they might succeed in moving Canadian products out of the Province of Ontario into foreign markets and so that we can succeed in luring new industries from other countries of the world to relocate in the Province of Ontario. That is going to be one of our principal objectives.

As I said last evening, another key point at this stage of the game in the field of trading is to put together turnkey operations so that we can sell completely Canadian packages. And I use the word "Canadian," because while a great deal of the content of goods in any package being sold by Canadians comes from the Province of Ontario, if we are going to be successful we're going to have to blend together all of the industries and capabilities that are at our fingertips here in Canada.

Mr. Cassidy: Does six per cent unemployment represent success?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the question has been clearly placed, does six per cent unemployment indicate a success story? I would trust that the member who spoke would use a little more good judgement, if he has any, and consider the fact that six per cent is not an unusual figure at this time in world terms. If we look around the world, we see unemployment situations in England, France and other countries; there is a world economic situation that Ontario is not going to change alone.

Mr. Cassidy: And we have one of the highest rates in the industrial world.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: But we certainly can contribute to changing it by the constraint programme that this government has brought in; and with a little bit of encouragement by certain people in the community for people to work towards achieving those goals, maybe we can turn the economic situation of this prov-

ince around and thereby also enhance the employment opportunities at this time and move down the road. But it's not all going to be accomplished in one night.

Mr. Cassidy: But you've had 32 years to turn the situation around.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: May I say that if we're going to look at the last 30 years, maybe we should look at the low points of unemployment. Economics have trends up and down; governments for years have tried to find ways to level them out, and not with the greatest degree of success that they would like.

Mr. Cassidy: That's what we're saying.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: We're going through one such period at the moment, and I'm sure that we shall be successful, because we have people in this party and in this government who are prepared to apply themselves to the challenge at hand to bring things back into line.

Mr. Cassidy: The long-term rate of unemployment keeps going up under your government.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I conclude my remarks by saying that I am very much aware of the fact that there is an unemployment situation in the Province of Ontario and in Canada. I also am aware of the fact that through the loan programmes and the incentive programmes of this government we have been able to lure new industry into the Province of Ontario and to find employment for roughly 125,000 new bodies on the market annually over the last five years. That's an accomplishment.

Mr. Cassidy: New bodies?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Employment for bodies, yes.

Mr. Cassidy: Do you mean men and women?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Sure, he can sit there and laugh. He wouldn't know what it is to work, because he has never had to go out and work; he has lived from the public trough all his life.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the member is clearly upset. Would he withdraw that remark, because I've obviously worked in the private sector for many years before coming to work in the Ontario Legislature?

Mr. Germa: How about selling insurance?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Selling insurance is a good occupation, one that the British Colum-

bia government destroyed very nicely and one that I hope the present BC government will have enough encouragement to put back into the private hands to run it profitably, rather than having a \$350-million deficit after five years.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This member was drawing \$50,000 a year from the public trough in his first couple of years here when he became a parliamentary assistant and was still on Ottawa city council.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I fully recognize the fact of what I was drawing; I've been through at least two elections since then, and I'm sure it has been obvious that the public has agreed I should have received that sum of money.

Mr. Cassidy: You wait until next time. You don't have a safe seat any more.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: There's always a next time for the hon. member too, and we'll make sure we have the right candidate that will fix him.

Interjections.

Mr. Moffat: A contract.

Mr. Cassidy: Is that right? I've heard about your right candidate, and your candidate is a bum.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I know a certain party that had a great number of them in their organization.

Mr. Cassidy: Sure, the Conservatives.

Mr. Grossman: Makes them twice as good as the incumbent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Bullbrook: Are you enjoying this, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I conclude my remarks by saying that we shall be putting forward new programmes in the next period of time to try to overcome some of the problems that are confronting smaller communities across the province.

Mr. Philip: More giveaways!

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I once again say that the municipalities are making great use of the municipal industrial parks programme. I hope that within the next few weeks we will have some announcements as to the parks that are being assisted by the Province of Ontario.

The Speech from the Throne carries a lot of information that is worthy of the times in the Province of Ontario. I would strongly suggest to the members of this House that it is no time for an election in Ontario at this point, and I would ask for the members to join with us in supporting the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Roy: That wasn't much of a speech.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That's okay.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Windsor-Riverside has the floor.

Interjections.

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, it is customary to begin a speech in the Throne debate by a few courtesies. The only minister, apart from the one who has just spoken, who is still in the House is the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr). I would like to say that we welcome him back as Minister of the Environment after his recycling. It is nice to have a minister back again who is going to make the polluters pay and one who is going to swim across Hamilton Bay. In fact, I understand he tried it the other day and put his arm out of commission.

Mr. Germa: It was in the papers.

Mr. Burr: Oh, that was in the papers.

Mr. Philip: He even tried walking across it.

Mr. Burr: In the eight years I have been in this Legislature I have had some opportunity to observe the Tory mind and the typical Tory attitudes. But because all individuals are different, one from another, my remarks will not refer to any individual members of this House, although individual members, past and present, may have been instrumental in creating or reinforcing some of my impressions.

Perhaps I can best begin as follows: Let us imagine that we have taken a random cross-section sample of 100 Ontario citizens, 18 years and older, 100 citizens who are doing paid work or who need paid work or who want paid work. We would except the

three large categories of homemakers or housewives, post-secondary students and those who have retired from the labour market.

Let us imagine that we could assess the employability of these 100 men and women. There would be many factors to consider in employability, such as intelligence, talent, education, training, age, experience and physical qualities, including height, weight, health and personality. It should be obvious to everyone, even to red-necked Tories—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: There is no such thing.

Mr. Burr: Maybe there aren't many, but there are a few.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Not in this House.

Mr. Burr: Well, I have met a few.

Mr. Bain: There are not many Tories.

Mr. Burr: It should be obvious to them that in our free enterprise society roughly five per cent to seven per cent of every 100 will spend most of their lives unemployed or underemployed. Physical handicaps, mental handicaps and personality handicaps will disqualify them in the competition for employment.

It should be realized, likewise, that for every unemployed person there is probably an overemployed person or perhaps two or three overemployed persons. In Windsor, some auto workers are required to work 1,000 or more overtime hours per year. It is cheaper for the auto companies to pay overtime to fewer workers than to hire more workers and pay the fringe benefits that are required. The profit motive under which auto companies operate causes overemployment for many, while depriving able and available unemployed workers of the right to work, and forces them on welfare.

I have received complaints that hundreds of truck drivers are laid off while those kept on drive many hours beyond what is considered safe and beyond what the law actually allows. Why? It is cheaper for the companies and enables them to make more profit, but in the process it puts willing and able truck drivers on welfare.

[3:15]

In Ontario, we have finally reached the point at which we have enough well-trained nurses, enough well-trained teachers, enough well-trained social workers, enough people sufficiently trained to satisfy the various social needs of our whole society. But what happens? Because the provincial government is unwilling to tax the affluent corporations

and the most affluent citizens sufficiently to keep its budgets reasonably well balanced, we have a government-imposed restraint programme that wipes out 5,000 jobs and job opportunities for trained hospital workers of all kinds, including nurses, technicians and even administrators.

Similarly, provincial government support for education is now restricted so that local school boards are contemplating scheduling larger classes and increasing teaching loads from 30 classes a week to 35. If this happens, about 15 per cent of the secondary school teachers now working will be laid off. I know of at least two secondary school teachers and one secondary school principal who taught 50 different classes a week during the hungry Thirties—50 different classes a week, while other trained teachers were teaching none. That was in the hungry Thirties and the trend, if followed today, may see us reaching that point again in the history of Ontario.

In the private sector, the profit motive produces overemployment for some and unemployment for others. In the public sector, Tory inability or unwillingness to raise revenue from the affluent results in overwork for some and no work for others.

The Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has travelled around Ontario disemploying 5,000 hospital workers. He has been followed, or in some cases preceded, by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) exhorting those on welfare, even those on mothers' allowances, to get out and find a job. Where? At the hospitals? How? As nurses? As teachers?

Perhaps they could start a corner grocery store, without capital of course. Perhaps they could start a restaurant, without capital of course. Actually, they can't even start a home daycare operation unless they can meet certain conditions, such as building and equipping a fenced-in playground in their back yard. "Perhaps the 16-year-old son could drive a transport," suggests the Minister of Community and Social Services. What chance has he when even high seniority drivers can get only an occasional day of driving?

My colleagues from Windsor West (Mr. Bounsall) and his predecessor, Mr. Hugh Peacock, and I myself have appealed to a succession of Tory Ministers of Labour to eliminate compulsory overtime work, to reduce the work week—in short, to share the work. Sharing the work automatically shares the wealth. It reduces the welfare roles, restores human dignity, prevents family disintegration and rectifies a host of other flaws in our present society. Yet the redneck Con-

servative, whether he is a member of this Legislature or a member of the voting public, has a simplistic view of our economic and social system. He does not realize that in the competition for jobs as a means of earning a livelihood, only 95 out of 100 can succeed in holding a job if there are only 95 jobs available.

Only government by legislation can eliminate overemployment or shorten the work week to expand those 95 jobs into 100 jobs. Only government intervention, government enterprise and government imagination can arrange full employment.

As matters stand in Tory Ontario, there will always be about five per cent who cannot find work however hard they try, or however capable they might be. By and large, these five per cent will be the least employable. They are those who are weaker, less attractive, less educated, inadequately skilled or trained, in poorer health, suffering from some mental, physical or emotional problem, or handicapped. But to our Tory friends, they are, and always will be, ne'er-do-wells who don't want to work and who are good for nothing.

The least employable for most of their lives will be the chronic unemployed for whom a whole range of community and social services must be established. If it weren't for these least employable persons the present Minister of Community and Social Services would have no ministry. In a full employment society which we in this party have always advocated all but the unemployable would find a working role. They would enjoy the satisfaction of pulling their weight, of doing useful work, of making their contribution to society. They would retain or recover their dignity.

The Conservative, however, seems to be unaware that his success in life has been attained because of his own superior employability. He continually points to individuals of his acquaintance who have failed, usually because they lack qualities which he himself possesses. If one probes, these qualities turn out to be described as willingness to work, get up and go, initiative and willingness to take a chance. Your Tory who has made a success, let us say, of a restaurant, hardware store, a barber shop or any other small business rarely seems to realize that luck also played a part in his success.

He was lucky that several other equally enterprising individuals did not decide to open in his neighbourhood two or three other restaurants, hardware stores or barber shops in competition with his. For each type of

store there is usually a definitely limited amount of business. Too many stores of any kind spoil the business for all. Only those individuals with certain qualities, which may include a certain amount of ruthlessness or just plain good luck, are able to succeed in a competitive society.

Your typical Tory does not seem to realize that in a competitive society, all too often one man's success depends upon another man's failure. In a co-operative society, the success of one is a boon for all. Consequently, your rednecked Tory develops an attitude of contempt, sometimes approaching hatred, towards those who end up at the bottom of the social and economic heap. Certainly he has no compassion.

It may be, of course, that this supercilious attitude results, not from a lack of understanding, but from a bad conscience. Perhaps your Tory appreciates fully that our economic system by its very competitive nature ordains that some should be first and others last and that some should be praised as successful and others condemned as failures.

Perhaps his constant harping on the supposed laziness and other shortcomings of those for whom social services have become essential is just a reflection of his feeling of guilt in approving and championing a system that invariably in every continent, in every country, in every province, in every city and in every community invariably produces the same results, a group of people who have been left out or perhaps frozen out, people who have been almost entirely excluded from the benefits enjoyed by the majority of the members of our competitive, so-called free enterprise society.

Last year's pre-election Tory tax concessions of over \$592 million were almost entirely for the benefit of those who needed them least. This year's pre-election restraints are almost entirely at the expense of those most in need of help, all those in ill health and all those requiring community and social services of various kinds.

The NDP is opposed to welfare abuse. In fact, we are opposed to welfare. We favour a full employment society in which there is no need for welfare except for the disabled and the unemployable. Blame for any cheating in or abuse of welfare must be borne by the Ontario Tory government that has permitted it. Blame for any cheating in or abuse of unemployment insurance must be borne by the federal Liberal government that has permitted it.

Mr. Reid: Nothing like individual responsibility, is there?

Mr. Burr: Blame for loopholes in unemployment insurance must be borne by the federal Liberals. A good example, or a bad example, was the subject of a news item in this morning's *Globe and Mail*.

Mr. Reid: Did you hear about the last election in British Columbia?

Mr. Burr: Unemployment insurance regulations, we were told in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, allow supply teachers to work a couple of days a week for a period of eight weeks and then collect as much as \$95 a week for 26 weeks. If there are weaknesses and abuses in welfare and unemployment, place the blame fairly on those who drafted the legislation and enforce, or fail to enforce, that legislation. Don't blame us.

The NDP stands ready to support any proposals for full employment which would automatically reduce welfare systems and unemployment insurance plans to a bare minimum. The Minister of Community and Social Services, during debate on supplementary estimates, said that members of this party do not believe in the work ethic. This was one of the many strange statements made in and outside this House during the week of March 15. In fact, a policeman friend of mine drew to my attention the fact that the full moon was on March 16; it may be that some of these weird statements were caused by the position of the moon.

If NDP members don't believe in the work ethic, they certainly practice it—

Mr. Reid: This sounds like an election speech.

Mr. Burr: After considerable reflection, I have been unable to think of any NDP member, supporter or MPP with whom I have had any social, economic or philosophical discussion who ever condemned the work ethic. The only Canadian politician who ever questioned the work ethic, as far as my memory serves me, is the federal leader of the Liberal Party. He is the only one I can recall ever suggesting that work might be optional or should be optional in modern society.

Mr. Philip: In between his vacations.

Mr. Burr: The UAW, both in Canada and the United States, has repeatedly called for a reduction in the work week so that the work, and therefore the wealth, could be shared. That is an ethical attitude towards work. It is because of this government's indifference that some truck drivers in Ontario

are driving inordinately excessive hours, while many truck drivers are called in once a week or so. It is because this government has not bothered to encourage the work ethic that we have many factory workers working overtime, often seven days a week, while other workers are forced into idleness and on to welfare rolls.

Admittedly, there are a few young people who seem to have little desire to work. But the blame for this should be placed on our whole society, our whole social and economic system. If you insist on placing blame somewhere, then place it on those who have been in office, both federally and at Queen's Park, for they at least have had the power and the opportunity to do something about promoting and fostering the work ethic.

It is in the very nature of the private enterprise system—what my Liberal and Tory friends call the free enterprise system, and what I call the selfish enterprise system—that some succeed and others fail. That is the way the competitive game is played. If there are to be winners, there must also be losers. Losers, especially those who lose repeatedly, become discouraged and are considered failures and, what is even more unfortunate, consider themselves failures. Very often their despair is such that they seek to escape. A few turn to crime, most turn to alcohol and, in recent years, many turn to various mood-changing drugs.

[3:30]

Mr. Philip: Some turn to politics.

Mr. Burr: Society, or at least its less sensitive members, then condemn these unfortunates for abandoning the work ethic. If you are one of these insensitive people, you are likely to join or support one of the so-called free-enterprise parties. If you understand what our competitive society does to its losers, you join or support the party that believes, not in private or selfish enterprise, but in social enterprise and in the value of co-operation rather than a competition.

It was this belief that led me during the hungry Thirties to support the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The CCF, as its name implied, was a group of people, a federation, working together, co-operating for the commonwealth or the common good. This new movement attracted support in the political field from those who were already active in social enterprises such as co-operatives and credit unions. We in the New Democratic Party and earlier in the CCF have always believed that a good society

must put the emphasis on co-operation. We believe in the superiority of social enterprise as a basis for an economically stable and just society.

Recently the leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario told the press: "The NDP amendment bears no more resemblance to the NDP than the Martian party. Lewis is trying to change his political stripes, he's trying to be a Liberal." Let us examine the NDP amendment. Our Throne Speech amendment criticized the government for its inaction in occupational health hazards, which exist largely because of the profit motive, and for its inaction on food land disappearance, which is caused largely because of the profit motive. Because of the NDP's belief in the work ethic, we criticized the government for failure to create jobs. We criticized the government for its undermining and dismantling of our social service structure because we in the NDP believe that we are our brother's keepers. We criticized the government for its disemployment of 5,000 hospital staff members, all of whom, obviously have believed and practised the work ethic. We criticized the government for failure to stimulate the building of homes because we believe that all humans should have a right to adequate shelter as well as to adequate food and clothing.

In short, our Throne Speech amendment, based on our belief in everyone's rights to practise the work ethic and on our recognition of harmful side-effects of glorifying and practising the profit ethic, was completely consistent with our party's theories and practices ever since its inception. Apparently the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) entered this Legislature with some preconceived ideas about the New Democratic Party's philosophies, for he made this bizarre statement, quoted in the *Toronto Star* and other papers on March 9, and I repeat it: "Lewis's amendment bears no more resemblance to the NDP than to the Martian party."

What does he think the NDP philosophy is? Probably he shares the simplistic view of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who stated in the House on March 18: "The NDP wants the government to run everything." Ever since the NDP was formed in 1961 and for many years before that in the CCF, our party spokesmen have repeatedly and consistently stated our belief in a mixed economy for Canada, partly based on private enterprise, and partly based on social enterprise. We in this party put the greater emphasis on social enterprise; the two opposing parties put the emphasis on

private enterprise. Of course, for psychological reasons, they talk about free enterprise, which has largely perished before the onslaught of monopoly enterprise. Actually, many of us in this party would like to see free enterprise still alive in certain sections of our economy.

Service station operators, for example, were at one time free-enterprisers. They bought gasoline and sold it and, by the quality of service offered to their customers, carried on as independent businessmen, each one depending for his success largely upon his own initiative. Today, however, the service station lessees are little better than wage slaves chained for 16 hours a day to their gas pumps. One friend of mine, a service station operator, estimated that he rarely made a cent for himself and his family before 7 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Philip: They make less than their employees.

Mr. Burr: He had to stay open at night in order to buy the groceries. Service station operators, even of 20 years tenure, have had their rent raised 100 per cent in the last few months. The more successful the station becomes, the more rent is demanded by the oil company which supplies the gas and, in most cases, owns the station.

What have the two parties that champion free enterprise done for the small businessman? Precious little. Oh, yes, I believe last year, as one of the election goodies, the government restored the commission for collecting the sales tax to the small businessman.

An incidental remark, Mr. Speaker: I should like to suggest that the Legislature might function more effectively if the rules were changed to give a minority government a guarantee of a minimum term—perhaps two years; perhaps 18 months—to permit a period of stability in which members would not be in constant fear of some accident or other throwing them back into the election jungle.

I'd like to make a few remarks about the election expenses for the last election which cost the taxpayers of the province \$12 million. The Progressive Conservative provincial headquarters collected, we are told by the commission, \$1,227,000; the Liberal headquarters, \$864,000; the NDP provincial headquarters, \$112,000. In other words, the provincial headquarters of the Liberals collected almost eight times as much as the NDP provincial headquarters, and the Tories collected almost 13 times as much.

The Canadian Press dispatch in the *Star* went on to explain that of these large

amounts collected by their provincial party headquarters, the Liberal ridings and candidates received \$85,000 and the Tory ridings received \$476,000, an average of almost \$4,000 per candidate. I mention this in order to put on the record a significant difference in the funding methods of our party and of the two older parties.

In the New Democratic Party, every riding association is expected to send to our provincial headquarters in every election campaign an amount equal to 20 per cent of its own local expenditures. For example, if the Windsor-Riverside NDP spends \$9,500 on a campaign, we must send \$1,900 to support the provincial campaign conducted through our provincial headquarters.

Incidentally, this imposes on each NDP candidate and riding association a certain restraint in election spending because, in effect, we are fined \$20 by our provincial office for every \$100 we spend daily locally. If the constituency associations of the older parties had to function under our system they might show similar restraint in their spending.

I am told that the 1975 provincial election statistics have established an average expenditure for the Tory candidates of approximately \$24,000 each, for the Liberals about \$13,000, and for the NDP about \$8,000. These last three figures are from memory. If, however, they are inaccurate I am sure someone will correct me.

Some Tory candidates spent over \$50,000 to get elected; in some cases, to try to get elected. Even the \$24,000 average is far too much to spend on election campaigns. There should be a limit to the amount each candidate is allowed to spend, and \$20,000 would appear to be quite ample for any candidate.

There is one other aspect I should like to mention—no, there are two. One that has come to my attention is a development affecting various ministries, especially the Ministry of Labour. The Komoka nursing home, which is part of a chain of nursing homes in southwestern Ontario, has initiated a strategy for denying health care employees the fruits of their collective bargaining.

About September, 1974, some 20 employees of the Komoka nursing home, through their union, began negotiating for a 1975 contract. After all kinds of stalling operations by management, the case went to arbitration on April 28, 1975. The award was four months in coming. On Aug. 25, 1975, an award was finally made to be implemented within 30 days.

So it took them 10 months to get their award, right? Wrong. The management ap-

pealed the arbitrator's award and it was March 4, 1976, before a judge announced that the arbitrator's decision was upheld. So there was a further period of seven months' delay since the award resulting from compulsory arbitration.

But that was not the end of it. The employees have now been told that management will appeal to a higher court. Consequently, the Komoka nursing home management is holding over \$100,000 of money that has been awarded to its employees. The employees need that money. They have negotiated for this money. They have been awarded this money, first by an arbitrator and secondly by a judge. Management, or the owners, have had two chances and both times have failed to persuade, first the arbitrator and then the judge, that they could not afford these wages that have been awarded. The Nursing Home Association is now encouraging its members to use these stalling tactics that have been developed by the Komoka nursing home.

I wish to make one point here. The legislation covering the whole health care industry must surely require review. Legislation should not allow for any health care workers an outcome such as I have outlined.

The final topic has to do with restitution rather than retribution. Just recently, on March 25 to be exact, Windsorites were shocked to read in their local newspaper that a man walking his dog had been assaulted by two young men who had just left a tavern. One of the men "struck the dog, sending it sprawling into the street." When the dog's owner "instinctively retaliated and swung at the man who had kicked the dog, he was knocked to the ground and beaten in the face." The other man "stomped him in the face with a high heel, tearing his nose from his face." The assistant Crown Attorney said that the man's nose was severed from his face and "was just hanging there when he was found." The Windsor Star reported that "a plastic surgeon spent two hours trying to piece his face together."

[3:45]

What shocked Windsorites, in addition to the description, was the sentence given the two culprits. The stomper with the high heels was given 60 days in jail, to be served in the evenings after work. The other, an unemployed man, was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

These sentences should be considered from three viewpoints: the victim's, the taxpayers' and the offenders'.

First, the victim's: As far as one can tell from the newspaper accounts, the victim gets not even an apology for his nightmarish ex-

perience. He may get some compensation under the Act which deals with victims of crime. Even so, the whole incident can never be better than a traumatic episode for him.

Second, the taxpayers': We taxpayers have to pay the medical, surgical, ambulance and hospital costs through OHIP. We have to pay the cost of the trial. If the victim is awarded some compensation as the victim of a violent crime, we taxpayers will foot the bill again. We must pay heavily, too, for the period of incarceration of these two men.

Third, the culprits': They will spend time in jail. With good behaviour, one will spend 21 days, the other 42 nights. Will their incarceration make them better citizens or worse? Or will it have no effect whatever?

Could there have been a better sentence? It is my belief that punishment should fit not only the crime but also the criminal; that restitution rather than retribution should be the aim of justice; and that there should be repentance and reform on the part of the offenders rather than a fruitless vindictiveness on the part of society.

Sentences in England often require that a culprit perform some kind of personal service or make some kind of financial restitution to the victim. Sometimes an offender is required to perform some service to the community. Judges in England are being imaginative and innovative. When will Ontario start to follow suit?

Not knowing what skills or talents these two culprits possess, and what needs this victim may have, it's impossible for me to suggest what form of restitution the judge could have called for, except the obvious financial kind.

Judges, aided as they are by a presentence report, should be able to come up with innovative restitution sentences in some of the cases that come before them—and they should be encouraged to do so.

What made this mild sentence for such a brutal crime seem to me so inadequate was another news item of a few days before. A Toronto woman was convicted of perpetrating a welfare fraud. This defrauding had taken place between 1966 and 1973, a period of about seven years, during which she had received \$18,600 in provincial assistance for herself and three children. The sum of \$18,600 may seem an inadequate amount for a family of four stretched out over seven years. Actually, it's about \$2,650 a year or \$51 a week.

This woman defrauded this province of almost an additional \$10,600 during this period, a sum amounting to about \$1,500

a year or \$30 a week. For this crime she was sentenced to a jail term not to exceed six months. The defence counsel was quoted in the paper as saying: "There is nothing here to suggest that the funds were used except for the support of herself and the three children."

I have forgotten now how much a certain famous Toronto sportsman defrauded the government some two or three years ago in income tax, and I have forgotten how long a sentence he served as a result but I am sure that it was much more than \$10,000 over seven years. I'm sure that the motive was greed on his part; not, as in this woman's case, need. By comparison, the well-known sportsman got off much more easily than this woman who struggled along on \$81 a week—

Mr. Nixon: Are you talking about Harold Ballard?

Mr. Moffatt: How did you guess that? You did it, Bob; we didn't think you would.

Mr. Burr: —an amount that included her ill-gotten gains. Compare these two sentences for these two crimes: The woman got six months in jail for defrauding an impersonal victim, the government, in order to support her three children—an action we can all understand, even though we may not be able to condone it. The two young men were given the equivalent of one month each for a senseless, brutal crime against an innocent, unsuspecting victim which no one can understand and no one can forgive.

The gist of my remarks is that there should be a review of the types of sentences being handed out in Ontario today. They should be more in keeping with the seriousness of the crime. There are thefts from individuals and there are thefts from the public treasury; a difference that almost everybody recognizes. There are thefts with violence and thefts without violence; an important difference. There are thefts because of need and there are thefts because of greed.

There are offences in which no other individual is actually harmed; for example, exceeding the speed limit. And there are offences in which lives may be damaged or even ended; for example, by an impaired driver. There are offences that cause the offender such shame that he will never offend again. The same offence may be committed by another individual who feels or betrays no remorse whatsoever. Yet sentences too often are not appropriate for the offence or the offender.

Recently, a Detroitier had occasion to drive to New York city and felt that he needed to

carry a pistol under the driver's seat. After his return to Detroit he forgot all about the gun and crossed into Windsor. The custom officials found the gun and although the man appeared to be a law-abiding citizen, the Windsor judge sentenced him to two weeks in jail.

One judge sentences a man to 30 days for a brutal assault on a complete stranger. Another judge sentences a visitor from Detroit to 14 days because he inadvertently broke one of our laws. It is time for judges to hold a review or a workshop and for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to formulate a few guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to speak once more in the Throne Speech debate. I think I would like to close by expressing my regret that the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) is not with us these days and to pass onto him, through Hansard, the wishes of those of us in this party for his speedy recovery and return.

Mr. Cunningham: As the member for Wentworth North and a new member to the Ontario Legislature I am particularly pleased to be able to participate in the debate on the Speech from the Throne in this our third session of our 30th Parliament.

Initially, I had intended to devote most of my time to discussing a number of issues which tend to affect us all in Ontario. I would say, as one of the younger members of this Legislature, that I particularly enjoy the privilege of being able to represent my constituency in this Legislature. I said during the course of the last election that I regarded public service to be a privilege in trust, and I must say I certainly appreciate this privilege and I hope I will always be able to honour that trust.

At this time I would like to speak on a number of issues. In the time I have, I would spend the concluding remarks on the issue of the Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton. At the time of my original preparation of my speech I was not, in fact, aware that Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton was to bear the brunt of health restraint in Hamilton. With this in mind, I intend to devote most of my remarks to this subject.

Before I move to that discussion, though, I would like to express my concern through you, Mr. Speaker, about a number of subjects I am concerned about, again not only as the representative for Wentworth North, but also as a member of the Ontario Legislature charged with the responsibility for directing the future of Ontario.

During the last election, the Liberal Party was criticized on many occasions concerning our stand about the need in Ontario to return to basics in our educational system. On many occasions our policy was simply interpreted to be a return to the three Rs.

In my brief experience as a member it has become apparent to me that while the children of Ontario are becoming increasingly well versed in the more esoteric aspects of education, they are failing to grasp the fundamental principles of reading, writing and mathematics. Such an approach to education many may conclude to be, in fact, simplistic. I myself am inclined to think that children were better educated, at least in the areas of reading and writing, some 20 and 30 years ago.

There are those who would generalize, I think in a rather fallacious way, that reading, writing and mathematics are not as important in today's society as they were some years ago. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, as one who has recently left that system of education that, in fact, the demands that are being placed upon our children today are even greater than they were in the past.

I would like at this time to put forward just a few of the conclusions reached by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in its report on basic educational skills, which was compiled in June, 1975. They concluded that the educational system in Canada has changed drastically, and in surprisingly similar ways across Canada, in the last five or 10 years. To this end, I guess the Province of Ontario is not alone. Most of the respondents to the survey conducted by the Chamber of Commerce indicated that many students do lack a proficiency in the basic skills and that there is, in fact, a very serious need to upgrade teaching of basic skills; that is to say, reading, writing and mathematics. There is also a tremendous need for measurement, so that the student knows, in fact, where he or she is, where he or she has to improve, and what is to be expected.

Clearly, the responsibility for not only the standard of education, but also the measurement of that standard, rests with the provincial Ministry of Education. It was not that long ago that we had a provincial standard of education across this province. This failure to enact solid standards among our high school students has caused some grave concern among our universities and community colleges. In a survey taken among universities, the reaction to the statement that high school students are, in fact, lacking in basic skills, was that 14 of 21 respondents

felt that, in fact, the graduates were lacking in basic skills. At the community college level, 18 of 25 respondents felt that high school students were lacking in basic skills.

Times change, and I am sure that everybody in the House recognizes that the time has come that we must require our students to be better based and more informed if these students are going to be able to meet the stringent demands that I know will be placed upon them in the future.

On Dec. 1, 1975, I had occasion to speak in this House on the debate that related to the Toronto teachers' strike. At that time, I indicated that I felt a real need for an Anti-Inflation Board here in Ontario, not only to interpret things like teachers' strikes, but also all the matters related to public servants of Ontario, and anything related to the people of Ontario as designated by the BNA Act to be within our jurisdictional control.

At that time, it was apparent to me that there was a very serious reluctance on the part of the government of Ontario to enact an Anti-Inflation Board of our own, as provided to us as an option given by the federal government. What is becoming increasingly more apparent to me is the continuing need for an Anti-Inflation Board here in Ontario, to interpret not only the federal legislation, but also to make sure that it is implemented in the fairest and most equitable possible fashion.

It is increasingly certain the Province of Ontario is not going to be exempt from the number of disputes that result in the labour relations field.

[4:00]

Perhaps nothing illustrates this labour problem so much in Ontario as the failure and the sense of failure that we all experienced in the Metro Toronto teachers' strike. Possibly, at this time, we in the Ontario Legislature should address ourselves to the need to find better and more efficient methods of settling our labour disputes. To this end, I would recommend that the Province of Ontario seriously take a look at the establishment of a labour court in Ontario. While I recognize that there would be some expense involved in this, I think the expense would be far outweighed by the benefits that we would all enjoy as a result of the increased productivity and, of course, the lack of labour strife that would result from such a system.

Integral to such a system, I think, should be some serious consideration about the possibility of adopting what is recognized to be a system called final-offer selection, where labour and management can work together,

or where the Province of Ontario might assume a leadership role in seeing that the various negotiating parties reach a settlement much faster than we are accustomed to seeing right now.

Certainly, the incidence of industrial conflict has been one of the major reasons for Ontario losing its competitive position, not only within Canada but within the international market system. To this end, Ontario again can be a leader. We can rely not only on the material resources that we all know to exist in the Province of Ontario but, more specifically, on the human resources—the kind of resources that I fear we are in a position of losing, should industrial conflicts continue to occur in the way that they have.

I would like to indicate very briefly my concern about the direction that the Province of Ontario is giving to the municipalities of Ontario. As indicated, the increase in provincial funds that will be transferred to the municipal sector will be eight per cent over the amount transferred last year. As I'm sure every member in the House is aware, this is a considerable reduction from previous years.

The municipalities and school boards of Ontario possibly have been inclined to spend beyond their means in the past but, more often than not, they have been extremely responsible to local needs and wishes and, of course, they have been responsible for keeping municipal taxation at a rather low level.

Integral to their taxation policies and, of course, to the provision of municipal services and local needs, is the need for long-term planning. To this end, I must express my disappointment that the various municipalities of Ontario are required to live on a year-to-year basis. That is to say, the municipalities of Ontario are never really aware of what the future may hold for them.

In November last year, the report of the special review programme was tabled by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario. I'm sure that each and every member of the Legislature welcomed the need for restraint in the Province of Ontario. There can be no doubt that for so many years we have spent beyond our means.

The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), in his budget last year, stated that inflation was the single most serious problem facing the province today. He further stated that government spending was the primary cause of that inflation. Then he tabled his fifth successive record-breaking deficit budget of \$1.6 billion. I would be less than candid if I did not say that this enormous debt that we have in this province worries me seriously. In the last five years, this debt has accumulated to an even

greater extent, giving us the largest total debt of any province in Canada and one of the highest per capita debts. In the same period of time, Ontario's growth has deteriorated to the point that our gross provincial product is in rather poor shape.

If this trend continues, we could lose our preferential credit rating in the international money market and, in fact, lose that triple-A rating that we have enjoyed in the past, thereby increasing our interest costs even further. This, I can assure you, would only leave a litany of decay for our children.

I am sure that no one is surprised to hear that Ontario at this time has the highest total debt of any province in Canada. By debt, I mean all the guaranteed debt and direct debt for which we in the Province of Ontario are responsible, including foreign and domestic credit and provincial treasury bills. This debt has grown from \$6.719 billion in 1970 to more than \$11 billion in 1974. This represents the highest growth, in percentage terms, of any province in Canada with the exception of Newfoundland, which as you know is governed by a Conservative government. In short, Ontario is on the verge of destroying what competitive edge we have enjoyed in the past.

We now have 38.4 per cent of the total provincial debt in Canada, a growth from 33.7 per cent in 1970. In that same period of time, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan, none of which is ruled by a Conservative government, have decreased their share of debt.

Between the years 1969 and 1974, the debt in Ontario increased 95.9 per cent and there is no doubt in my mind that if this trend continues unchecked we will have a very serious problem. What has the Premier's (Mr. Davis) solution been to funding these deficits and interest payments? It's been to use the taxpayers' pension fund and through various capital markets. I would say to members this is excessively inflationary.

For instance, in this last year we will be required to borrow \$750 million from the Canada Pension Plan; \$128 million from the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System; \$228 million from the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. In short, this \$1,106,000,000 of pension funds will be used to finance 63 per cent of Ontario's deficit. The interest on the \$4.4 billion borrowed from the Canada Pension Plan alone amounts to somewhere in the area of \$340 million.

It is no surprise that the Ontario Provincial Auditor's report of 1975 relates one very sad story as far as our borrowing practices are concerned and that is the \$28 million loan

received by the Ontario government from West Germany back in 1969. The re-evaluation of the German mark ended up costing the people of Ontario \$37.5 million in total when we paid it off last year. In other words, there was a \$9.5 million loss on the \$28 million loan. That, in short, has been part of the approach of the Ontario government as it relates to the fiscal administration of this province.

Certainly, I know the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) of this province would tend to rationalize such deficits over the years as methods of stimulating employment and maintaining the standard of living that we in Ontario have come to expect. But I would submit that we are now, in Ontario, tied up in so many wasteful procedures, overlapping jurisdictions, unnecessary advertising programmes; programmes based on growth for growth's sake—such as Hydro—and a myriad of various bureaucracies which we all know to exist. I guess this brings me to a discussion of the waste of public funds.

The government of Ontario has been excessively centralized in Queen's Park. This centralization perhaps is indicative of the philosophy held by the Premier himself. It is a kind of centralization which not only encourages waste and abuse of public funds but also further insulates the people of Ontario from their government.

In my perception, the bureaucracy we have at Queen's Park seems to be self-perpetuating. Max Henderson's study of regional government indicated that the excessively high growth of upper tier staff at the regional government level has not spawned a corresponding decrease in the lower tier staff level.

Between the years 1970 and 1974, the municipal staffs in regional government grew at a rate more than triple that of the staffs of local government. It is the costs that relate to this expansion of staff in the area of municipal and regional government that is causing the excessive rate of municipal taxation which municipalities are going to experience not only this year but in the years that follow unless we take some drastic action now. Certainly, the object of the exercise with regional government was to make local government more efficient. It's a rather sad commentary that in almost every region in the Province of Ontario taxes have increased and services have decreased. Certainly, Wentworth North is no exception.

I suppose one of the reasons hospitals have to be shut down and hospital budgets have to be cut back and, of course, com-

munity and social service budgets have to be cut back, is the waste that has taken place, especially at Queen's Park in the last 10 years. No one should be inclined to forget the cynical approach by this government prior to the last election, with the introduction of the first-time home buyer's grant; the drop in sales tax from seven to five per cent; and the cancellation of sales tax on new cars.

Clearly, it was bait to get voters in the various constituencies to vote Conservative. From my point of view, it did not work and we're all paying for those election goodies now.

Highway construction in the Province of Ontario has declined but the government's construction staff has not been cut. Enrolment continues to decline in Ontario's elementary and secondary schools yet there are more people working in the Ministry of Education and for the school boards than ever before.

Let me speak briefly about the subject of Wintario. The Province of Ontario is realizing millions and millions of dollars in Wintario revenue. Where are we directing these funds? To ethnic dance costumes; trips for senior hockey teams abroad; goalie pads; soccer balls—so many things that I know the people of Ontario were inclined to support in their own communities, quite sincerely, long before the advent of Wintario.

What is the cost of administering this Wintario programme? I would suggest that 20 per cent of all the money we take in is allocated for administration alone. I would compare that to the Canadian Cancer Society, which budgets somewhere between three and four per cent for the administration of their budget.

I think the time has come for the government seriously to consider directing Wintario revenues to the general revenue fund; more specifically, possibly for hospital programmes so that in fact hospitals would not have to be shut down in communities such as Chesley, Durham, Clinton, Goderich and Paris and 187 beds at Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton.

One of the fundamental approaches to the election by the Progressive Conservative Party in that past has been what I would refer to as a bait and switch approach. That is to say they tend to bait each constituency across the Province of Ontario with some form of specific election goodie and then after the election they tend to switch their point of view.

Only yesterday I was actually at the point that I was appalled to hear the member for

Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) suggest in this House that a \$10-million court house was built in his riding because that riding was represented by a Progressive Conservative. I really was told that these kind of things occurred but I really didn't think that anybody in the government party would actually admit to it.

Mr. Nixon: They boast about it.

Mr. Good: And brag about it.

Mr. Cunningham: He actually did boast about it. I would like very briefly to share with you just a few of the election promises that I understand were made during the course of the last election.

Mr. Mancini: Where is the member for Scarborough Centre?

Mr. Cunningham: On Aug. 15 the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) announced a \$3-million loan in Sarnia for the Ontario Housing Action Programme. It was odd that it was done during the middle of the election. On Aug. 11 the Minister of Housing (Mr. Irvine) announced \$50 million in loans to various developers in Scarborough. The then Minister of the Environment (Mr. W. Newman) and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) announced on Sept. 3 that \$660,000 would be spent in Timagami for a sewage system.

Mr. Nixon: They were buying votes with the people's own money. There won't be enough money next time.

Mr. Cunningham: In the area of health, the Premier (Mr. Davis) on Aug. 17 announced that unspecified millions would be spent in Chapleau on hospital beds.

Interjections.

Mr. Cunningham: On Aug. 26 unspecified millions were announced, again by the Premier, for a Toronto-centred highway programme. On Sept. 3, \$143,000 was promised by the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) for health research grants; again during the course of the election.

Mr. Nixon: He was not talking about hospital closings then.

Mr. Cunningham: The member for Oxford (Mr. Parrott) announced an unspecified amount—certainly not cheap, I would think—on Sept. 5 for a hospital expansion in Tillsonburg.

Mr. Nixon: He thought he was buying a cage.

Mr. Cunningham: Another unspecified amount was announced by the Premier himself on Sept. 6—getting close to election day—for the Institute of Occupational Health and \$25 million to \$32 million was announced by the then Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Rhodes) for 80 double-decker GO coaches.

Mr. Nixon: GO coaches?

Mr. Cunningham: That was on Aug. 11. Mr. Lastman, who wasn't even in the government, had the temerity to make an announcement that \$45,000 would be spent for buses for the handicapped in North York.

The then Minister of Transportation and Communications on Sept. 4 indicated in an announcement that he would spend \$20 million to continue to pave Highway 404.

Well this goes on, Mr. Speaker. I guess that is probably representative of the approach the government has held, at least in the past, with regard to the voters of Ontario. Possibly that is one of the reasons we have to shut down hospitals across the Province of Ontario.

As I indicated earlier in my speech, I would like to address myself to the problem of the closing of the Chedoke Hospital, which was announced on May 23—187 acute beds—in a letter from the deputy Minister of Health to the chairman of the health council in Hamilton.

It was interesting for me to partake in a CHCH-TV programme on Sunday and to hear the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) indicate to us he had known this decision was going to take place some three weeks before the announced date.
[4:15]

Mr. Nixon: It came to him in a vision.

Mr. Cunningham: In the letter it was indicated to us that a decision would have to be made by April 7 and that it would be implemented by April 9. In the time that has transpired we have, of course, been able to meet with the acting Minister of Health (Hon. B. Stephenson) and we have, I hope, impression upon her the need to restudy the decision to close 187 beds at the Chedoke Hospital.

Very briefly, I would like to speak about the economic ramifications of this closure as it would affect the people who work at that hospital. In the area of nursing services, 200 people would be out of work; housekeeping services, 25 people; dietary services, another

25; plant maintenance, 20; laboratory, 60; radiology, 25; clerical, 25; miscellaneous, 20.

What are the economic considerations? What is the total net economic effect of the abandonment of \$10 million in plant investment considered in the light of the money that's already been spent on that facility?

This is probably indicative of the planning problem that we have in the Province of Ontario as it would relate to health care facilities, in as much as we have spent in the last two years over \$2 million on that Chedoke facility, making it one of the most advanced, not only in the Hamilton area but probably in Ontario. Where are these people going to work? This was the question raised by the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) only yesterday, and I think it was a very fair question. I would suggest that, in fact, there will be no jobs available for these people should this happen.

From the point of view of someone who has lived in the Hamilton-Wentworth area all my life, I see that this decision to close 187 beds at Chedoke possibly is a rationalization for a mistake made some years ago, and that is the creation of probably what is one of the biggest white elephants in the history of our health care programme, that being McMaster Medical Centre. Over \$100 million was spent on that centre and it is yet to be fully opened. The government, further, would have us build a \$25 million hospital, revamp the Hamilton General.

The problem of the present government of Ontario is that there is obviously some serious confusion at Queen's Park about the geography of the city of Hamilton. We have a natural barrier that affects transportation in that city, it's known as Hamilton Mountain, sometimes referred to as the island of sanity. During peak traffic periods, access from and to the mountain is very difficult and very crowded. With the closure of this hospital, many people who require emergency treatment will be caught up in these rush hours on their way to St. Joseph's, the Hamilton General Hospital and, of course, the McMaster Medical Centre.

Further to this argument of keeping this hospital open, I would suggest that the only area in the Hamilton-Wentworth region where growth can take place is in the southern direction; that being in the constituencies of Wentworth and Wentworth North. The growth pattern in that area would indicate that the population increases somewhere between 18 and 19 per cent a year. I would think that trend will continue. It seems odd to me that we would close the hospital right

now, ostensibly close it by closing 187 acute treatment beds, when we will probably, as a result of the pressures of the population increasing, be required to open it a year or two from now.

On April 5, we in the Liberal Party are going to have to face our responsibility, not only to our individual constituents but also to the people of Ontario as a whole. From my point of view, I will reluctantly be supporting this government; and I say that quite sincerely, reluctantly. I'm afraid all too often that we are perceived, in fact, to be in a position of having to prop this government up.

I would like to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you hopefully to the Premier of Ontario, that the time has come for him to recognize his responsibilities to the people of Ontario. In the last election, some 65 per cent of the people of Ontario did not, in fact, vote for him or his party. To that end I would suggest that he recognize the democratic process and allow us the opportunity of making minority government work.

I know that many of us, in quite a non-partisan fashion, would like to see this government accomplish some things and that we would in fact like to represent the views put to us by our various constituencies. To this end, I can say quite sincerely that I doubt if the Progressive Conservative government has been inclined to meet us half-way. In fact, I would be inclined to say it hasn't met us one-eighth of the way in the last six months.

Quite sincerely, the Premier has a responsibility in that regard and I'm going to find it very difficult to continue to support this government in the future should he not be inclined to recognize that responsibility.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the speech by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and to highlight the main features of that presentation as I see them, the ones that concern me and, I believe, are representative of the concerns of constituents in Oriole riding.

The main theme in the Speech from the Throne is enunciated in the initial observation:

"This Legislature is called into session at a time of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens and a time of careful evaluation of the opportunities open to the province."

From this basic statement unfolds the whole theme of what the major concerns and priorities of this government should be in this the third session of the 30th Parliament of Ontario.

The Throne Speech makes it crystal clear that a careful evaluation of the opportunities open to the province is related to a programme of fiscal restraint and selective priorities in provision of government service. This government is prepared to take the initiative and to give the leadership necessary to confer real meaning to a programme of economic belt-tightening. It is not politically an easy programme to initiate, let alone to pursue. However, it must be done if the opportunities open to the province are to be realized.

The mood of the people certainly reflects support for a programme of economic restraint, because citizens everywhere have experienced the undermining effects of inflation. The people realize that they, individually and alone, cannot slow or stop inflation; nor, in fact, can any one government, whether provincial or federal, when the malady is international in scope. Our citizens realize they must turn to the collective action of governments everywhere as the only effective means of checking inflation.

It is for this reason the government of Ontario has not hesitated to engage itself in a two-pronged attack on the economic ills of the country as they affect the citizens of the Province of Ontario. The government acknowledges and accepts the realities of the devastating effects of world-wide inflation and the absolute necessity of a national effort to improve the economic and working conditions of Canadians everywhere. Hence, this government's initiative in joining in partnership with the federal government to combat inflation on a broad, national base.

As the most heavily industrialized province in Canada, it is imperative that Ontario participate in such a national programme; otherwise there cannot realistically be even the base for establishment of such a programme.

This does not mean that this government totally agrees with the duration of the federal programme, nor with its methods of implementation. In fact, the Throne Speech makes it quite clear that continuing discussions are being held with the federal authorities relating to appeal procedures and the general performance of the federal Anti-Inflation Board.

While this government has made an unprecedented move by entering into a contractual agreement to work co-operatively

with the federal government to provide the relief from the ravages of inflation that is being asked by the people of Ontario, at the same time this government is embarking on its own domestic programme of fiscal restraint and modification of government programmes.

As stated in the Throne Speech, "Profit restrictions and wage limitations imposed on the public should be reflected in similar limitations on government spending at all levels."

For some period of time, economists here and abroad, analysts and the public at large have been saying that government spending at all levels is a major cause of inflation. The economic well-being of a country cannot long endure a situation where government spending, and spending in the private sector, exceed the rate of growth in the gross national product. This government is not only willing to acknowledge this stark fact of life, it is prepared to take specific action to counteract its previous participating role in excessive spending and expansion of programmes in the public sector.

Since the inception of our government restraint programme, wherever I have gone to speak with concerned citizens about our new course of action, without exception there has been wholehearted support and endorsement of the principle of economic restraint. While additional funds will be made available, to offset the increased cost of the provision of essential government services, the increases will be far less than received and expected by the various ministries in the past few years. However, the real test lies in the willingness of the public to endure and accept the practical and very tangible consequences of such a programme.

I have stated on a number of occasions, at public meetings, that while the public seem to be in total agreement with the principles of the programme, we then must be willing to do without new or expanded government services, bearing in mind that some citizens will be affected in a very personal way. Nowhere is this fact of life more relevant than in the health and social services fields, which together absorb in excess of 35 per cent of the provincial budget. These are services that are heavily personnel-oriented, whether within government, as an agency of government or in allied fields.

However, the record must be set straight for those who allege that the government has chosen to single out these particular ministries as sacrificial lambs: This is not so. Restraint is being applied across the board

so that the overall increase in government spending in the coming fiscal year, 1976-1977, will not exceed 10 per cent. However, limited percentage increases will differ from ministry to ministry, bearing in mind the percentage relationship of each ministry's budget to the total budget and bearing in mind the varying degrees of percentage increase of budget in preceding years in some ministries as compared to others.

[4:30]

For instance, in the past three years the health budget has increased from nearly \$2.1 billion in 1973-1974, representing a cost of \$263 for every man, woman and child in this province, to nearly \$2.6 billion or \$319 for every man, woman and child in Ontario in 1974-1975, to today's approximately \$3 billion health budget, representing a cost of \$364 for every man, woman and child in Ontario. In a three-year period that is an increase in the health field budget of \$900 million.

Mr. Godfrey: But a decreased percentage of the GNP.

Mr. Williams: The blunt fact is that revenues of the province have been growing at the rate of 12.6 per cent annually while expenditures have been growing at an average of 14.5 per cent each year thereby creating a fiscal gap that cannot at the very least be permitted to widen.

Mr. Good: Whose fault is that? That is your fault.

Mr. Williams: These observations concerning the two ministries are simply illustrative of the basic problem. However, lest I be accused of being partisan in stressing not only the determination but the need of the Conservative government to confront the most serious and real challenge in recent times to the stability and well-being of Ontario and its citizens, I will quote the sobering observations on March 23 by the noted Globe and Mail financial analyst, Ronald Anderson, when he summarized the fight against inflation in the following terms:

The fight against inflation has not been helped by the spending and taxation policies of government. The Bank of Canada observes that fiscal policy was strongly expansionary in 1975 at both the federal and the provincial-municipal level. On a national accounts basis, the government sector moved from a surplus of \$2 billion in 1974 to a deficit of \$4 billion in 1975, a swing of \$6 billion.

Such a fiscal performance is hardly consistent with a return to price stability, even with a wage and price control programme in place.

And Mr. Anderson continues:

Nor is the stubborn refusal of labour to moderate wage demands realistic in the circumstances in which Canada now finds itself. Average life-of-contract wage settlements advanced from less than 10 per cent in 1973, to 14 per cent in 1974, and to almost 17 per cent in 1975. Output per person employed has declined since late 1973 and still is not improving, while productivity is beginning to show significant improvement in the United States.

The Bank of Canada concludes that it is of fundamental importance that the country gear down the rate of increase in costs and prices, not simply as a matter of international competitiveness but as a condition for economic, social and political stability.

While the Throne Speech sounds a note of optimism about Ontario's ability to maintain the quality of life of its citizens, largely in the context of realization through exercise of appropriate economic restraint, I read into the speech a broader concern for preservation of a quality of life that extends beyond concern for economic well-being and sharing in the material benefits of a productive society.

Our government must show concern for its citizens in the broader context of the cultural, social and moral wealth and well being of our society. The curing of economic ills is of immense importance. However, the re-ordering of priorities, as called for in the Throne Speech, must surely extend into every sector of our society if we are to maintain a quality of life that has been attained through recognition of and respect for the freedom of the individual, whose strength of character and individuality has evolved out of a politically democratic and morally Judeo-Christian principle. I might point out here—

Mr. Lawlor: It is what you call greed with religion.

Mr. Makarchuk: The last refuge of a scoundrel.

Mr. Williams: I might point out that this same type of ridicule was heaped by the member—and I'm sorry he's not here today—for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) last evening on a member of the House, when he also ridiculed the fact that that member of the House, as a professed, practising Christian, somehow had assurance of re-election of the Conserva-

tive Party at hand. I do not know the hon. member's personal beliefs—whether he is one who has religious convictions in the Hebrew, Christian, Buddhist or Moslem faith, or perhaps he's agnostic or an atheist. The fact of the matter is that I respect that member's personal beliefs whatever they may be, and I don't think that I would see the need to ridicule the beliefs of another member of this House. I suggest that at the very least his remarks last evening were a poor reflection on his own judgement.

Mr. Makarchuk: Sanctimonious claptrap.

Mr. Lawlor: Far more important that he believes in free enterprise.

Mr. Angus: That is a religion unto itself.

Mr. Williams: More notably in this past decade than at any other time in this century, we have seen the very tenets that sustain our quality of life challenged both by those who have a vision of a new world and by the dissidents. Some see the need for change within the social order, others find the social order as founded on the principles which I have cited to be unacceptable. The ability of many of the more extreme minority factions to shake these foundations is not attributable to their offering positive alternatives to these precepts, but to their often open defiance of law and order, which has earned them unwarranted amounts of publicity but little more.

In fact, the persons who are most often influenced by such behaviour or actions are we, the elected representatives, who as legislators are too often too quick to respond to such pressure tactics without necessarily assessing the real worth or impact of the change sought in relation to the extent to which society as a whole is, in fact, asking for change. In order to remove the pressure tactics and the attendant publicity that this type of strategy generates, elected officials will all too often tend to offer some form of compromising legislation that will emasculate laws governing social order and behaviour, notwithstanding the fact that said laws have proved to be so fundamentally sound as not only to have stood the test of time but also to have endured more than one social evolution.

Last evening, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) directed a great part of his response to the Throne Speech to the current social problem that is confronting this society related to the use of alcohol and the lower age of majority. I think it is well agreed—or certainly it was in 1969 and 1970—that it seemed to be the "in" thing to

give people more responsibility, greater legal rights and greater freedoms at a younger age. As was stated by the hon. member, he supported, as I believe all parties did at that time, the enactment of the legislation that reduced the legal age of majority.

As a consequence of that action—and I pose the question—who in fact was asking for these changes? Was the public pounding at the doors of the Legislature, demanding that the legal age of majority be reduced? Or was this a feeling, an intangible feeling of the legislators of that day, that this had to be done to show the public out there that we were sensitive to new and changing social values and warm and responsive to the idea of greater freedom of the individual at a less mature age?

Mr. Samis: Are you going to raise the voting age?

Mr. Williams: In fact, it appears—again, I think this was acknowledged by the hon. member in his comments last evening—that that enactment alone perhaps was done a little too hastily, upon reflection of what has occurred. It now appears that new types of social stresses have arisen to replace the social stresses, imagined or real, that existed when this legislation was brought into force. I think it is very difficult in the family unit, for a now mature legal adult who is still living under the umbrella of the homestead, to feel that he or she has to live in a protective environment, even though, for all intents and purposes, that person is still not economically able to go out into the world on his or her own to establish his own home or living accommodation apart from home. That person has been given responsibilities that give him or her the opportunity to be independent of the family and yet so heavily influenced in living under the influence of that family.

This indeed has created new social stresses, because the parents realize that they have to do less in the way of giving direction to their children, knowing now that they are legal adults, and the children perhaps feel more resentful of the fact that they still have to live at home as legal adults and continue to take some direction from their parents. The fact that this legal condition has been established has perhaps emphasized that stress; perhaps that stress has existed for all time, but the legislation has only emphasized the problem.

[4:45]

A considerable amount of time was spent, as I say, by the hon. member for Brant-

Oxford-Norfolk, offering what he felt would have to be the necessary solutions to the problem; and he acknowledged that they are not to be easily found. But I was somewhat concerned by the fact that he did indicate that he was still not convinced that the change of legal age, as far as the legal right to use alcoholic beverages was concerned, was the main contributing factor to this new social problem.

Instead, the member seemed to suggest that the real answer was to embark upon a new education programme. I think certainly that is one aspect of the problem—one of the ways of attacking the problem, I should say—and that more credit, I think he said, should be given to young adults for their maturity and their ability to use good judgement in the use of alcohol; and that what really is the problem is not the consideration of changing the legal age back to where it was or increasing it from what it is in any event, but rather the blame must fall on advertising and on lack of education.

I suggest that these are only dealing with the problem in a more peripheral manner. He had stated he did not believe that there was a ripple effect taking place—that because the age was lowered to 18, therefore it was a contributing factor to having people at a younger age make use of alcohol.

Yet I find it distressing, when I go into a restaurant in my riding at noon hour to have lunch, to find that the majority of the patrons in that restaurant are from the local high school, enjoying a leisurely lunch and two or three beers before they go back to class. It's not because they are necessarily abusing that right and privilege but because it exemplifies the nature of the problem. It is becoming part of the way of life in high schools as was referred to last evening by my associate, the member for Scarborough Centre.

I believe we still do have to come to the real root cause of the problem. It surely must rest in liberalizing those laws which have given greater responsibilities, socially and legally, to the people in our society.

The vehicle of banning liquor advertising is one that's been used in other countries and has had little pronounced beneficial effect. I think next to France, we have Russia which, in my understanding, permits no such type of advertising yet it has the second highest incidence of alcoholism of any country in the world.

Mr. Makarchuk: Must be a socialist malaise.

Mr. Williams: I would agree with the suggestions made that there may be justification for greater control over the advertising of alcohol in the newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Nixon: I will bet within five years, it is abolished, somehow, right across the whole country.

Mr. Williams: If the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk suggests that the cure to the problem is to ban advertising, then I suggest—

Mr. Good: He didn't say that.

Mr. Samis: Did he say that?

Mr. Williams: —that is far from the appropriate solution to the problem and will not prove to be an effective means of bringing some control to the situation.

I suppose we could equate that situation to the one dealing with the seatbelt legislation that was brought in. You could say, "Don't impose seatbelt legislation; educate the people to the use of seatbelts." And we found out what happened in that situation.

Mr. Nixon: They were very intelligent, the people who wrote that.

Mr. Williams: The public did not respond in great numbers to that advertising campaign so they were legislated.

Mr. Godfrey: And the same thing with liquor.

Mr. Williams: On the other hand, it's being suggested not to legislate an age control over the use of alcohol but to go to the supposed root cause of the problem, to the advertising people.

Mr. Good: Nobody said that.

Mr. Williams: I suppose in the same way with regard to the use of seatbelts one could say for those who oppose the use of seatbelts go to the advertising media and ban advertising of high-powered automobiles so that the new young adult generation won't go out and buy a new car, and introduce new highway legislation that will reduce the speed limit for the new young adults with their new cars that they bought because of high-pressure advertising so they will not go out and kill themselves. You can say, "Educate the people to use their seatbelts but don't impose it upon them because it's taking away from them a personal freedom." That's the same logic one can apply to this about the drinking age.

Mr. Nixon: An interesting parallel but not quite the same.

Mr. Williams: Don't increase the age level because you're taking away a personal right. Get to the advertisers—the big, bad media people who are promoting the product. I suggest to you these will help but they won't solve the problem.

Change, where improvement can be the end result, is not only desirable but often necessary. However, change for the sake of change only is usually based on frivolous, if not vexatious reasons rather than because of some deep, social need or belief. A desire for change in social attitudes or conditions need not necessarily be equated with a demand for change in basic values. Unfortunately, when the distinction is not made our quality of life can be impaired. If we believe the values that constitute our equality of life are worth preserving, then we must be prepared to respond in a positive way to these challenges on behalf of the community of citizens we represent.

The seriousness of these challenges and the necessity of government to recognize and to respond to these challenges cannot be minimized. What must be of equal concern is conscious or unconscious effort in some quarters insidiously to distort basic values rather than openly to demand change of values. I believe that what I am saying can best be illustrated by the controversy that has been raging in our society over what has been, is, and will be a most basic and fundamental issue for all time, the respect for and the sanctity of life itself.

Whether the issue is euthanasia or abortion, the challenge has been made to the basic belief in the right to life and the right to preserve life. There is an onerous responsibility on elected leaders from a secular point of view to respect the dignity of human life itself and to preserve or enact the laws that will ensure that that dignity or fundamental right will not be imperilled or destroyed.

With this concern in mind, one cannot let go unnoticed an event of last week which emphasizes the reality of forces within our society which see justification for tampering with these basic values in the name of supposedly greater freedom of the individual. I refer, of course, to the recent entry into the United Way of an organization which advocates and supports abortion counselling and referral services.

This action by the United Way prompted the issuance last week of a declaration by Archbishop Philip Pocock, of the archdiocese of Toronto, wherein he announced the with-

drawal of the Council of Catholic Charities from the United Community Fund of Greater Toronto. While the declaration stems from a religious base, in reading and rereading the archbishop's statement one can gain an appreciation of the profound importance of his position—to preserve basic values; basic values which are not, however, the exclusive domain of any particular religious sect, but which also fall within the broader parameters of fundamental secular values. While the archbishop's statement was concise, its content was so intense as to arouse one from a state of complacency.

The archbishop's concern, and now my concern as a community leader, is that the United Community Fund of Greater Toronto has recently admitted an organization which advocates and supports abortion counselling and referral services. The archbishop points out that:

Such an action contradicts the fundamental truth of a Christian tradition which respects the dignity and rights of every person. Such an abdication betrays the heritage of a western democracy which has been built upon the concept of defending the defenceless.

The declaration continues with the observation that—

Every human being is unique and priceless and that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age.

Mr. Makarchuk: Tell it to the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor).

Mr. Williams: It continues:

Such phrases as "termination" or "interruption" of pregnancy are infringements upon the rights of the individual upon which our nation and indeed all civilizations rest. To destroy one human life which has already begun is a threat to all humanity. The basis of a free society is fundamentally rooted in the concept that violence to one is a menace to all. Abortion is an execution against life.

The last quotation I will make from the archbishop's declaration is a statement that I believe puts it all together, to use the common vernacular; or to put it more precisely, it is a statement that puts the whole issue into its proper perspective. The archbishop states:

The decision of the United Community Fund is being presented on the pretext of either coexistence within a pluralistic soci-

ety or the freedom that whatever is permitted is proper. The adulation of pluralism can be an escape hatch for rationale. It justifies excess and leads to permissiveness. It cultivates laxity and destroys both logic and morals. Freedom is the cornerstone of democracy and civilization. It is guaranteed to every person. It is that guarantee we want to preserve and it is each person we want to protect. Abortion is an encroachment on these rights.

[5.00]

I have reiterated these views only because they reinforce a humanitarian perspective that recognizes the right to life and preservation of life as the fundamental cornerstone of our society. Accordingly, we must indeed set about reordering our priorities in the broadest sense of the term. If the optimism about maintaining our quality of life as expressed by the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor is to be realized, I believe that members of this government party have the resolve and determination necessary to carry out this government's mandate. It is my firm belief that the people of Ontario are demanding nothing less than a total commitment to firm and resolute leadership in these troubled times that will ensure, in the end result, a reaffirmation of our basic values and a maintenance of the quality of life that all of us seek to preserve in this the province of opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, it's very pleasant to have this opportunity to be able to reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the number of issues that one could talk about in such a forum, obviously is almost limitless. We've just had an example in the speech from the member for Oriole which has just preceded this one. I will try, however, to touch more specifically on some of the issues that have been of concern to me and to the people of Carleton East over the last few months.

I have been surprised and almost overwhelmed, almost buried, by the number of letters that have come to me, as the member for Carleton East, on the subject of the government cutbacks in health and social services, and government moves in the area of cutting the increase in financing to municipalities, and therefore the effect that is being felt in municipal services and the increase in property taxes which will follow.

I've been surprised by the number of letters, because I felt that these were issues that would take a long time to be felt by the general population in Ontario, and there were no specific areas in which Carleton East suf-

ferred more, or indeed in many ways it suffered less than other areas that have come to our attention in this Legislature over the last few weeks. But the people of Carleton East are obviously very alive to the significance of the cutbacks that the government has been implementing since December, and very alive to the effects that this programme will have in the long run for services to people in Ontario.

Of all the items that our caucus mentioned, I think these have been the most significant in terms of our amendment to the Speech from the Throne. One item which we might have added in our amendment, and which is significant in my mind and I think in the minds of people in Carleton East, was not mentioned in our amendment and I would like to bring it to your attention now, Mr. Speaker; that is, the problem with urban transportation and what this government has failed to do in the area of urban transportation in Ontario.

In 1971, in the Ottawa-Carleton area, we had high hopes that we would see the development of a basic system of rapid transit within the area. This is 1976, and we don't even have a decent bus service in Ottawa-Carleton.

The people of Carleton East live in a sprawled-out residential riding where communities are widely separated from each other geographically and where travelling to work downtown is a very difficult and very tiring, long, drawn-out process. We need, at the very least, good bus service.

OC Transpo, which has the responsibility for serving the Ottawa-Carleton regional area, is not able to provide a level of service that would be adequate, because the Ottawa-Carleton regional area does not have the financial wherewithal to be able to deal with the deficits that OC Transport has been incurring.

We must have increased service in Ottawa-Carleton; the only way we are going to get that is with larger deficits—and we must have provincial help to deal with those deficits. The promises of 1971 are not being met, and I think in 1976 it is critical that a government that is willing to spend millions of dollars on new arterial roads through urban centres and on major highways should start to think about helping people get to and from work in areas of major urban concentration.

One thing that the NDP amendment does include is another issue which is of paramount importance to the riding I represent, and that is housing. The problem with hous-

ing has been supply—and supply at reasonable cost. The HOME programme, which has been carried out in Ontario over the last few years, is really a short-run land-banking scheme. It worked; it helped to produce houses at prices the people could afford.

I used to say to people in Carleton East that the HOME programme was fine, except that it was too limited. But within recent months the government has undermined the very essential, beneficial effect of the HOME programme by allowing purchasers of HOME homes who sell their properties to sell the land which the government had, in the first place, put into public use. The government has undermined the very quintessence of the beauty of that programme—which is that the government controlled the land—controlled the price of the land—and was able to provide low-cost housing on that land. Under the current government measures, the land will now pass back into the private sector and Ontario, and the people of Ontario, will lose the benefits of the HOME programme.

Supply, as I have mentioned, is the critical element in the housing problem as I see it. The government has recently announced that it will not follow through on its promised programme to subsidize mortgages in Ontario. Under current circumstances of supply, I think that is probably a reasonable position to take.

I would like to give you one example with which I am familiar in the Ottawa area. I know of a large condominium building, built in downtown Ottawa, which remained almost totally empty for a year and half; it had three-bedroom apartments going for \$61,900 and a condominium regulation saying that no children were allowed in that building.

In a situation like that, where owners and developers have the financial wherewithal to be able to wait out the market, there is no way that we should be subsidizing mortgages. Why should we think of bringing the market up to the developer's level and meeting those kinds of stipulations—\$61,900 for a three-bedroom apartment and no children? We must have a greater supply of housing before we can talk about subsidizing mortgages.

In Ottawa-Carleton, housing supply has been critical. There has been line-ups at expensive housing development sites; fist fights in line-ups at housing sites; and homes being out of the reach of the majority of people who live in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I would like to focus some of my comments today on an area where government

policies could change and where simple honesty in government policy would help a lot of home owners in the riding of Carleton East. In Carleton East we estimate that there are about 4,000 condominium units. It's a very large proportion of the residences of the area. I would like to talk about the changes which this government could bring about within the Condominium Act which would help to protect the rights of condominium owners, so many of whom live in Carleton East. I know it is becoming an increasingly important part of the housing sector in Ontario.

These changes, the first ones that I would like to indicate, are changes that would not cost the provincial government one penny. They might cost the Conservative government—the Conservative Party—many pennies as I understand that contributions from developers have certainly been made to the Conservative Party election funds and perhaps after 33 years in power this government has difficulty distinguishing the Conservative Party from the government of Ontario.

An hon. member: Shame on them.

Ms. Gigantes: The Act as it stands does not give adequate protection to the individual condominium owner. The family about to buy a condominium is entering on the largest purchase it will probably make in its lifetime.

Most condominiums, however, are managed in the first few months by the developer which built them and it is very difficult for condominium owners to bring about a change in the management of their condominiums. There has been case after case in Carleton East—which, as I have indicated, has a great many condominium corporations—where developers have proved to be intransigent and, in some cases, incompetent managers of condominium corporations. The condominium owners have had a great deal of difficulty in managing to change their management.

Under the former legislation, the Condominium Act of 1970, it took an 80 per cent vote of all the owners in a condominium corporation for the owners of that corporation to be able to change the management. I remind members again that, in most cases, in a newly-incorporated condominium the management is the developer.

With the changes to the Condominium Act in 1974, it is now only necessary for 66 and two-thirds of the owners to vote for a change in management. That still can prove to be very difficult. I would like to read a letter which will indicate the depth of this problem and the great difficulty the current

legislation now creates and allows to exist in terms of how condominium owners can change management.

I have a letter dated Feb. 5, 1976, from the Bank of Montreal addressed to the unit owners of Carleton Condominium Corp. No. 25. This is a condominium which is called Sutton Place. It consists of two towers, in one of which the mortgages of the individual owners are financed through the Bank of Montreal. In the second tower, most of the owners have their mortgages through the Provincial Bank of Canada. The letter goes as follows:

We have just learned that the board of directors of your condominium corporation is intending to terminate the management contract between the condominium corporation and Shenkman Corp. Ltd. We are in the delicate position of having undertaken and agreeing with Ontario Housing Corp., as one of its conditions of guaranteeing our individual unit mortgages, that we would insist that Shenkman Corp. Ltd. manage the condominium corporation for a period of five years.

[5:15]

Mr. Speaker, at this point I should identify Shenkman Corp. as the developer in this case also. I continue with the letter:

If the board of directors on instructions from the condominium owners insist on terminating the existing contract, we will seriously consider, in order to protect our interest and to not disturb our guarantee, withdrawing the right of condominium owners to vote and take over this responsibility ourselves in accordance with paragraph 23 of the first mortgage registered against most of the units.

Please understand that it is not our wish to interfere with the operation of this condominium corporation by the owners, but on the other hand we cannot stand by and watch our security being jeopardized.

It is not acceptable to us that the management contract be terminated until we obtain a waiver of the condition from Ontario Housing Corp. and until it is conclusively shown to us that the present manager is incompetent and the corporation can be better managed by others and detailing to us the alternative means being considered for managing the business of the corporation.

To conclude, please realize that the reason that Ontario Housing Corp. and the bank insisted on Shenkman Corp. Ltd. managing this operation was for the protection of the owners as well as ourselves.

And it goes on. It's signed by Mr. R. Boudreau, the mortgage manager.

Each and every owner of condominium units within Sutton Place received that letter just prior to a scheduled meeting at which the condominium owners were considering changing their management, for which they needed a 66⅔ vote of all the owners. There is an identical letter from the Provincial Bank of Canada. It's obviously a copy, and it's signed by Mr. Davignon, the assistant regional supervisor. This letter too went to every condominium unit in Sutton Place.

It's obvious that that kind of letter can and did have a very, what shall we say—blackmailing?

Mr. Moffatt: Intimidating.

Ms. Gigantes: Intimidating is the word I'm looking for, thank you—effect on the individual owners in that condominium. In spite of that, I'm happy to report that they overcame their fears and with legal advice went ahead and have started the process of ridding themselves of their current manager.

It's clear the mortgagor, in this case, for example, the Bank of Montreal and the Provincial Bank of Canada, has a right to try to protect its investment, and the investment in a condominium corporation such as Sutton Place is a major one. But, especially as we see in this example, when there are close links between the banks and the major developers, condominium owners have to be protected from this kind of gross pressure which developers and their financial backers can bring to bear on the operation of the condominiums.

As the law now stands, the banks can withdraw from the owners the right to vote and the owners would have to try and take the bank to court in order to exercise their right to vote for the management of their corporation. The law should be written the other way around. We recognize that the owners have an investment, but we have to recognize that the individual owners are subject to all kinds of pressures and that to rid themselves of existing management may be very difficult. I think that we have to write into the law the right for individual owners to be protected vis-à-vis the developers and their bankers in a situation such as this one. There is an imbalance of power now and I think that the law must be rewritten to turn that balance around.

One of the other problems that arises in condominium corporations under current legislation is that any person can own any num-

ber of units within the corporation. In most cases, the person who is going to be interested in accumulating units, and hence votes in a corporation of this kind, is going to be a developer. One can imagine situations, and in fact there is some threat of situations developing within Carleton East, where developers are buying back units at cut-rate costs in a situation where they are also the management. They are becoming a controlling interest, not only in terms of being the managing company but also in terms of the ownership of the units and control of the votes of the condominium corporation. I think there have to be regulations written into Ontario law which will protect individual condominium owners from this kind of development. It can undermine the investment they have made as individuals in their condominium units, and I think it is time that Ontario law took the problem into real consideration.

The law must be changed also in the matter of use of proxies for votes at condominium corporation meetings, particularly at meetings of importance where, for example, management might be being challenged. I think the law should lay down rules for the use of proxies and should insist that proxy votes only be transferable to people who live within a condominium corporation. It is possible again for one individual, and particularly for a developer, to round up proxies in a situation where there may be absentee ownership of condominium units, and to effectively control the management of a condominium corporation through the unlimited use of proxies.

Condominium law, as it now stands in Ontario, does not lay out regulations under which management may take on loans in the name of that condominium corporation. I feel very strongly, and I know I am supported by condominium owners in Carleton East, that the law of Ontario should be amended to give protection to condominium owners as a group that their management will not take on loans which they do not know anything about. As the law stands now, loans are only governed under bylaws and it is not a requirement that management inform and have support for taking out loans for the corporation.

The law should be changed so that management, whatever management company or management group is in direction of the corporation, will not be able to hold the assets of that corporation in the name of the management, but must hold the assets of the corporation in the name of the corporation. A situation is developing now in Carleton East where many condominium corporations are being managed by the same management company. There is developing a whole new

field of enterprise which is called condominium corporation management, and companies are being formed that offer themselves as management to many condominium corporations.

If these companies are permitted to hold the assets of condominium corporations in the name of the management company, then one can imagine a great many situations which are going to be fraught with legal hazards and offer possibilities of financial mismanagement in the future. I think it very important that Ontario law take cognizance of that possibility and that the law should prescribe that the assets of the condominium corporations are held only in the name of that corporation.

One other point about condominium law which I think should be raised, and in which a change would cost the government nothing, is that condominium law must be available in translation in the French language. Within Carleton East the francophone population is anywhere between 20 per cent and 30 per cent in given areas, and many francophones in our area are purchasing condominiums.

Condominium law and the rights and responsibilities of condominium owners are difficult enough to understand if one's language is English and the law is in English, believe me. But for people who speak French and who cannot obtain a translation of condominium law, I think it is a real injustice. I think it imperative that the government of Ontario provide French translations of condominium law so that individual condominium owners can exercise their full rights and responsibilities within condominium corporations in Ontario.

One other area I would like to mention would cost one government or another some money, and that is the taxation of condominiums. As you are aware, sir, we revised the Condominium Act in the fall and, for the first time, we insisted in Ontario that condominium units be taxed on the same basis as all other residential units; that they be taxed on fair property value.

Mr. Cassidy: It was the NDP that got that amendment.

Ms. Gigantes: Yes, it was the NDP that got that one in.

Mr. Moffatt: That's responsible.

Ms. Gigantes: That was step No. 1. Step No. 2 lies ahead of us.

Mr. Nixon: Now that you have two people, you can scratch backs.

Mr. Moffatt: The two leaders?

Mr. Martel: Whose back was Houlton scratching?

Ms. Gigantes: At the moment, the Condominium Act specifies that owners must pay for maintenance of common elements. That is to say that each person who owns a unit in a condominium corporation is also responsible for a fee which covers the common elements.

Mr. Nixon: Taylor always used to say things that got publicity.

Ms. Gigantes: I believe this constitutes a form of double taxation, given that condominium corporation owners also have to pay normal municipal property taxes. The condominium owner pays taxes on the real value of his own personal condominium unit. He also pays municipal taxes on the common property elements of the condominium. Then he also has to pay condominium fees for such services as are normally provided by a municipality. These services include the maintenance of access streets, snow clearance of access streets, salting and sanding of access streets, the maintenance of outdoor lights on access streets, the maintenance of fire hydrants, sewer maintenance on access streets and the maintenance and installation of street signs.

I think that simple equity demands an adjustment in condominium taxes. As was the case in the Condominium Act revisions, which we went through in the fall, it is the province which has the responsibility to take the initiative to make sure that adjustment takes place.

I have been in touch recently with the Ministry of Revenue, and I have forcefully argued the case with spokesmen from the ministry that this kind of adjustment is a fair and reasonable kind of request on the part of condominium owners. However, the argument came back to me from the ministry that an adjustment of condominium taxes would constitute a precedent similar to a refusal to pay school taxes if you didn't have children.

I consider this argument to be a specious argument, because a request for an adjustment of condominium taxes doesn't constitute an attempt to avoid a general tax; it's a request that condominium owners won't be forced to pay the same tax twice.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I would like to express my gratitude for being able to put before this House the concerns that I have heard expressed in Carleton East by the many thousands of people who are in

condominium units and who have felt deceived over the last five years by the government that has promoted the sale of condominium units, talked about how condominium ownership was a new form of property and house ownership in Ontario, and talked in glowing terms about how it was offering so much to the very restrained housing market in Ontario. I think the condominium owners throughout Carleton East, and probably throughout the province, feel they've been let down by a government which has not provided a sound enough legislative framework so that they can live peaceable, simple, direct, easily-accountable lives in their condominium units. They have been harassed and bothered ever since they first began purchasing condominium units, and I think it is imperative that the government of Ontario now recognizes its responsibility for making sure that condominium owners in Ontario have a decent deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[5:30]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise here in the legislative assembly of Ontario and embark upon the traditional Throne Speech debate, which allows me to try to make the members of this House a little bit more familiar with my riding, the great riding of Essex South.

I have decided that I will keep all the political and partisan statements to a bare minimum.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I'm sorry to have disappointed my friends here on the right. I said to the bare minimum; I'm not going to let them get away altogether.

Mr. Moffatt: You are going to keep to the unbearable minimum.

Mr. Mancini: Before I start, since there's been such a large request, maybe I will get a little bit political. Let's go back to the Sept. 18 election. I must say it was on that day the Conservative government of this province lost its grip on majority rule. It was on that day the people of Ontario said they had seen enough, enough of regional government—and I might add that those fellows on my right also support regional government—and enough of the aimless directions that the Conservative government has been going in; enough of the vote buying, which

seems to have become the only sole philosophy of this government here in Ontario.

But, as extreme as that philosophy is, there is another philosophy in this House and it sits over here on my right—

Mr. Warner: Got two philosophies.

Mr. Mancini: —a philosophy so vulgar that it insults the very intelligence of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: The very word.

Mr. Moffatt: Is it one of your old speeches, Bob? It sounds like it.

Mr. Mancini: A philosophy which would pretend to give everything to everybody and grant a solution to every problem. I would say that they spout this off without any form of embarrassment.

Mr. Nixon: Do you think they would be embarrassed?

Mr. Mancini: But getting back to the text of my remarks, I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask you if you remember, some years ago, a very fine gentleman who represented the constituency of Essex South, a member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, a very fine man by the name of Bill Murdoch?

Mr. Murdoch represented his constituents in a very fine and honourable manner in the the years between 1943 to 1963.

Mr. Martel: Did you write that for him, Bob?

Mr. Mancini: He became Speaker of this legislative assembly in the years 1960 to 1963. The member following Mr. Murdoch, who wrested his seat away from him, was another gentleman by the name of Don Paterson.

Mr. Nixon: Now you are talking.

Mr. Martel: A fine fellow.

Mr. B. Newman: The finest of the fine.

Mr. Mancini: A very fine fellow, as my friend Elie has said. Mr. Paterson, a very honourable and capable man, represented the constituents of Essex South from the years 1962 to 1975. He brought Essex South under the Liberal fold, and today I would like to say that Mr. Paterson has retired from the assembly but he is still active and is still a viable force in Liberal politics in Essex

South, and a well respected man in his community.

Mr. Martel: You are going to vote with the government too, next week.

Mr. Laughren: Why did you take the election away from him?

Mr. Foulds: What do you mean a viable force?

Mr. Mancini: Essex South has approximately 55,000 people. Many of these people are from ethnic backgrounds—

Mr. Ruston: Great workers.

Mr. Nixon: Well to do.

Mr. Mancini: Right, very great workers. Anderdon township, where I make my residence, and the River Canard areas is populated by very proud French Canadians. The Amherstburg area has a rather large Italian ethnic community, with an ethnic club they refer to as the Verdi Club. In the Harrow area, there is a very large Portuguese community which has also established an ethnic club for itself. Fine people.

In the Leamington area there is another Italian club, the Roma Club. The Lebanese community which, I might say, is the largest in all of Canada is presently making plans for establishing an ethnic club. The Germans of the area have probably one of the most attractive establishments at the Rhine Danube Club.

This brings me to the point of mentioning the Mennonite community of Essex South. These people are extremely hard-working and industrious. A few weeks ago I had the privilege of participating at the opening of their new auditorium and gymnasium complex. I want to tell my friends over here on the right that not everyone needs help and there are still some people left in this Province of Ontario who can do things for themselves. These people have built for themselves, without one penny from outside their community—

Mr. Foulds: No assistance from the Liberal Party.

Mr. Mancini: —and without one penny from this Ontario government a \$500,000 gymnasium and auditorium.

Interjection.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to digress for a moment, if I may—

Mr. Martel: I thought that was a digression.

Mr. Mancini: I think you are a digression, personally.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, if I could have order in this House—

Mr. Ruston: A little order in this House; keep them in order.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to go back to March 30 when the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) just about insulted everyone here when he made comments implying that areas held by Tory members were better taken care of financially by the government of Ontario. A more crass form of politics cannot be found.

Mr. Laughren: It is not true of Parry Sound.

Mr. Maeck: Certainly not.

Mr. Mancini: If the Premier had any sense or feeling he would ask that member to withdraw his remarks and apologize to this assembly.

As a matter of fact, that philosophy doesn't stay in Scarborough Centre; it travels throughout the whole province. I can recall last September that the only campaign platform the Tories had in Windsor and Essex county was to vote for a fellow on the government side of the House. They forgot to say on the minority side of the House because there are more members in opposition now than there are in government.

Mr. Nixon: Do the Tories still run candidates down there in Essex and Windsor?

Mr. Mancini: Over the last few days I have tolerated, and I am still tolerating, statements by the socialist members of this House who sometimes speak of free enterprise, as I am sure one of them did today—

Mr. Martel: Socialist hordes.

Mr. Cunningham: Especially when Stephen's away.

Mr. Moffatt: He is so seldom away.

Mr. Foulds: We are trying to get in tennis lessons.

Mr. Mancini: The fact remains, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Warner: What are you going to do?

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am being accosted here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mancini: The fact remains that in the last session of this assembly, when a vote was put to this House about the province having its own anti-inflation programme and coming to help the people in the public service—helping take care of our own, that's how I see it—these fellows here abandoned all their responsibilities and they are still catching it from the trades unions.

Mr. Warner: What are you going to do?

Mr. Mancini: They are still catching it.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this party is represented by more than fellows. We have representation by both men and women in this party.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: That's not a point of order. The hon. member for Essex South can continue.

Mr. Mancini: I apologize to the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes).

Some hon. members: And the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman).

Mr. Mancini: She's not here right now.

Getting back to the riding of Essex South, I would like to mention the very famous Pelee Island. I would like to invite all members of this House, ladies and gentlemen, to Pelee Island during the great pheasant hunt and partake in that great institution.

Mr. Martel: Even the socialist hordes.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are lucky it's not a peasant hunt.

Mr. Foulds: Keep the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) away though. There will be a special privilege for his father-in-law.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Essex South has three main job occupations—industry, farming and fishing. The Kingsville and Wheatley areas I would say are the capital ports of Essex South. They

employ many hundreds of people in the fishing industry and bring many millions of dollars to the community. The Leamington area is the tomato capital of all the world.

Mr. Ruston: I've seen some of these nice tomatoes down there.

Mr. Mancini: The farming industry and the labour industry, who support me very well, are spread across the riding. A great deal of it is congregated in the Amherstburg and Leamington area. I just want to add for the advice of my friends here that the UAW locals and the AFL-CIO locals openly came out in support of a Liberal member in that area.

Mr. Foulds: Are you tied to big labour?

Mr. Laughren: Do you take contributions from the international unions?

Mr. Mancini: We in the Liberal Party try to represent everyone.

An hon. member: And everything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you for coming to the rescue, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to take time out to mention something very unique in the Province of Ontario. That is that there is only one volunteer ambulance service and that happens to be in the great riding of Essex South. It's situated in the Amherstberg, Anderdon and Malden areas. Having known the great wisdom of the Conservatives of Ontario, one wouldn't have to wonder too deeply why on earth anyone would want to take away this voluntary ambulance service, as they tried to do nearly three years ago.

Mr. Foulds: This guy's got a memory.

An hon. member: Shame, shame.

Mr. Mancini: I believe it would behave them to leave that service alone.

Mr. Ruston: The Conservatives are like the NDP—they want to take over everything.

Mr. Mancini: I'd just like to say that I've enjoyed my work in the Labour and Workmen's Compensation Board estimates a great deal and I hope I can learn a lot more. I sincerely hope that in some small way I can assess the blue collar workers of Ontario. Just getting on to workmen's compensation, I don't believe, as my friends here on the right believe, that it should be abolished. I think it should be bettered.

I'm very glad to see the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) here.

Mr. Good: The only cabinet minister.

An hon. member: He's not listening.

Mr. Mancini: He's going to be listening in a minute. I think it's time for the Attorney General to put out his tentacles a little bit further than the hockey rink and start to become concerned with crime in the streets, and start to become concerned with plea bargaining, and start to become concerned with the way the judges in our province hand down decisions. I've spoken to the Attorney General on occasion before.

Interjection

Mr. Mancini: This has to be brought out—if the NDP will let me—

Mr. Martel: Go ahead.

[5:45]

Mr. Mancini: It has to be known that in the riding of Essex South there was a very sad situation occur. Many lives were damaged forever, I would say. It has to be known that I feel that some judges in this province would have to pay slightly more attention.

There was a rape case and these particular individuals were convicted twice by a judge and jury but they were granted a retrial in each situation. They were granted a third retrial and they were found guilty by a judge and jury again. I think there is something wrong with our judicial system when persons found guilty by their peers on two separate occasions are again granted a retrial, and again the victims are dragged through the courts as though they were the criminal.

I would like to close by saying that I am a little bit disappointed with the province's restraint programme in the light of the way the Tories threw money around last September; and in light of the fact that they gave almost \$500 million away—that we can keep track of anyway. Today, they have the audacity to close down the hospitals and tear the guts out of small communities to save \$50 million.

Mr. Martel: But you will support them.

Mr. Laughren: You'll support them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: We don't support that government in their actions.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Tell us about the Anti-Inflation Board.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kerrio: We are going to fool you guys again.

Mr. Martel: Good.

Mr. Kerrio: You had your chance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kerrio: In bed with Trudeau and those guys.

Mr. Mancini: I would just like to say that—

Mr. Martel: You have got it rough.

Mr. Mancini: —when a government has done this it has lost all form of consciousness and should be defeated.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have another speaker who wishes to participate in this debate? The hon. member for Eglinton.

Mr. Martel: Is this your maiden speech?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Firstly, I would like to assure my hon. friend opposite, the member for Essex South, that I am indeed concerned about matters relating to the administration of justice which go far beyond what might be termed excessive violence or brutality in the ice arenas of this province. In the same context I might say I have been reluctantly absent from some of the very major clashes which have involved some of my colleagues, such as the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), at Maple Leaf Gardens for fear of the position I might be placed in if I were perceived to be aiding and abetting some of the conduct which has been reported to me as occurring from time to time and involving some of the hon. members.

In a more serious vein, particularly in relation to certain remarks made by my friend, the member for Essex South, in respect to the administration of justice in this province, I should like to state that I have been satisfied, not only during my short tenure as Attorney General for this province but by reason of my experience as a trial counsel in the courts of this province for almost 18 years, that the overwhelming majority of judges at all levels of our courts carry on their duties in a very dedicated and conscientious manner with overriding concern for the community as a whole.

I do believe that anyone who has the privilege of holding the office of Attorney General for the province does have responsibilities which obviously should be governed by considerations which have nothing to do with partisan politics.

During the short time I have occupied this office, I think I have encouraged members from all sides of the House, including the hon. member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) to communicate with me at any time they felt the administration of justice was not being well served; and I would like to reiterate that I hope this type of communication will continue in the future. I do believe that insofar as the administration of justice is concerned it's generally a matter that is approached on a relatively non-partisan basis, because I am confident that all of the members of this Legislature are deeply concerned with maintaining the high quality of administration of justice we have generally enjoyed in this province.

Mr. Speaker, as you know sir, the government indicated in the Speech from the Throne that it would seek the support of this House for a programme to improve the administration of justice in our province. At the same time, the government is committed to reforms in estate law which will include revisions concerning the rights of children and spouses in property matters. Although the administration of justice has many facets, all of which are significant, at the present time one of the most important—and one to which I am sure this House would wish to direct its attention—is the administration of the courts of Ontario. It is our objective to develop an administration of those courts which will ensure the continued independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and at the same time ensure the efficient and economical operation of the several levels of courts of the province. To achieve this objective under our constitutional system, we must bring into balance two principles which are equally important but in practice sometimes extremely difficult to co-ordinate.

The administration of justice is a responsibility, certainly, of this Legislature under the British North America Act, and it follows that this House holds me, as the Attorney General accountable to it for that responsibility in relation to the administration of the courts.

The expenditure of public funds in the court system and the accountability for that expenditure to the legislative assembly is certainly fundamental to our system of responsible government. On the other hand, our parliamentary form of government contemplates as an inherent principle a separation of the judicial function from the other branches of government. This separation is commonly described as the principle of the independence of the judiciary, and I think

members from all sides would readily agree that this concept is absolutely fundamental to any proper administration of justice.

Mr. Nixon: We agree over here, but where are your people? There is not another cabinet minister here to listen to you.

Mr. Singer: Arthur Meen.

Mr. Nixon: Arthur is engaged in active conversation with another member. I really think it is a sorry tale.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am sure they are all listening intently outside the doors, and some of them might feel they have heard this before.

Mr. Roy: You have six members over there.

Mr. Nixon: We are on the Attorney General's side in that sense.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The principles in relation to the separation of the judicial function and the responsibility of the Attorney General for the administration of justice do meet, and sometimes head-on, in the area of courts administration. In our system of government it is essential that a practical working relationship be established between the courts and the Legislature on all administrative and financial matters. As Attorney General, I am faced daily with pragmatic difficulties in developing this relationship which is so essential to the total administration of justice.

Mr. Singer: And getting money from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough); that's the other problem.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: That is certainly an interesting challenge. The Treasurer is very aware of his responsibilities to all the citizens in Ontario in relation to protecting the public purse. It is necessary for any minister of the Crown to plead a very effective case in order to secure the funds that we all sincerely believe are necessary to carry out our functions; and certainly the additional funds which I personally believe to be necessary for the administration of justice. Where is the Treasurer?

Mr. Moffatt: You listened to him in the election; that is the trouble.

Mr. Roy: Don't lose hope. If we get close to an election he becomes more generous.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As I indicated, although many studies have been done in Canada, we have still not as yet established

a mutually-acceptable definition of the respective roles of the government and the judiciary in administration of the courts. The difficulty is manifested in many ways, but none so obvious as in the problems encountered in case-flow management.

Delay in the disposition of cases is not only a chronic problem of our court system but one which exists in virtually all common law jurisdictions of the world. In Ontario, it has been underlined by the admittedly existing case load crisis. This crisis, in turn, is attributable to a number of factors such as population increases, the advent of the automobile, the complexities of modern business, growing recognition of individual rights, the continued expansion of the regulatory powers of government and the acceptance of legal aid as a pillar of our administration of justice.

Mr. Singer: It being 6 of the clock—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In view of the fact that I was about, at this point to remind my friends once again of this time of serious government spending restraints, I will demonstrate the type of restraint I'm sure is expected of me, even as a neophyte in this Legislature, by becoming aware that it is now 6 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will continue with the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 1, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of personal privilege. Yesterday during the question period the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) asked a question and the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) asked a supplementary as to whether or not I had a conflict of interest because my wife runs a small 17-bed chronic hospital in the town of Perth, in which she has given service second to none to the area people over the last 20 years.

I would like to point out at this time also that there are two private hospitals in Perth, one owned by Mrs. Delaney and one by my wife. I feel strongly that because I am a member of this Legislature my wife should not be treated as a second-class citizen just because she happens to be married to me. This goes for all spouses who happen to be married to members of this Legislature and who choose to pursue their professions. They should not be handicapped in doing so.

I would also like to point out that when I became the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health I disclosed my holdings and this hospital was one of them. Also my duties with this ministry did not include the closing of hospital beds or the closure of hospitals.

For 45 years I have tried to build up a reputation of honesty and integrity and I feel an injustice has been done to me by the insinuation here yesterday that because my wife has pursued her interest, I have a conflict.

Mr. Roy: We can ask a question on it, can't we?

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, if I might respond.

An hon. member. Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Very briefly. We will see the tenor of the response.

Mr. Bullbrook: He can speak to it.

Mrs. Campbell: He can speak to it.

Mr. Conway: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly would like on this point of privilege to make it very clear that in no way would I care to leave that impression. The gentleman, the hon. member for Lanark, to the best of my knowledge, is a fine and honourable man and I have no intention now or in the future to cast aspersions on his reputation, which I know to be a fine one.

I simply intended in my question to ask the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) whether or not it concerned her that there was a lack of guidelines governing parliamentary assistants in this province, and that was the point. Certainly I want to go on record very clearly and very positively that in no way is it my intention now or in the future to leave the impression or cast the aspersion that the hon. member for Lanark is in a position of conflict of interest.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You should have quit while you were ahead.

Mr. Deans: That's what he asked.

Mr. Speaker: I think the matter can rest there.

Mr. Nixon: But the question was a proper one.

Mr. Lewis: I believe in the independence of spouses to pursue the profession of their choice.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

PAYMENT TO DRAKE PERSONNEL

Hon. Mr. Auld: Yesterday in reply to a question from the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith), I inadvertently indicated that the contracts entered into with the Ministry of Housing and Drake Personnel Services last December included the supply of furniture to the offices that were being established around the province. That is incorrect. I can only say that originally, when the matter was discussed, this possibility was considered but it was dropped because it turned out that it would be far more expensive than the supply of used and new furniture sup-

plied by Government Services, and I apologize for that inadvertence.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WITH OPP ASSOCIATION

Hon. Mr. Auld: I am pleased to announce today that an agreement has been reached on the terms of a one-year agreement between the government and the Ontario Provincial Police Association. The agreement will be effective from today to March 31, 1977, and will provide wage increases ranging from 5.5 per cent to 9.4 per cent, for an overall average of approximately nine per cent. In addition, the plainclothes allowance will be increased by \$50 per year.

The parties indicated from the outset that they would comply with the provisions of the Anti-Inflation Act and final agreement was achieved, within the guidelines, before the expiration date of the current agreement. On behalf of the government, I wish to commend the Ontario Provincial Police Association and all members of the force for the very responsible position they have adopted in these negotiations.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Hon. B. Stephenson: On Tuesday of this week the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) questioned me about the circumstances noted in newspaper reports about the inquest into the death of Mr. Subash Kalia and the recommendations of the coroner's jury, which jury was impanelled in January of this year.

With the legal counsel of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the entire matter from the records that we have and from the transcript of the trial—of the inquest, at least. From the information we have at this time, there appears to be no basis for a prosecution under the Industrial Safety Act. However, in order to ensure that this matter is thoroughly investigated and to ensure the integrity of the branch, I have retained the services of Mr. Austin Cooper, an eminent Toronto solicitor, to study the entire matter and to make appropriate recommendations to me and to the ministry.

In the light of this, I really do not feel that it would be appropriate to comment further about this case.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Lewis: A question first, Mr. Speaker, to the acting Minister of Health in charge of the occupational health accord: Was she aware that, in the process of the last week, misleading information was provided to the media and the public—whether advertently or inadvertently—as to the levels of asbestos contamination at the Matachewan mine site for United Asbestos? Now that those levels, as tabled in the Legislature yesterday, have indicated that the men working there are exposed to conditions four to six times above that of the allowable limit in Ontario, what is to be done and when is it to happen?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the results which were tabled showed three levels or three different areas of investigation within that mine at Matachewan. There are the ambient air results which were tabled; the personal monitoring results which were tabled; and, I think, the extra plant environmental results. The environmental results are excellent—well within the guidelines—as are the ambient air results within the plant itself.

However, the personal monitoring results in several instances were above the guidelines. One has to remember, however, that the individual worker wears a monitoring device during his entire work day—

Mr. Martel: He is not supposed to.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —moves from place to place within the plant and may be exposed in certain spots to a high level which raises the overall daily monitoring.

Mr. Lewis: Come on. What's wrong with you? You're a medical practitioner, for God's sake. What kind of response is that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Show some respect.

Hon. B. Stephenson: If the Leader of the Opposition would allow me to continue, I shall tell him what is happening.

A programme of regular monitoring has been established. There will be unannounced visits to the plant at frequent intervals in order to do monitoring by both the occupational health branch and by the Ministry of Natural Resources. In addition to that, with the enthusiastic support of both the union in that plant and the management, the Ministry of Health is holding courses in occupational health hazards for those workers specifically, both in Matachewan and in Kirkland Lake, on April 13 and 14. Present at that time will

be the families of the workers and the workers themselves and any interested members of the community who may attend.

The union is most enthusiastic about the Ministry of Health's efforts and the Ministry of Natural Resources' efforts to clean this plant up. A number of directives were issued at the last visit. They will be followed very carefully. It is, I think, important that we remember that the people of Matachewan are anxious to have that plant function.

The workers within the plant are anxious to have it function as well and they are co-operating tremendously well in the process of improving the environmental health and the occupational health for themselves in that area.

Mr. Lewis: There will be a couple of new questions as well, but by way of supplementary: Does the minister not recognize that there is now clear environmental and scientific evidence to demonstrate that workers exposed to levels in excess of two fibres per cubic centimetre, even for a period of less than a month, exhibit a rate of cancer in later life twice that of the regular adult male population? How is it possible to allow them to continue to work in those conditions one day more without forcing the company to clean up? Now, when is the minister prepared to move?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the orders have been issued to the company. The company is complying with those orders as rapidly as is humanly possible at this point and we believe that they, in conjunction with the workers, are making every effort to clean up that plant. They are at risk at the moment. The order has been issued that every individual who works there must wear his respirator.

[2:15]

Mr. Lewis: That does no good. That is irrelevant.

Mr. Martel: That's what's wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We have issued the order that that must be done until all levels are well within the guidelines. In addition to that, there has been a strong persuasive motion, within both management and the union, to ensure that the workers who are exposed will not smoke within the plant because cigarette smoking is undoubtedly a major factor in the incidence of—

Mr. Lewis: You're issuing a death warrant at that plant and you're not doing anything about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —carcinogenic disease which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised.

Mr. Bullbrook: Come on, be serious. Take yourself seriously. Issuing a death warrant.

Mr. Lewis: Of course they are.

Mr. Bullbrook: What histrionics are those?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: What histrionics? You know the consequences of asbestos contamination.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. Leader of the Opposition please take his seat? Thank you.

Mr. Bullbrook: Asinine histrionics. Issuing a death warrant.

Mr. Martel: How is it that Dr. Mastromatteo, of the Ministry of Health, four years ago and continually since, has indicated that no one should wear a respirator for more than two hours per shift, otherwise it would affect their health? How is it that he makes that recommendation and this minister and this ministry insist that men wear a respirator for eight hours, knowing full well it can cause respiratory damage, according to the ministry's own advisers?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that Dr. Mastromatteo has made that statement—

Mr. Martel: He has, over and over again.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —but I would remind the hon. member for Sudbury East that Dr. Mastromatteo was a member of the inspection team which went to Matachewan last week and was a part of the team which issued the report we have now.

Mr. Renwick: We are aware of that.

Mr. Martel: It is still his own recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a debate.

Mr. Bain: Does the minister not feel, since the personal samples were unusually high, that this reflects a more realistic indication of what the real contamination is like in that plant? What is the minister going to do to make the company clean it up? In a letter which went out from the Ministry of Natural

Resources there was mention of smoking, mention of respirators, but not a thing was said to the company about what it had to do to clean it up.

Mr. Lewis: Exactly. No directives.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm sorry. There was another letter which went to the company—obviously the member does not have a copy of it—in which the specific directions—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —regarding various leaks, regarding machinery, regarding piles of dust, regarding vacuuming—there was a list of directions regarding every single operation of the plant in which there was need to improve the function. That list of directions has gone to the company and it has been, really, ordered to comply with it.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary, the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: In view of the fact that the company obviously needs a further incentive to clean up its operations why does the minister not ask either the Premier (Mr. Davis) or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to order that the workers at that plant be kept on full salary while the place is closed down and cleaned up?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, may I answer that with a question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but don't expect an answer.

Mr. Laughren: If I can answer it I will.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I wonder which workers the members of the opposition would send in to clean up the plant?

Mr. Bain: Members of the cabinet.

Mr. Martel: Start with Dr. Stephenson.

Mr. Renwick: Send the ministry in to clean it up.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: All right; I'll go if you will go.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition with further questions.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a separate question: Is the minister aware that as of this month

in 1976 there are now 15 deaths from the Johns-Manville asbestos plant in Scarborough; three more deaths from stomach cancer waiting to be accredited by the Workmen's Compensation Board; three more people critically ill; all of them having worked in conditions of asbestos contamination lower than those which the workers are now experiencing at United Asbestos? How is it possible, in light of the evidence which is emerging in Ontario, for her to take a view which allows for intermittent inspections without descending on that company and forcing it to clean up?

Mr. Laughren: Bunch of buccaneers.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would challenge those figures which the Leader of the Opposition is producing in terms of the levels to which the workers at Johns-Manville were exposed—

Mr. Lewis: All we have are levels of two to five.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —because many years ago, before we were aware of the concern about asbestos, there was no monitoring done. It wasn't done in any jurisdiction, I would remind the member.

Mr. Lewis: It is always lower with a manufacturing operation than a milling operation.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Unfortunately—not necessarily.

Interjection.

Mr. Renwick: It is not a scientific experiment you are conducting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The ambient air levels within this plant are now well within the guidelines. The personal monitoring programme, of course, varies from worker to worker, depending upon the area in which that worker works and on the type of job he does.

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of the Environment: Is the minister aware that part of the drinking water for the plant comes from a portion of Lloyd Lake, near the plant, on which asbestos dust has been settling for the last several months and there is much fear that the drinking water will then be contaminated at the break-up? Can the minister perhaps test the contamination levels in the lake as a result of the dust which has accumulated?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have just become aware of the problem that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has posed. It is in the mill and I hope to have a report very shortly, with the idea of analysing the effect of asbestos on the water.

GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the last question I want to ask is of the Minister of Community and Social Services. In the range of cutbacks which he is applying to Children's Aid Societies, of 5.5 per cent, is there any intention on his part to rescue the Kingston Children's Aid Society from the predicament in which it finds itself of having had to cut staff and reduce its services to the northern end of Frontenac county and generally to take a questionable position on child care, given the imposition of the 5.5 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Firstly, of course, they are not cutbacks. This is additional funding over last year. May I say that last year the average increase in funding for Children's Aid Societies—

Mrs. Campbell: Come on.

Mr. Bain: We have heard this song before.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —across Ontario was 22.9 per cent—in other words, 23 per cent over the year before—which formed the base for the current year, to which is added another 5.5 per cent. There is no question in my mind that the Children's Aid Societies in this province—

Mr. Swart: No answers either.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —will be able to function within the parameters of spending which have been set out. I have also written to the 50 Children's Aid Societies, telling them that if there are any particular areas of concern, I will deal with them on an individual basis to ensure that no child is neglected, and that shows why I am reviewing the budgets.

Mr. Lewis: How did the minister respond to and what did he think of the letter sent to him by the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton)—the parliamentary assistant to the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough)—with a copy to all the cabinet, pleading the case of the Children's Aid Societies in the middle of March, and ending this way:

It is my opinion we are showing a surprising lack of flexibility and a false sense of economy in dealing with children who come under our care. We should be cognizant of this fact and aware of the potential long-term consequences in terms of cost, especially in the area of the care of children.

Doesn't the minister think that the member understands it a lot better than he does?

Mr. Bain: He should be the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: You have a leak in the cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say that I have a very high regard for the member for Kingston and the Islands, as the—

An hon. member: That's not what he says about you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —people who elected him have. I think he is very sensitive to the needs of the people in his riding. However, may I say as well that he hasn't been influenced apparently to the extent that the member has in a one-sided way because, in consultation in regard to the problems of the Children's Aid Society, I think he has a better perspective of the needs of the society. He is also cognizant, of course, of the posture and the approach that I have adopted to the Children's Aid Societies to ensure that no child in need suffers.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? The member for Hamilton West? Order, please; is this a further supplementary?

Mr. Lewis: I don't have a copy of the answer. How did the minister answer his critique, which was a first-rate one, of the dilemma of the Kingston Children's Aid Society?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say, for the member's edification, that I have discussed the problems with the member. I think he is acquainted more fully with the facts of the Children's Aid Societies now.

Mr. Singer: He threw out the letter.

Mr. Deans: I don't think he agrees with you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Before one takes too firm a position, one has to be fairly conversant with the facts.

Mr. Deans: I think he thinks the same as we do.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I hope not.

Mr. Deans: The minister should be replaced.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FUNDS WITHHELD FROM HOSPITALS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the acting Minister of Health: Now that she has had an opportunity to make some inquiries regarding the \$16-million shortfall in grants to Ontario hospitals, can the minister confirm that, as we have been told, the shortfall may not in fact be made up entirely?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The question which the leader of the Liberal Party asked me yesterday regarding the shortfall, I really would like to answer at the moment. As I'm sure he is aware, under the health insurance plan the normal procedure is for payments to be made twice a month during the year to public hospitals to provide funds for the approved budget of operating costs.

In the latter part of the year 1975-1976, the ministry vote, including the supplementary estimates, was \$16 million short of the amount of normal cash flow to hospitals. The government held the view that until the 1976 budgets were struck and approved, under the constraints programme there had to be some reduction in the 1976 increase in normal cash flow. Payments were reduced by \$16 million on a pro rata basis to all of the hospitals. It has meant that hospitals have had to use their working capital or draw upon reserves for a short period of time. Any hospital which has lacked sufficient working capital has had to borrow some funds.

The government has reassessed the cash needs of the individual hospitals, bearing in mind the constraint requirements, and a partial reinstatement of the amount that has been withheld has already been made. We hope to make it up gradually in the future.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: I want to be sure I understand this correctly. Is the minister telling this House that, despite an \$85-million supplementary estimate vote a couple of weeks ago, the ministry still underbudgeted by \$16 million and is now asking the hospitals, already put upon by the restraint programmes, to make up the ministry's mistakes from their own working capital and by further cutbacks in the next fiscal year? Is that what we are to understand?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Not really.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, we get it. We understand. You are great managers.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There has been a problem in this area which is in the process of being rectified and hopefully it will be so rectified reasonably soon. I'm not going to make anything out of that.

OHIP PAYMENTS TO ORAL SURGEONS

Mr. S. Smith: That's wonderful. That's a classic. I have a separate question. That one can't use a supplementary. That answer has to stand as a gem. Is the acting Minister of Health concerned with the fact that the figures of the ministry indicate that approximately five of Ontario's oral surgeons are billing OHIP more than \$100,000 annually? Is this a subject of concern to the minister?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, it is of grave concern and, with the Ontario Dental Association, we are moving to correct that situation.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Can the minister say whether or not it is true, as we have heard, that some oral surgeons have in fact billed OHIP for as much as \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a day's work and from \$14,000 to \$15,000 a month for only two or three days of work a week? Is that information correct?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I cannot say that. I do not have those figures, as a matter of fact.

Mr. S. Smith: As a final supplementary, will she kindly undertake to check on that and tell us if our information is correct?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you.

ITINERANT SELLERS

Mr. S. Smith: A final question from me and that is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who doesn't wish to become minister of a mess. He already is.

Mr. Breithaupt: He already is.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You helped construct it.

Mr. S. Smith: Has the minister any idea of the number of companies qualifying as itinerant sellers that are currently conducting business in the province without being registered?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First of all, I don't have those figures at my fingertips. I certainly would have information concerning those which are registered. I doubt whether we would have any information in the ministry as to those which are not registered.

[2:30]

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: I appreciate the answer, and I expected that, but would the minister be prepared to launch some investigation into this and to promise to penalize those who are found to be operating without a licence in view of the express concern of the ministry that, at the moment, those who are paying and volunteering to get their licence are really being penalized because the pirates are able to go along without even bothering to show themselves?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First of all, we're not about to set up a police investigation network to cover the whole province to find out if somebody is going from door to door, selling things.

Mr. S. Smith: Why have the Act?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We will respond to complaints received from the public or from the hon. member, if he has any cases to bring to our attention. We do have an investigation staff and there are penalties provided for in the legislation which we are quite prepared to invoke; but we have to have the information to act upon.

Mr. S. Smith: One final supplementary: Can the minister tell this House how many instances there have been during the past year where penalties have been applied for breaches of that particular Act?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I can't answer that question immediately. I'll obtain the information and reply to the hon. member.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you.

RADIOACTIVITY IN RENFREW AREA

Hon. B. Stephenson: On March 30, the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question regarding radiation counts in the dump used by the Chromasco plant outside of Renfrew.

Chromasco Ltd. takes ore from the St. Lawrence mine in Quebec which contains two per cent thorium. Chromasco is operating with a licence from the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, and the Atomic Energy Control Board is responsible for monitoring this operation.

The staff of the Ministry of Health has been advised by the AECCB that the plant is being monitored and that it is operating within the guidelines.

If the plant workers or the members of the community have any concerns in this matter, they may request information directly from the Atomic Energy Control Board. The information that we have at the moment from that board is that the dump does not pose any health hazard to those employed in the plant or to the residents in that community.

Mr. Moffatt: A supplementary: Will the minister endeavour to get information on the ministry's own rather than accepting the sometimes qualified and sometimes irrelevant information from the Atomic Energy Control Board?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall discuss this with the members of the ministry and we will make a decision about it.

CENTRAL ALGOMA TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells). Is the Premier aware of the statements by the chairman of Central Algoma Board of Education, reported in the *Soo* media this morning, to the effect that the board does not see any point in further negotiations or mediation efforts with its secondary teachers, and that they are waiting for provincial legislation? Does the Premier consider that this conforms with the good-faith bargaining provision of Bill 100?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to comment on what is reported as having been said by somebody. I haven't read the reports, nor have I had any discussion with the chairman of the board. I think I indicated to one of the hon. member's colleagues yesterday that the government was waiting for a report from the commission on the three outstanding situations in the Province of Ontario—the *Soo*, Algoma and Windsor—and we hope to have these reports from the commission on Friday.

ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Mr. Hodgson: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Since a quarter of the year has passed since legislation was passed on seatbelts and the lowering of the speed limits, has his min-

istry been able to compile any figures that show the results of the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I don't have the statistics for the first quarter, because, of course, they aren't ready yet. But I do have the accident and collision statistics for the first two months of the year.

Total collisions increased by seven per cent in January and February over the similar period a year previous. Property damage collisions were up approximately 15 per cent. Collisions involving personal injury were down approximately 15 per cent; as well, the number of persons injured was reduced by 15 per cent. The number of fatal collisions during this first two-month period decreased by 32 per cent and the number of fatalities decreased by almost 35 per cent. There have been many individual statistics coming out from some of the municipalities and some of the police forces; this is the full report for the province for those two months.

Mr. Nixon: I wonder if the minister would come to the conclusion that while the seat-belt legislation appears to be quite successful, the reduction of the speed limit doesn't seem to have had any apparent effect on the number of accidents? Is that a correct assumption?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, of course we don't have any way of knowing. At this stage I certainly have no indication how much effect each of those individual actions had relating to this improvement, shall we say, in statistics.

I can understand what the hon. member is saying. One would think that because of the reduction in the speed limit there should have been an overall reduction in accidents. This has not been the case. As I stated, the total number of collisions involving property damage, injury and death increased by seven per cent. Although we had more collisions, we had considerably fewer injuries and considerably fewer deaths on the highways. There were 77 fewer people killed in this two-month period in 1976 than there were in 1975.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Roy: As soon as the minister gets his first quarter's statistics on this, especially in the light of the fact that we are having reductions in injuries and deaths, does he plan to make these statistics available to his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), to see whether it might affect insurance rates as well?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Our statistics will be available, and always are available, to anyone who wishes to have them. As you know, normally we publish the statistics in a booklet form annually for the use of all people interested in them, the safety people and so on. I think we are very happy to see the improvement; I am sure every member of the Legislature is. I might say, Mr. Speaker, several other provincial ministers have been in touch with me and with my officials over the past few months—and not only provincial ministries but several states of the United States—and have asked for copies of our legislation and comments on it—

Mr. Roy: We showed you how to give some leadership.

Hon. Mr. Snow:—and I think we are going to see many other jurisdictions follow our lead in this legislation.

Mr. Burr: Supplementary.

Mr. Kennedy: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I announced that as the final supplementary. I think it would be fair to allow one from each of the other two parties, then.

The member for Yorkview was on his feet first.

Mr. Young: Supplementary to the minister: Could the minister inform us as to whether or not there is any increase in the registration of motor vehicles this year over last year, as a result of the incentives that the government offered and that sort of thing?

Mr. Speaker: Well, that is an entirely different question.

Mr. Young: No—

Mr. Speaker: You haven't related it to the seatbelt legislation.

Mr. Young: It has a direct bearing, Mr. Speaker, because—

Mr. Speaker: Not the way the question was asked. If you wish to relate it, it's fine.

Mr. Young: It has a direct relationship to the death rate and the accident rate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I know the connection but the hon. member has not related it. Is there an answer to that?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I will get an answer for the hon. member. I don't have the number; certainly the trend has always been that we keep getting more and

more automobiles on the highway. I am sure there are more vehicles on the highways today than there were a year ago. I will get the hon. member those figures.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the final, final supplementary from the member for Mississauga South.

Mr. Kennedy: I was wondering, recognizing that quality of seatbelts and automobiles generally is a federal matter, could the minister do anything to put the heat on the industry to make seatbelts more comfortable?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, my officials are continually in contact with the federal government, which has jurisdiction over this. I have met with the automobile manufacturers' association and had correspondence with them myself. I have drawn certain concerns we have regarding the equipment to their attention and I'm sure every move will be made to make any improvements where they are needed.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mr. Gaunt: A question of the Minister of the Environment: In view of the fact that the mosquito control programme scheduled for this spring in Ontario will do nothing to control the encephalitis virus because the mosquito larvae which carry the virus do not appear until midsummer, does the minister intend to have a follow-up programme in midsummer?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think the plans that are being made now in respect to this programme by the various municipalities are to apply for the whole season, not only the spring but for the rest of the year.

I note that most municipalities are allocating funds for the programme and are purchasing insecticides and the chemicals necessary to control the mosquito and encephalitis. I hope the programme will be a complete one. There shouldn't be any interruption.

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: In the light of the great financial difficulty many municipalities find themselves in, is the minister prepared to increase his portion of the charges for the programme, for the cost in which the municipalities find themselves involved in the spray programme?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I'm not absolutely certain about this, but I think most of the help comes from the Ministry of

Health and therefore I can't answer whether or not our assistance to municipalities will be increased. The member should ask that minister.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary: Based on the fact that Altosid is approximately 20 times safer, both chemically and environmentally, which is contrary to what we were talking about yesterday—and that's based on the current testing, as I understand it—will the minister reconsider the use of Abate as the controlling chemical in this instance?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think the hon. member must have an agency for that larvicide, or whatever it is.

Mr. Gaunt: No, as a matter of fact I haven't.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think what I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that I've already started looking into the possibilities of also including Altosid as well as Abate. I don't think it should be substituted at this date, but hopefully we can complete our tests so that some of the boroughs—for example those which have acquired a quantity of it—can be assisted financially.

Mr. S. Smith: It is a lot safer.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: That was a final supplementary.

Mr. Reid: This is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: I'll permit it then.

Mr. S. Smith: It is much safer.

Mr. Reid: May I ask the minister what guarantees he's giving to the people of Ontario that these highly toxic substances are not going to get into the systems of small children? It is my understanding it will induce cramps, vomiting, and possibly even death. What guarantees do we have in the province this isn't going to happen?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'd like to know where the hon. member got the information that the use of these pesticides, in fact, induces death. I don't think the hon. member should make a—

Mr. Reid: How about cramps? How about vomiting? How about paralysis?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I don't know.

Mr. Reid: Well the minister should know.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I really don't know. All I know is that the Pesticide Advisory Committee considers all these pesticides for use in the atmosphere, and it has approved Abate as far as safety is concerned. It is a little more costly than some of the others that have been recommended but it is considered absolutely safe as far as human beings are concerned. They wouldn't approve it otherwise.

Mr. Reid: But there are still these health problems. Has the minister looked at the Manitoba experience?

STATUS OF INTERNS

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Would the Minister of Labour consult the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) about the problem which is developing with regard to the decision of the Council of the Administrators of Teaching Hospitals to refuse to extend beyond July 1 the arbitration decision of Judge Anderson, in 1974, that interns were in fact employees? And would the Minister of Labour, after having consulted the Minister of Health, perhaps bring in some legislation to clarify the matter once and for all and save us from the prospect of interns not being able to practise in hospitals?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Consultations are being carried on right at the moment by a number of groups involved directly with this problem. I am very hopeful that a solution will be found for it within a very short period of time.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question: Does the minister intend that the solution would be a legislated solution that would eliminate once and for all the need to go to arbitration to determine the jurisdiction?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would hope the solution would be one which could be arrived at through negotiations amongst the groups, as a matter of fact, and by general agreement of the groups; and, I think, this is a possibility.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. Stong: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In the light of the information received in this House on Tuesday night from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was

negotiating at the present time with the federal government concerning the Pickering Airport site and, keeping in mind that this government announced the cancellation of that airport about six months ago, with whom is the ministry negotiating and what is it negotiating about?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Over the past few months, I have had two meetings with Hon. Otto Lang, federal Minister of Transport. I think, as I reported to the House after the initial meeting, there has been general agreement entered into between the federal ministry and my ministry that a full study will be carried out by the FP-CORT committee which is a joint transportation planning committee of the provincial government and the federal government. This will be a full study of all modes of passenger transportation for southern Ontario to be completed prior to any major decisions being made on new facilities.

Mr. Godfrey: Supplementary: Will there be opportunities for citizen participation in that inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I'm sure there will.

Interjections.

Mr. Godfrey: Could we have a definite statement that there will be?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, there will be.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stong: Could the minister indicate when those hearings will begin?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I haven't had a report for the last few days, but meetings have been taking place between senior officials of my ministry and senior officials of the Department of Transport in Ottawa setting up the final guidelines and terms of reference for this southern Ontario passenger transportation study and I expect the study will get under way very soon. I can't give an exact date, and at this time I can't give any date as to when the committee will be ready to hear the public input.

Mr. Stong: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we've had quite a few supplementaries. We'll allow one more supplementary from the member for Etobicoke.

Mr. Philip: Can the minister assure the House that no action will be taken on the

construction of any airport until after the study is completed?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No expansion at all?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I certainly would hope that would be the case. It's certainly the general intention that this study will be carried out before any major decisions relating to new transportation facilities are finalized.

On the other hand, airports do not come under the jurisdiction of my ministry or of the province, and I cannot give the hon. member the assurance that the federal ministry will not take any action on any airport prior to the completion of this study. They are working right now while major construction work is going on at Malton.

TIMAGAMI AREA BUILDING FREEZE

Mr. Bain: I have a question of the Attorney General; the matter is of concern to both his ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources that has been handled by the two ministries for the last three years.

What steps is the government willing to take to resolve the caution that was placed by the Bear Island Indian Foundation in 1973 on all unpatented lands in 110 townships in the Timagami area? The caution has resulted in a building freeze and great difficulty for the people of the area. When will the caution be resolved? Specifically, what is the government going to do to resolve it?

Mr. Laughren: Consult Ed Havrot.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am sorry, I can't assist the hon. member at this time as to the state of those proceedings. I will make inquiries and report back to the member as soon as possible.

Mr. Bain: Thank you. As a supplementary, when the minister reports back, I was wondering if he could clarify a problem that has bothered me greatly? In my contacts with officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources, they told me that the caution was going to be resolved through the courts by the Attorney General's ministry. In my contacts with the Attorney General's ministry officials, they told me the Ministry of Natural Resources was going to resolve it through negotiations. Who is going to resolve it and whose responsibility is it right now?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As I indicated before, I will endeavour to have an answer to both these matters for the House as soon as possible.

LIQUOR LICENCE LEGISLATION

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Can the minister justify the new amendment to the Liquor Licence Act which will permit people to walk down the street or sit on park benches with open bottles of beer or open bottles of liquor as long as they are not caught sipping by the policeman? How can he justify this in the light of the tour around the province by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) examining the problems of youth and alcohol; and how does he justify this in view of the drinking problems in our provincial parks?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, of course, was not in this Legislature when those amendments were being debated. They are not as new as he is. Those amendments were brought forward here last year and debated at great length; and they went through committee of the whole. Nobody in his party or the other opposition party moved any amendments to them; they accepted them and voted for them. We think it is good law, and if there are weaknesses in it we are prepared to amend it; but, as far as we are concerned, the amendments that were passed by this Legislature are supportable and they were supported by everybody in the Legislature.

LOCKOUT AT ITT OSHAWA PLANT

Mr. Moffatt: A question of the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware that a lockout of 225 workers by ITT at its Ontario Malleable Iron plant at Oshawa is in the 11th week and those employees locked out are being denied unemployment insurance and welfare payments? What is the ministry doing in order to correct that situation?

Mr. Laughren: What a great company that is.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I will have to confess, Mr. Speaker, that we have not been actively involved in that dispute, but I shall make some investigations in that area.

TILE DRAINAGE LOANS

Mr. Riddell: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food; things are a little too quiet over there for me: Would the minister not agree that the ministry's intentions to cut down provincial loans available to farmers for tile drainage installations is in contradiction to the government's Throne Speech

promise to increase productivity of agricultural land?

Hon. W. Newman: First, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a lot of assumptions. The budget has not been brought in yet, and the hon. member is assuming that certain things will happen that may or may not happen—

Mr. Nixon: You have run out of money this year already?

Mr. S. Smith: Borrow it from the hospitals.

Hon. W. Newman: Let me say that we realize the benefit of tile drainage in parts of this province. We know it extends agricultural production. We know the farmers know how to use it to make their land more productive.

Mr. Reid: You have spent \$1 million confirming it.

Hon. W. Newman: We are fully aware of the fact there is a need for tile drainage in this province and that there will be a continuing need for tile drainage for many years to come.

Mr. Bullbrook: You made Lorne a cabinet minister.

Hon. W. Newman: The productivity of agricultural land has doubled in some cases by the use of tile drainage.

Mr. Nixon: What about the question?

Hon. W. Newman: All I am saying is this: The tile drainage programme will be going further in the coming years.

Mr. Ruston: We knew that before.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe there is time for a short supplementary.

Mr. Riddell: Having said all that—

Hon. W. Newman: Doesn't the member agree?

Mr. Riddell: I do. But having said all that, will the minister not see that the money available for loans is increased rather than decreased?

Mr. S. Smith: That is the question.

Mr. Roy: Answer the question.

Hon. W. Newman: I think the hon. member will find the answers very shortly when the budget comes in.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. B. Newman, from the standing procedural affairs committee, presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices as published in each case sufficient: Welland Area YMCA-YWCA, Rancheria Mining Co. Ltd.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Leluk moves first reading of bill intitled, An Act to amend the Public Health Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to ensure that prescription drugs in liquid form, certain over-the-counter drugs, patent medicines and household chemicals that are for sale in Ontario, will be packaged in child-resistant packages.

WELLAND AREA YMCA/YWCA ACT

Mr. Swart moves first reading of bill intitled, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA/YWCA.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide exemption from property tax for the Welland YMCA/YWCA.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. Attorney General has the opportunity to continue his remarks.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, Mr. Speaker. At 6 o'clock last night, I was indicating some

of my concerns in relation to the difficulties of establishing a mutually acceptable definition that's acceptable to the judiciary and to the government with respect to their mutual responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker: Could we have a little order in the chamber please? Would you conduct your private conversations elsewhere?
[3:00]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: It's a matter of arriving at a mutual agreement and a satisfactory definition of areas of responsibility relating to courts administration. That is the responsibility, of course, of this Legislature and of the judiciary. I indicated at the time of the adjournment that the delay in the disposition of cases in this jurisdiction is not only a chronic problem in our court system but also one which exists in virtually all common law jurisdictions of the world.

I indicated that the current case load crisis was a result of many factors such as population increases; the advent of the automobile; complexities of modern business; growing recognition of individual rights; the continued expansion of the regulatory powers of government; and, of course, the acceptance, and I hope the continuing acceptance, of legal aid as a pillar of our administration of justice.

At the same time I must recognize—and we, as a government, having accepted serious government spending restraints—that it is unlikely there will be substantial increases in spending for the administration of justice in the foreseeable future. The public purse, as we all know, simply cannot meet the demands of every worthy cause, although I'm confident that there will be an increasing percentage of the provincial budget allocated in the ensuing months to the very fundamentally important area of justice.

In any event, I have suggested that we must resolve our case load crisis by reviewing existing procedures with a willingness to innovate and to adapt alternative methods and techniques for effective court administration, while at the same time maintaining public confidence in the independence of the judiciary. My ministry is, therefore, constantly seeking new ways to absorb work load increases within our existing resources, together with the minimum additional resources which will be available.

One of the major challenges, therefore, facing my ministry, is to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the administration of justice. I would like to take but a few moments to relate to members some of

the efforts which are being made in these areas.

Some time ago the whole question of the court system was referred to the Ontario Law Reform Commission which came down with a series of reports and recommendations. One of our responses to the report was to set up a developmental project in an area known as the central west region, which clusters around Hamilton, to test out in practice the feasibility of the Law Reform Commission proposals.

The cornerstone of this project is to apply modern management techniques to the court system under the supervision of a management team of professional administrators. The basic initiatives are being made in the area of case-flow management and, generally, the more effective utilization of human and other resources. The project is developing time targets for the completion of cases and is developing annual case load targets for judges.

The programme involves an increased use of justices of the peace as substitutes for provincial judges in handling pre-trial procedures and disposing of minor matters. The project also involves a rearranging of the business of the criminal courts so that each day, before the regular commencement of the criminal courts, a justice of the peace handles the pre-trial matters which need not be dealt with by a judge.

As the objective is to maximize the effective use of all the resources which we employ in the operation of court offices and other support services, it involves also the standardization of court office procedures and the development of formulae based on case load to provide the basis for staff allocation. It also involves the development of cost accounting techniques to determine the cost effectiveness of various types of court operations as well as an attempt to break down the traditionally rigid and hierarchical structure of court administration to permit the use of court personnel in a variety of functions in different court offices.

For example, it is proposed that court reporters within a particular area be available as a common resource to avoid the possibility of one judge's reporter being idle while another judge's reporter is unable to cope with the work load. Various forms of electronic equipment are being utilized to reduce court attendance and unnecessary transcription by reporters. We are examining the feasibility of doing away with the traditional assignment of a particular courtroom to a particular level of court, to permit the use of courtrooms by any level of court to promote the most effective use of our courtroom space.

Other initiatives now being undertaken include the computerization of court-scheduling activities and the greater use of pre-trial conferences to cut down on the length of trials. I have also established committees to achieve the streamlining of the rules of civil procedure and to review appeal jurisdictions. We are also working on a revision of summary conviction procedures to divert more of the case load out of the formal court structure.

Disparities between how things should be and how things are in practice are now subject to relentless scrutiny via modern modes of communication, as indeed they should be. Today's informed citizen, Mr. Speaker, no longer regards as self-evident the justification for many traditional arrangements that owe more to longevity than they do to the needs and legitimate expectations of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Roy: About time you started talking about those things.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: It has been said by the great jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Tradition eventually tends to override rational policy." It therefore follows that in order to keep the system by which justice is administered abreast of present and responsive to future requirements, it is incumbent upon the Attorney General for Ontario to ensure that every aspect of that administration is effectively dedicated to the end it serves.

Nevertheless, experience has indicated clearly that the judiciary has a very significant and important role to play in case-flow management. It must never be overlooked that it is the judge presiding in court who has the ultimate right to determine which individual cases shall be heard in that court on any particular day. This is an essential and fundamental premise of our system, because it is only the trial judge who is made aware in open court of all the facts and circumstances relating to a particular issue, and it is only he who can make the judicial determination as to whether or not any particular case is ready for trial and adjudication. It is this decision which will dictate the degree to which we can make effective use of all our resources.

Again, let me say that it is only proper that such a determination rest with the judiciary in order to ensure that the public continues to have an impartial administration of justice.

In result, therefore, many aspects of case-flow management, which is at the very heart of our court administration, must, in my view, remain within the control of the judiciary. The public must recognize that what we

strive for in our system is justice in each individual case. Each case does have its own unique features and points of reference which will dictate whether or not it is ready for trial. This in turn will impact directly on the utilization of resources. In this context, therefore, it is essential to recognize that the authority which controls case-flow management must at the same time play a significant role in all aspects of court administration which relate to case-flow management.

My ministry is currently considering alternative vehicles for the administration of the courts which will recognize the interrelationship between the courts of the province and government, in order to ensure appropriate recognition of the fundamental principles I referred to a moment ago.

Mr. Cassidy: You won't crack down on the lawyers, that's the problem; just like the Health Ministry and the doctors.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As a first step in dealing with our case load crisis, this government has requested the federal government to appoint five Supreme Court and nine county court judges. To save time it must be recognized that the greatest impact—

Mr. Cassidy: You won't crack down on the lawyers.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —of the case load crisis is felt in the provincial courts of this province.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right. They are being abused by people who are earning money from the Ontario government.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We propose, therefore, to appoint 16 additional provincial court judges in the criminal division and 10 additional provincial court judges in the family division. We recognize, however, that this is simply one of many steps which will have to be taken in order to meet the problem of delays in the courts.

We must be prepared to consider changes in basic procedures which cut down the time between the happening of the event and the actual trial of the issue. The recent amendments to the Criminal Code and the Jurors Act will result in the dismantling of the grand jury. Quite frankly, it has always concerned me that a victim of a criminal offence in many cases has had to testify at a preliminary hearing, and then before a grand jury before the matter even comes on for trial.

The traditional concerns of lawyers have been directed largely toward the accused rather than to the victim. While this is under-

standable, it cannot always be justified and it would appear certainly not to be in harmony with the current mood of the public. These amendments will cut some of the fat out of the criminal process but we wonder whether we have cut out enough.

For example, we question whether the whole process of the preliminary inquiry is necessary to serve the interests of the administration of criminal justice as a whole. Members are, perhaps, familiar with the recommendations of the federal Law Reform Commission with respect to eliminating the preliminary inquiry and substituting a fairly elaborate system of pre-trial discovery.

As a former member of the defence bar, I am familiar with the importance of the preliminary inquiry in affording an opportunity for a complete discovery of the Crown's case, which is certainly absolutely essential to the conduct of any case of any accused person before our courts. As the Attorney General, I trust that I shall never overlook the rights of an accused person. However, so long as the accused is given an adequate opportunity to discover the Crown's case, some of the existing elaborate machinery might well be dispensed with.

However, the elimination of the existing machinery of the preliminary inquiry would make little sense if it only means the substitution of an equally elaborate process. I know these concerns are shared by the present federal Minister of Justice and are under careful review by members of his ministry as well.

It is also important to recognize that administrative changes must be accompanied by substantive law reform in order to ensure the effectiveness of our administration of justice. To this end, I will be introducing legislation in this session in relation to estates law and to the matters of children and spouses in property matters as part of our continuing reform of family law.

It has become increasingly clear that the traditional legal concepts governing support obligations and the division of property between spouses needs re-examination in light of major social and economic changes—

Mr. Cassidy: You're damn right.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —which have effected modern family life.

Mr. Cassidy: You have been dragging your feet on it.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In response to this need for reform, the Ontario Law Reform

Commission undertook a study of the present system of family property law which exists in the province, as well as some alternatives for change. This study, along with the commission's proposals, was presented in a report to the then Attorney General and tabled by him in March, 1974.

Because family law is so fundamental to the community as a whole, the government felt it was absolutely essential to ascertain the views of the public before making any decision on the future of the specific recommendations proposed by the commission.

Public participation in government is a much-touted ideal. However, the realization of this kind of co-operation is very difficult to achieve in a mass society.

Early in April, 1974, the policy development division of the Ministry of the Attorney General began to work on the problem of involving the public in the consideration of the commission's proposals. This undertaking became known as the family property law project. Since the report of the Law Reform Commission consists of almost 500 pages of text, it became clear that the essential problem would be the development of a programme which would offer the public access to the recommendations and an appropriate means of expressing response to them.

[3:15]

To resolve this problem, the ministry through consultation and co-operation with the Ontario Council on the Status of Women and other interested groups, produced a brief summary of the present law and the recommendations of the Ontario Law Reform Commission. Over 35,000 copies of this summary have been distributed. In addition, a film entitled "Family Property Law," was produced and shown to the public in a number of widely-advertised public meetings held throughout the province. Prints of the film have been made available to the media and the public at large. As a result, there has been considerable response to this programme, most of it favourable.

While discussion of the overall approach to be taken to changes in family law was going on, it was apparent that certain existing anomalies should be corrected before awaiting the completion of this large task. As a result, on July 10, 1975, Bill 75, the Family Law Reform Act, was proclaimed in force. It is designed to repair inequities which women have experienced in the past, which result entirely from their marital status. It corrects the familiar Murdoch situations and

also allows spouses to sue one another in tort.

Now that the public has had an opportunity to express its views, the government intends to introduce legislation to rationalize and make consistent the factors a court must consider in adjudicating claims to property and support so that the financial impact of dissolution of marriage through death or marriage breakdown can be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. The government will be bringing forward a bill effecting comprehensive reform of the law of estates as part of the government's continuing programme of family law reform.

The bill which we will bring forward this session has four main themes: First, the equalization of the treatment, in estate matters, of legitimate and illegitimate children; second, the recognition of claims of dependent common law spouses to support survivorship benefits; third, the removal of matrimonial misconduct as an absolute bar to the recognition of property rights; and fourth, a general modernizing of the law of succession to bring it into line with the values and the expectations of the 20th century.

The bill which we will introduce will amend and consolidate in one Act the provisions of the Wills Act, the Devolution of Estates Act, the Dependents' Relief Act and the Survivorship Act.

The provisions relating to intestate succession will entitle the widow to the benefits of the Act without regard to marital misconduct. The distribution of estates will be altered to increase the rights of surviving spouses and to restrict the benefits now accruing to distant relatives. The rules of inheritance under the Act will also be rationalized to eliminate arbitrary and unfair results. The dependants' relief provision will be extended to permit dependants to apply for support when the person on whom they depend has died intestate.

Common law spouses and illegitimate children will be allowed to claim benefits under the Act. The concept of matrimonial misconduct as a bar to an application will be eliminated. The sections relating to wills are largely technical in nature. The government proposes the adoption of two uniform Acts to bring Ontario law in line with the law of other jurisdictions. An important consequence of the adoption of the new legislation is the recognition of two new forms of will, the holograph will and the international will.

Under the existing Survivorship Act, the rules often result in a windfall in favour of the descendants of one family member where

that family member died in a common disaster with others in the same family. The new survivorship provisions will allow the property of the deceased family members to be distributed separately to the beneficiaries of each.

In addition, the legislation will remove inequities and anomalies which now result in the application of different rules under several statutes to determine whether common law spouse and illegitimate children are entitled to benefits which are available to a deceased person's family or dependants. In particular, illegitimate children of the deceased person will be entitled to exactly the same rights as legitimate children.

With respect to marriage breakdown I expect to be introducing legislation which will allow the spouses to have all outstanding issues of property, support and custody dealt with in one action, if they so desire. The principal reforms to be undertaken will relate to the following matters: 1. Division of assets on marriage breakdown; 2. Support obligations of each spouse; 3. Rights of the parties in relation to the matrimonial home; 4. Rules regulating marriage contracts.

Mr. Roy: Why don't you set up one family court?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the legislation and the initiatives which I have outlined will produce some vigorous discussion and debate on all sides of the House. I welcome the contribution of all members of the Legislature in relation to these matters which are all so essential to maintaining the public's respect and confidence and support for the administration of justice in this province.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to ask the minister a question about the introduction of this legislation—when the reforms might come about?

Mr. Speaker: As long as it is brief.

Mr. Roy: It is very brief. Realizing that different bills are required to accomplish some of the things the minister has been talking about, when can we expect to see this legislation?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I would certainly anticipate that the legislation will be introduced this spring. I am sorry I can't be more specific than that.

Mr. Roy: In a month? Two months?

Mr. Moffatt: I gather that it is appropriate to congratulate the Speaker and I certainly

would like to congratulate the Speaker on the performance of his duty and so on. I think all of the members of the House have praised your activities and obviously the praise is deserved.

I would also, at this time Mr. Speaker, like to congratulate the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) for the remarks he has just made. I have no connection with the law, other than to try to remain within it from time to time, and it seems to me that law proceedings in this province have indeed suffered from a proliferation of too many legal minds which affirm that the only people who know anything about law, or could in fact have any input, would be lawyers. I welcome the comments the Attorney General made with regard to the general public as well, because from my own experience over the past six months there have been many items which have involved his ministry which have had solutions proposed by lawyers which have been far too convoluted to really get through to the ordinary person the way they might. So I welcome the comments the Attorney General made this afternoon. I hope, as I am sure all members do, we will see the legislation shortly.

I want to deal with three or four items. I would like to start with two days of Throne Speech debate and comments that were made by the former leader of the Liberal Party and by one of the members of that party yesterday. I would like to use the two comments that take us back to last August, because I think what is happening within that party and within the electorate at large is something that all of us should view with some degree of alarm.

What I refer to is the very good comment made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) in which he tried to solve the dilemma that I think all members of the House are faced with when dealing with the question of how to deal with alcohol consumption by young people. Every person has some difficulty in coming up with ready answers and I noted the difficulty with which the member tried to get to some kind of possible solution to that problem.

He ended his search for a solution by saying that what we probably need is really to deal with this whole question in educational terms, and to try in the schools to have some way of making people aware of the dangers of the abuse and misuse of alcohol. I think a lot of people feel that is a good position to take.

However, the next day—and I think probably two or three speakers from that same party later—we had a member stand and

really say that the problem in the schools is the fact that we have too many frills, too many courses, and obviously courses such as the one that the former leader of that party was talking about. That's exactly what's happening in the community with regard to education.

A number of people feel that some glib and facile statement about the three Rs will perhaps solve all of the problems. Somewhere along the line the teachers have all done the wrong thing by attempting to follow the directions of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells). Everyone then comes along and throws rocks at the teachers and at the system for attempting to do what society asked it to do. I don't think we can have this equivocation take place much longer.

Mr. Laughren: The Liberals can.

Mr. Moffatt: The Liberals perhaps can, I agree. It seems to me that what happened in last fall's election, though, when those kinds of statements were made, did more to hurt the educational system than it did to throw kind of the light of darkness—if you will—on education such as we haven't seen for 25 years. Those people are now saying that we should immediately get rid of all the courses in schools which have brought some people who, before, were disadvantaged to a place where they thought that school at least meant something. Some young people in high school particularly were able to have something to look forward to in their day.

When we hear that kind of statement made—that those courses should be taken away immediately in order to save money or whatever—I suspect those kinds of statements will cause grave problems in the future. That's the kind of rhetoric which led to the present mood of restraint by the government. The government, in reacting to the claims of the Liberal Party during the election, I think has over-reacted and has gone beyond the bounds of common sense.

We see areas where logical programmes have been implemented by various regions and various local municipal governments, encouraged and aided by previous provincial governments. Those programmes are now being terminated and the termination is caused because the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) or various other ministers will write a letter to the local regional people and say, "We have implemented this programme on an experimental basis over the last few years. It is a good programme and it works well; the people obviously enjoy it. Therefore, since it's such a good programme you, obviously, as the local

municipality, will enjoy carrying it on and paying for it yourself."

I submit to the House that that's an entirely ludicrous situation to have in the Province of Ontario. Certainly there are areas where moneys could be saved but that's false economy and it serves no purpose other than some crass political purpose.

I would like to refer to other crass political purposes briefly. I would like to quote from a letter which I received from a group of people in eastern Ontario. The letter was addressed to the Premier (Mr. Davis). Copies were sent to various ministers and a copy was sent, legitimately by the writers, to me. It's dated March 15, and the letter comes from Brighton. It's a gathering of the people who work, who are farmers, who have various cash crops in our area. They quote a statement made on Sept. 9, at Ridgetown, Ont.:

I propose to introduce an income tax rebate policy for any person employed on a seasonal basis in the harvesting of agricultural crops. Thus, anyone so engaged in seasonal work on the farm could claim a tax rebate representing his or her provincial income tax payable. The more income the worker earns, the longer the period of his employment, the greater the rebate which could amount to as much as \$150 for a full season's work.

Additionally, we would propose to the federal government that as a matter of national policy it extend a \$1,000 tax exemption to any Canadian engaged in seasonal work on the farm. But whether or not the government of Canada responds to this, the government of Ontario is prepared to rebate its share of provincial tax to those who are seasonally employed in agriculture.

The statement was made by the Premier at Ridgetown in September.

Last week when the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) what had happened with that programme—he had to ask because there was no mention of that programme or of that speech or anything like it in the Speech from the Throne—the Minister of Agriculture and Food in response to the member for York South, said, "That's an interesting proposal. We're still working on it and it is going to take some study."

[3:30]

If it gets the kind of study which we have seen in the past with that kind of proposal, it will never happen. It's a false and a biased use of the electoral politics by the Premier

to try to make people believe that when he says something, he really means it. I wish the Premier were here now, so that he could either confirm or deny that they are going to go ahead with that statement.

Mr. Laughren: Perhaps the Speaker could tell him.

Mr. Moffatt: Perhaps the Speaker could tell him? I think maybe the Speaker has other things to do. Perhaps the Premier has other things to do as well. He doesn't seem to be here.

I want to deal as well with a situation which, during the last session, was of great consequence to people in the Legislature and to people in my riding and in eastern Ontario generally. I refer to the problem in Port Hope, where over a number of years the Atomic Energy Control Board, a federal agency, failed dismally to carry out its mandate and failed dismally to enforce the law which is part of the law of Canada, which requires it to post and control the use of materials which have been contaminated by radioactivity.

This situation in Port Hope has, at the very least, turned Port Hope into an area where people no longer want to live or to work, and we find extreme problems faced by homeowners and by people in small businesses in Port Hope because of the cavalier treatment by the Atomic Energy Control Board of the people in that area.

I'm sure all members are reasonably familiar with the situation, where emissions of radon gas from radium which was improperly handled has managed to contaminate the air in various homes, in schools, and in some cases businesses in the town of Port Hope. What made this particularly miserable was the behaviour of the Atomic Energy Control Board, which really felt there was no problem and convinced the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) that there was no problem. The Minister of Health—unwisely, as it has turned out—believed the Atomic Energy Control Board and his own people when they told him that the problem was not serious and would go away.

Over the next several weeks after the initial problem arose, the minister had to retreat from that statement and we now have the situation where the Ministry of Health is very carefully watching the Atomic Energy Control Board, because I detect from the acting Minister of Health's (B. Stephenson) statement this afternoon that it's just possible that they don't really believe the Atomic Energy Control Board gives a full and adequate disclosure of facts at any time.

I don't think, though, it's enough to stop and say we have detected a problem in Port Hope and there needs to be a cleanup. It seems to me a great deal more needs to be done in Port Hope, and, as a result, on March 2 I wrote a letter to the Premier (Mr. Davis) in which I suggested to him that he read a report which was at least partially funded by the previous government and which was carried out in 1973 and 1974, called "Inter-Design," in which industrial designers and planners from all over the world met in the town of Port Hope and Cobourg and attempted, as a theoretical exercise, to plan the most expedient use and development of that particular area, keeping in mind the needs of the people, the topography, the geography, the industrial potential and so on. It was an expensive and exhausting procedure. It went on for 1½ months and the exercise was concluded by the publishing of a document by Macmillan and Co. It's a major publication, it was funded by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and it dealt, as I said, in a theoretical way with the towns of Port Hope and Cobourg.

Oddly enough, since the situation with the radiation exposure occurred in Port Hope, the theory is no longer only a theory, but the report now bears some real looking at in order to find solutions to the present problem. In my letter to the Premier, what I requested that he do was to dust off that report, which obviously must be lying around in somebody's office—I know one copy is in my office—and have some person from the various ministries responsible read the report and then work with the towns of Port Hope and Cobourg in order to implement some of the recommendations of that report, which, as I say, were made in advance of this present problem.

I am a little bit sad to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that either my letter didn't get to the Premier, or he can't read it or hasn't read it, because I have received no answer at all—not even an acknowledgement. As a result of not having received an acknowledgement, I sent a further letter to the Premier in which I asked if anything had been done and I sent him a copy of another proposal for the Port Hope situation. In this letter, I simply said:

Further to my appeal of March 2, I am enclosing a series of recommendations made by the citizens of Port Hope in the Pigeon Hill area, which is one of the areas most affected by radiation.

I really can't understand why at least a letter could not be sent back to say, "We are investigating it," or, "Go away, your proposal makes no sense," or, "Yes, we will do it," or

something. It's as though one were talking to a marshmallow. You say things and the dust seems to move; then it settles very nicely back and the marshmallow remains as before.

Mr. Laughren: The benevolent marshmallow.

Mr. Moffatt: That's probably what it is. I'm not sure how benevolent it is either; it may be a malevolent marshmallow. Actually, I like "malevolent marshmallow" better; there's a certain alliteration there that makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make sure that one of the pieces of legislation, which was announced in the Throne Speech as being on the way, really gets some consideration on the basis of what has happened in the past. I refer to the announcement in the Throne Speech that we are going to have, at long last in this most progressive of provinces, a system whereby homeowners will be protected from shady and unscrupulous business people by a warranty programme. That legislation, if indeed it comes in, is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to display for your edification a collection of letters which I received from one small street in the town of Bowmanville. The street is named Vanstone Ct., and it has 82 houses on it. All of the houses are less than a year old, all of them were built by the same person, and every one of them has significant defects that would, in a lot of cases, require that the houses be declared unsafe.

In one case, in one particular house, the driveway is built on the side of the house opposite to the garage and the builder refuses to correct it. That is a significant error, it is the kind of error that I didn't believe—

Mr. Davison: That's rather obvious.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's perverse.

Mr. Moffatt: Oddly enough, it is not as obvious as you might expect because it hasn't been corrected yet.

These letters—each one is a separate letter from a different person on Vanstone Ct. in Bowmanville—document such things as the previously misplaced driveway or garage; I don't know which one was constructed inappropriately.

They document areas where a house was built 4 ft higher than it should have been, and the people can't get their car into the garage from the street without putting some kind of grappling device at the front of the garage and winching the car in.

They document things such as a hole in the plaster in one of the bedrooms. I thought that when a person said "hole in the plaster" it meant that you could see into the insulation under the window. I was surprised when I went to the house, because the hole in the plaster is not just a hole in the plaster; it is a hole in the plaster of about 6 in. x 4 in. and it is a hole in the insulation and a hole in the metal cladding outside. It is also so completely open that birds can fly in and out of this room.

Mr. Makarchuk: It is really meant for Santa Claus, you know.

Mr. Moffatt: The price of this house was \$52,000.

Mr. Bullbrook: How much without the hole?

Mr. Moffatt: The hole added significantly to the ventilation, I might add. With the hole, it was \$52,000. I don't know what it would be, in answer to the hon. member, without the hole; it might be \$75,000 at today's prices.

The list of defects in these houses goes on and on. In one instance, the people moved in. They had bought a house. The typical way of buying a home today is that you go to the open house and see a display model. These people had bought the display model in July and the house would be constructed on lot number so-and-so three or four months later. They signed the agreement to purchase. They put down significant funds. They then waited until the builder told them that their completion date had arrived and so on. They were to move in some time about Oct. 15.

When they went to move in, they had to terminate the lease in the apartment they were living in, so the apartment was rented to someone else. They attempted to move in, went to the house and, lo and behold, the house wasn't even half-ready to move in. It hadn't been plastered. The electrical fixtures were not installed. It was not suitable for habitation. They had already cancelled the lease on their apartment. What were they to do? What they have to do is they have to back up the whole process. They refused to vacate the apartment. They forced the landlord to get a court order to evict them. That takes about 14 or 15 days. The landlord then has to back up the other people who have already contracted to rent the apartment. In the meantime, the people can't move into the house. Where is all this going?

After all of these people had written to me, I went to talk to them. I brought all of their

letters in—and these are only copies because all of the letters are in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I have the most amazing story to report about that ministry because what happens when you send a letter to that minister, he says "Thank you very much for your documentation on this particular problem. I assure you that the people in our ministry will investigate immediately." They investigate.

Do you know what they did, Mr. Speaker? Three weeks later, one of the people from that ministry went to the builder and asked him what had been done. The builder said: "Oh, well, we are fixing up the problem and as soon as it is corrected, we will report to you." That's what the builder told the inspector. The inspector came back and told the minister and the minister told me, expecting that that would placate and satisfy the people who live on Vanstone Ct.

Now what kind of activity is that for a Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations? That's not activity at all. That's just passive reliance on the problem going away. That's the problem with that ministry. It does not do what it says it will do. It does not even live up to its own mandate. It simply sits there and hopes that problems will go away and, if people get sick of complaining that maybe—just maybe—they will not bother calling the minister's office any more. But these people in Vanstone Ct. haven't done that. Every time there's a new problem, they simply write to the minister. They phone the minister's office. I am sure that he is getting sick and tired of the words "Vanstone Ct."

I know the people who live there are sick and tired of the problem. The unfortunate thing is that it is now four to five months since the ministry was first notified and nothing has happened. We still get letters saying: "These things are still a problem." We still send them to the minister and still nothing happens. What should have happened is that the people who are in that particular ministry who have the responsibility, who are charged with the responsibility, should have gone to those people in Bowmanville, looked at the defects, ascertained whether they were verified or not or whether they should have something done, and then ordered the builder on penalty of a fine or taking away his licence or whatever, that the problem should be made better, that the defects should be rectified.

One of the things that hasn't worked for these people is going back to their lawyer and saying: "We bought the house and the house isn't properly fixed," because the lawyers really can't act on it—either can't or

won't. In all cases we have found that the legal processes here are so long and involved that the people either have to fix the defects themselves and then try to recover the cost from the builder, which is a long and involved process, or they have to put up with it. In most cases, the people have just simply given up, their houses are for sale and they are trying to move out.

All of these people are young families. They all have small children and, in most cases, it has been their first experience in trying to purchase a home. I am glad to see the Attorney General is here. I submit that that kind of experience does more to break down the kind of legislation that his ministry and others are attempting to put forward. Those people have no confidence now at all in the fact that the law ever works for the ordinary working person. They think that the law is devised and it is put in place and made to work only on behalf of the developers and the big businessmen. When one hears that comment made over and over again—

[3:45]

Mr. Laughren: You are right.

Mr. Moffatt: —one begins to believe it oneself.

Mr. Laughren: Of course.

Mr. Moffatt: One says, "What is wrong?" One brings the problem to this House which, to most people in Ontario, is supposed to be a last resort, a place where you can finally get something done, and nothing happens.

I am just appalled at the way the whole problem of homeowners' warranties has been allowed to slide. I really hope the minister is sincere and is going to bring legislation into this House which will really do something to protect the consumer.

It seems to me that the legislation should take as its first premise that the consumer is right and that the builder must prove that he has done what the law requires. I know that's a convoluted way of saying it works now. The way the situation is now, the consumer is supposed to be wrong except when the builder can be proved to be wrong by the consumer. This leaves a whole area of contested cases going through the courts which really is expensive and, I suspect, clogs up the courts with a great many cases which should not be there.

One final thing I wanted to mention was that if we are going to make this kind of legislation work, one of the areas where the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) perhaps can do a great service to the people in this

province is to update the small claims court, and to make sure that the level at which the small claims court can function is raised to be kept in line with current living standards. The limit on a case which can be taken to those courts now is, I gather, \$400 and that has been so for a number of years. Members may find this hard to believe but a judge phoned me—

Mr. Bullbrook: That's pretty good advice.

Mr. Moffatt: —and said that should be changed. I expect that will happen very shortly and it will be tied somehow to the cost of living or the cost of the kinds of things which go through those courts.

Also, I would ask and urge that, if at all possible, the small claims courts which exist in small towns be kept open if it means—and I suggest it does mean—that the people who are employees of those courts, instead of being on a fee-for-service basis, be made civil servants. Instead of going around and trying to drum up business and getting the various finance companies to come to them with their claims in order to keep a small claims court open those courts should be made impartial and put on an employee of the government basis, rather than a fee-for-service basis.

It's been a pleasure this afternoon to share some of the problems I faced in my first six months after my election in September. I simply hope we can continue to work toward legislation for consumers, particularly, which places the onus on the business community to do the right thing and, when it does not, allows the consumer to have first recourse rather than the other way around.

Mr. Ruston: I would like to join in this debate at this time and speak on a few concerns which are facing people in Ontario and, of course, in the riding I represent. I think a person in this House must, of course, always consider the province as well. It is awfully easy to get up and say we have certain problems in our own ridings but I have always felt very strongly—I guess it's the way I was brought up—that if one part of the province is in bad financial straits or has high unemployment it's not good for the rest of us in the other parts of the province because maybe then we can't manufacture the goods and they don't have the money to buy them.

It's the same as being a Canadian first. I think if we have poverty in one province to a very high degree it reflects on the rest of us and I think it should be upon all of us

to take steps to right this throughout the whole country. I don't think we can have what we classify as generally full employment without having it throughout the whole of Canada.

I suppose we could look at Alberta and see the situation they're in with their great oil income—the funds they are collecting in taxes and royalties and so forth. They are sitting in an exceptionally good financial position. However, since it is a commodity that will run out, I suppose they are trying to get everything they can now to protect themselves in case it does run out in the next 10 or 15 years.

I would suppose though that if that situation comes and we're still affluent—I don't know if we will be with the price we're paying for their natural gas and oil, but if we are and they are a little down, they will be looking for assistance from us. I don't know if we're getting that much from them. Maybe in the past we have kept our natural resources pretty well within the province, although no doubt much of the profit went out of the country.

The contents of the Throne Speech and the government's actions over the past few months have been of great concern to many people. I suppose that hospital closings and so forth, cuts in Children's Aid Societies, and cuts in social services affect most everybody in Ontario.

In our own area, of course, we've had cut-backs in hospital beds. I had someone call me 10 days ago; a man called me and said he couldn't get his wife in the hospital because there wasn't any room. When I called the hospital administrator to find out what the situation was, he said: "That's right, we have no vacancies right now." It so happened that she did get in within 10 days; I think there was some damage done because she wasn't in on time.

That reflects on what the government is doing. I don't think it is planning or knows what it's doing. I think myself that after the Henderson-McKeough report they wanted to come out in shining armour as people going to save the taxpayers money. What they were looking for was publicity more than anything else.

I think it was a gimmick really because within the first six months or less they will probably save somewhere in the vicinity of \$10 million, so they claim, in that particular area. That's not very much when you figure an overall budget of \$11 billion. It's not very

much even when you figure what we have lying around from Wintario funds.

So what I'm saying is that I don't think the cutting of hospital beds and the cutting of social services, in the way they are doing it, is really well planned. I think it was well planned to achieve what they had in mind and that was to gain publicity with the average taxpayer—trying to let on to the taxpayers of Ontario that "We're the savers. We're going to save your money. We're the people responsible." Well, heaven help us. They were those people who were so irresponsible for the last five years. You couldn't get them more irresponsible.

It's a funny thing, just last year we had a little problem with the car industry in Windsor and Oshawa and different areas and many of the cities had representations to the government to cut the sales tax on cars. Well, they cut it on everything from seven to five per cent in April, but then in July they decided to take the sales tax off automobiles.

I happen to be connected in the automobile industry as far as my family and my friends go, and they have been quite fortunate in having good employment in the area since they've been there. A young chap I was talking to, who was an automobile salesman, said, "We're selling cars, but when you go where the people are making them, last summer and last spring you'd find they weren't being made in Canada." The trouble was in the United States. The Chrysler plant in Windsor, for instance, makes 1,100 cars a day and only 160 of them are for Canadian use. If they can't sell automobiles in the United States, naturally we have some unemployment.

What the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) did was take the tax off cars and say, "That will be great." But the silly thing was that he should have made the regulations so that when you sold the car, you didn't collect the sales tax. He didn't want it that way. He wanted to get that cheque back to the guy who bought the car about a month after he bought it and say, "This is Bill Davis and Darcy McKeough with the \$200, \$300 or \$400 and trying to help you along. Maybe you can go on a little vacation. You probably have the financing all arranged now so this will be something a little extra." This is the cynical part of it—that this is what they were working on. There were a lot of cars sold in Ontario, but if we look at the record for all of Canada, there were more cars sold in all of Canada than before anyway, so in Montreal, Quebec and the western provinces the automobile industry was very affluent in

Canada last year. But the key part of it was the Treasurer taking the tax off then cutting down the money for municipalities this year. The mayor of Windsor comes down and says, "Gee, you've got to give us more money." Darcy says, "Gee, we cut the sales tax off cars and we took \$300 million less in sales tax. You're going to have to raise your own taxes now."

He went in a complete circle. He took it away from one time and gave it another time, but that was all just a cynical part of an election year. The Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Davis) are the two responsible. It's not anyone else. As far as the rest of the fellows over there—well, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman)—

Mr. Spence: He's not too bad a fellow.

Mr. Ruston: —sitting there; he's a pretty good fellow.

Mr. Spence: You're not too bad.

Mr. Nixon: He didn't even know what was going on.

Mr. Ruston: But that man from Chatham-Kent—

Mr. Bullbrook: It's not Auld's fault. It's that fellow Darcy.

Mr. Ruston: The hon. member for Chatham-Kent and the Premier are responsible. Of course, the Treasurer before that—I could call him now a lunatic from London—talked of putting on your sweater and putting a seven per cent tax on heat, and our party got wind of it and voted against that bill on the first reading, caused an uproar and they took it off. Although some people say they were cynical then—that they were putting that on, intending to take it off, and at that time they raised the sales tax from five to seven per cent.

It gets so that one doesn't trust very much people in government who operate that way. The public loses respect for them because of that type of dealing. They just can't accept that.

With regard to the hospital in Paris—and I'm not interfering with the former leader of our party—the day that closure was announced I got a telephone call from a man in my riding who had a close friend—I think it was a brother—in the hospital. He asked, "Where is this man going to go?" I was home at the time, and, with our office here in Toronto having a very alert secretary, got hold of people in the hospital in St. Mary's in the same day and we ended up talking to the

mayor of St. Mary's. I understand there were 67 people in the hospital that day, registered in the hospital, a 61-bed hospital, and they're going to close it.

If I have a bus and I've got a bus route running someplace and I've got full capacity on it every day, I'm not going to close that bus line down. If there's something wrong it's wrong someplace else, it's not right there that something's wrong.

Mr. Spence: Right. Good boy.

Mr. Ruston: As far as the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) going around, he had a meeting in Windsor and he talked about cutbacks. One of the welfare administrators from one of the counties—I'm not sure which it was; Lambton, Kent and Essex counties and the city of Windsor were represented—asked: "We have some new regulations coming out with regard to unemployment insurance which may be a little stricter. We may have a reflection of that on the welfare rolls, and if my welfare rolls go higher than they did the year before, if I have an extra 100 people come in and demand care—and under the Act I have to give them this care; after all, I can't allow people to go hungry—are you telling me that I've got to restrict my budget to 5½ per cent?"

The minister hummed and hawed in his usual way. He danced around some but he said, in effect, "Yes, that's right." That's not satisfactory at all.

The point that really hits me, the way I have read it anyway over the past few months, is that what this government was trying to do was to get back into the good graces of the people of Ontario for making a mess of the financial conditions with their high deficit.

I can go back to a few years ago when I had a conversation with a man who ran for office in Essex county as a Conservative—he was on the Ontario Water Resources Commission at that time, and he was defeated; but however that's all right, everybody has his ups and downs—a very good businessman in that area, Mr. Bill Conklin. After I got nominated, I was talking to him one day—in fact, I think he called me the next day to congratulate me on winning—and he said, "You know, there's one thing governments must do in financing—never have a big deficit when times are pretty good. Our job in government is to see that when times are tough we have money available to put into the economy and get it moving." But this government—or Ontario—over the last five years has had pretty good times running the highest deficit we ever had.

[4:00]

So now we are having a borrowing problem with these people in New York and different places who are lending us money and talking about changes. I see the city of Detroit which used to have a class A rating has been put into a 3B. That's one of the rating groups of Standard and Poors in the United States.

We know from what's going on in some of the meetings of the select committee on Ontario Hydro that there have been rumours and warnings that if our budget deficit continues at the rate it's going—20 per cent of our expenditures—we could be in a similar position. This shows the mismanagement this government has had over the past five years.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Ruston, you would be a good Treasurer.

Mr. Spence: That's right.

Mr. Bullbrook: Because you are a penny-pincher.

Hon. Mr. Meen: How can you ever draw that conclusion?

Mr. Kennedy: Triple A rating member.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I'll answer with any more remarks with regard to that interjection.

Mr. Bullbrook: Last year he gave it to 16.

Mr. Ruston: But 20 had the same job probably.

On a more serious note—I have some other things later but I have kind of an order here. There's one thing I spoke on a few years ago—I think once or maybe twice—about the appointment of judges and so forth and our judicial system in Canada and Ontario. Of course, being a dropout from very low grades I don't pretend to know much about the legal system and so forth. I have read considerably about it and my wife always told me I should have been a lawyer. I have said, "It's great training that a lawyer gets" and I think of the member for Sarnia, sitting in front of me; what a capable man he is in his field and in this area, too.

Mr. Bullbrook: I take that back. He is not a penny-pincher.

Mr. Nixon: He got his PhD in common sense.

Mr. Ruston: I am sure that anything I say in the next few minutes with regard to our court system will not reflect on what the member for Sarnia might be if he was in that position.

Mr. Spence: That's right.

Mr. Ruston: What I'm getting at is not the position itself but the method of how we handle it and how we make the appointments. I don't think the method of appointing our judges in the provincial courts and in the county courts and all the way up is really satisfactory. I don't think that we can accept it any more, in my opinion, because there are too many areas which I think can be abused.

I certainly don't want to go to the way they have it in the United States—I have mentioned this before—by which judges have to be elected. I suppose at a time like this the hanging judges would get elected, if that's the sentiment of the public, and so forth and we don't want that.

I think what we have to do is something similar to what they have in the United States where they appoint people to the Supreme Court. When an appointment is made, they go before a committee of the Congress and that committee has the right to interrogate them and find out their ability and so forth. In that way I think we would have an input into it.

Mind you, I would suppose that the judges who are appointed do the best they can under our laws and maybe our laws aren't all—there's no doubt they are not all perfect either. We, as legislators, do what we think is right in passing laws but maybe we don't always get them just perfect.

I think that when we have what just recently happened—the judge's case in Ottawa and in Quebec—we've been reading a number of articles on that. The last article I read, or one of the last, was in the Globe and Mail just a week or two ago—the date's here—on the judge's affair and the crackerjack lawyer who plays the clown, Mr. Holden, and Justice Kenneth Mackay. I read that article in the Globe, last Saturday, by Richard Cleroux. In fact, I read it twice, I guess. Then I handed it to my wife and I said, "You read that," and to my son who is only in grade 12 in school. They just didn't think that was the way things could happen in our court system. And then we see where Judge Mackay hired Mr. Holden, a former partner to prosecute. Then he couldn't get his \$20,000 paid, and sent the bill to the government.

There are too many political connections, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can accept any more. I feel very deeply about this. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I think that if there is an appointment to be made it should be recommended possibly by the bar associa-

tion. I think they should make the recommendation. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) would then bring them to the justice committee of the Ontario Legislature if they are a provincial appointee, and similarly in the federal.

I think that would clear the air when the appointments are made. I think people would respect it from then on. I really think that's a very important part of clearing any doubt about how our judicial system works.

Hydro rates and so forth, Mr. Speaker, have been of some concern to many of us. We have, in Windsor, a small steam generating plant that's been operating for 25 years. Ontario Hydro has seen fit to close it down as of April 30. That worries many of us in the area. It is a generating plant that could supply the area in case of emergency, such as storms or other catastrophes.

We realize it is more expensive to produce this hydro than other power but, at the same time, they're building a new power line through prime agricultural land. They are tearing down farm buildings, cutting right through some of the choicest land in Kent County, through the riding of Kent-Elgin, through very choice land in Raleigh township, and through Essex county some of the high production land in Ontario. They've got most of the route bought now. They did that within the last year and a half.

Now, they come along and close an electric power plant in Windsor, and this new power line is to supply power to Windsor.

The average layman wonders what this means. You spend millions of dollars on new power lines and the government comes out and says it is going to save \$6 million by closing the power plant. Why wouldn't you use the power plant and forget about the power line? It just seems logical.

I've been writing letters to the chairman of Hydro and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell). So far I haven't gotten much of an answer. I got one letter back from the chairman of Hydro. He didn't answer half of my letter so I had to return it and ask him to answer the most important parts about the amount of power produced, the cost of the line, and so forth. I don't know whether it went over them too fast but they didn't answer my letter.

These are the things that make us wonder how you're operating. It seems like you want headlines to say you're saving money but, you know, there's really no depth in it to show and prove that you're really saving anything. The headlines say you're saving money but, really, you're not proving that you are.

Mr. Laughren: They're backing off. Taylor is backing off.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're taking a lot of flak.

Mr. Ruston: Well, that's another thing. Someone says he's backing off, and that's what I say. I don't trust the fellas over there. They've already closed about four hospitals. Now the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), is saying to the Children's Aid Societies that no child shall go without help. Isn't that what you said?

Mr. Laughren: Double talk.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They will never suffer. I have always said that.

Mr. Ruston: They will never suffer. Well, there again, I think he was looking for a headline. Probably before the year is out he'll realize he'll have to come and see that these things are taken care of.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There, the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) is saying they suffer. She wants us to spend more money.

Mr. B. Newman: One meal every second day instead of meals every day.

Mr. Shore: Something like essential services.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, we're all concerned about the power rates and the natural gas prices in our area and in Ontario. They've gone up considerably, as everybody is aware. We get people sending us a gas bill and where a year ago it was \$35 or \$40, now it's \$70 or \$75. No one seems to want to take the responsibility.

Maybe someone will send a letter to someone in Ottawa and they'll say, well, natural gas rates are controlled by the Ontario Energy Board. Of course, the Ontario Energy Board only approves natural gas rates along with TransCanada Pipe Lines. The general policy of the federal government is to increase natural gas and oil prices to the world market price. This is pretty hard to accept, so we are ending up with much higher heating bills in Ontario.

Of course if we had hindsight, we could say natural gas is cheap. We build houses and never worry too much about making sure they are properly insulated. We have a new building code now that says you have to have a much higher maximum insulation in homes

than it was a few years ago. These are areas we are certainly going to have to cover—better insulated homes, better insulated buildings.

But this world price of oil and gas seems to be an area that we can't accept. I suppose there again it is a Canada-wide situation. People in the western provinces are paying \$13.00 a barrel for oil and Alberta is paying \$8.00—and what you do for the in between becomes a federal responsibility. I certainly don't agree that it will have to come up to world price—especially at the rate they are going. Maybe we could all accept it at an annual percentage—five or 10 per cent a year—and eventually get to it. Maybe part of the problem is that we are going too high too fast. The Premier of Alberta, of course, is pushing this all the time.

Mr. Laughren: When you Liberals get together it is a bad act.

Mr. Ruston: I don't know. Maybe we will separate. They have their responsibilities and we have ours. Hearing the NDP speak, there is one free enterpriser and then another guy gets up and says the government should take it over. Another one gets up and says the company should sell it to private industry, and you are not sure what they are all talking about.

It is the same with the AIB. Now they are not—

Mr. Makarchuk: We are not hung up on ideology like you guys are.

Mr. Ruston: They have this problem with wage and price controls or guidelines and so forth. There is this problem in Windsor in the automobile industry this fall where we are going to have new contracts coming up. The union accepted a three per cent increase over each year—which means \$1.03 an hour for a man working in a factory. Now they are saying, "We are not going to pay any attention to the AIB in Ottawa". We have a contract to make with the United States.

I was figuring with one of the chaps that works in there the other day—and in my interpretation of the AIB, our wage guidelines actually are higher than most settlements made in the United States. Now they are wondering if maybe our guidelines allow a higher rate than what they are even going to be offered in the United States.

Mr. Laughren: What is your point?

Mr. Ruston: The point is that the prices offered in the United States in most settle-

ments have been less than what our maximum allowed under the guidelines.

Mr. Good: And you won't accept the guidelines.

Mr. Ruston: You say you won't accept the guidelines and yet you accept them in the United States.

Mr. Moffatt: But they lose their cost of living.

Mr. Laughren: No provincial Liberal can accuse anybody else of flip-flopping.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Makarchuk: Are you accepting the guidelines now?

Mr. Ruston: We always have accepted the laws of Canada until they are changed by election. If the people want them changed, we will change them and I accept the election results as to what happens. I accept whatever happens in any election.

Mr. Bullbrook: He accepts his very happily every time, I will tell you. Goodness gracious, his majority keeps going up all the time.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I am getting a little away from what I was discussing I think.

Mr. Makarchuk: You were right on.

Mr. Ruston: Anyway as has been mentioned in the House, we have a strike in the city of Windsor. It doesn't affect my own area—actually the majority of people in my area go to Essex county and the teachers teach with the Essex county board of education. They settled their negotiations without a strike, but the city of Windsor is now in its third strike in four years. That is of great concern to many people because they don't know when the next one is coming. In Kent county the board and the teachers agreed to go to arbitration and they are all back to work now.

[4:15]

I think there is something that all of us are going to be facing eventually before too long. Even some of the teachers are starting to wonder whether we shouldn't have province-wide negotiations. I see that in Manitoba the teachers at their meeting turned down the right to strike. I don't mind about the right to strike and it wouldn't matter to me if you

had it in there or not, but I think province-wide negotiations are not all that bad.

In fact, if everybody would have had the same rates that Windsor settled for a year ago, they would have all been really happy. That was the highest, I guess, or one of the highest. Now they are trying to take some of it away from them and that's something you can't do. How they have straightened it out is hard to tell because of the different reports you get from the board and the teachers. As a negotiator, you can't settle a contract in 1974 and then come back the next year and say: "We gave you too much last year." You just don't do that. If you made a mistake last year, you accept it and go on from there. I don't think you can do anything else in that case.

I would think that province-wide negotiations are something that are going to have to be considered. I don't know if there is anything all that wrong with them. If you work for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications as an engineer and if you have the same qualifications as other engineers, whether you are in Windsor or in North Bay or Ottawa, you get the same price. There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes.

Mr. Ruston: I was a customs officer for the federal government for a number of years and I got the same pay in Windsor as a man here in Toronto or Montreal did or wherever it was, and I don't see anything wrong with that at all. You might say different areas cost more to live in. They don't go by that in the civil service, and companies pretty well pay their people the same rate of pay for the same job whether in Toronto or Windsor. If you have an area like northern Ontario, I could certainly say that what we should be doing there because of the higher cost of living is that a person should get a higher exemption for income tax purposes to offset that. That is the solution in areas like that where it costs \$150 to \$200 a year more to heat a home and other items are dearer.

Mr. Bullbrook: A very valid point.

Mr. Ruston: That's where we have got to even up some things. I am speaking on this thing as a layman, seeing what goes on in the schools and having had five children go through the school system. This is something the public, the teachers and all are going to have to look at very seriously. I think it would be acceptable and can be worked out. Probably the first contract would have to be negotiated. I imagine the Ministry of Educa-

tion and the teachers' federation and some board members would set up the first one to get it started, but they would probably try to level off the top one which would be a matter of negotiation.

If the teachers had a right to strike and if their contract came up in the summer, if the schools didn't open for a month I guess some of the farmers would be happy because they would have more help to do their work, but I don't think that is what we would want. If it did happen, that's what would happen. That's something that governments are going to have to consider very seriously.

I really don't have too much more. I want to make one or two remarks and I want to put this in these terms and I am not in any way criticizing anything with regard to the Ombudsman himself. But there are just one or two things and I suppose we will have an opportunity to discuss this when he brings in his report to the Legislature. I discussed it briefly when we went through the bill when the bill was passed. I heard the Ombudsman speak in Windsor when he was there at the Rotary Club. He gave a very good talk and explained his position and so forth. He is a very capable man.

The thing that concerns me is the size of his staff and how it is going to operate as it keeps growing. My idea of an Ombudsman was that his staff would be kept reasonably small and he would deal with things that concerned people who had been aggrieved by some government agency or something and they would come to his office as a court of last resort. I think he himself then would almost have the opportunity to deal with every serious case himself. I think then the people would be much more satisfied.

But what concerns me is, if he has the staff that he is going with now and which looks as if it may increase, we are going to lose that personal touch. I really think that is something that we will be discussing, I am sure, when his report comes into the Legislature, but I want to say that now. It is no reflection on the man himself because I think he is a most capable man from hearing him speak and from what I have read about him. That's just one of the things that I think we will probably be discussing at a later date.

Mr. Laughren: The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) has doubled the Ombudsman's work load.

Mr. Ruston: I should have a few remarks with regard to the farming industry. It has been spoken on at some length here by different members and I am sure that other

members in our party will be discussing it as well. The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Gaunt) today questioned the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) about the money available for tile loans and was concerned that it was being cut down from \$16 million to \$10 million for 1976, when some report came out.

Mr. Riddell: The minister is going to take that up to \$20 million.

Mr. Ruston: We are in a flat country. I had the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) down last week to my annual meeting and had him over to the home for dinner. We took a little drive around and he was amazed at the flat country that we have there in Essex county. So we are the ones that use tile to great benefit.

I would suppose that if every farm in Essex county was tiled to its best potential we would probably increase production by 50 per cent. We have many that are properly tiled, of course. I have heard of some that are only one rod apart where there is a high concentration of tomato production and such things and the possibility of high income.

Mr. Laughren: Don't tell the Tories it's flat; they will build an airport there.

Mr. Ruston: The majority of them are two rods apart, but the tiling on some of the older farms that were tiled years ago is only 50 ft apart, while on some of them it is as far as four rods apart. Some of the tiles on my brother's farm are four rods apart; they were tiled 70 years ago, and they are still working, but he will probably be making an application.

Mr. Moffatt: Oh, sneaky!

Hon. W. Newman: Conflict of interest.

Mr. Ruston: Anyway, I think it is very important, when we talk about the shortage of food and so forth, to remember that we are far from what we can produce in terms of the potential of farm land in Ontario. Certainly, we don't want to take away the prime land, and I am thinking of the class 1 and class 2 land, where we grow peaches and things like that. It's interesting to note that the Ontario Tender Fruit Institute, in one of its news releases, stated that acreage in the Niagara Peninsula has been frozen for agricultural uses under land-use controls brought into effect in 1974. The release states:

Sam Piott, chairman of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Marketing Board, has stated that the orchard operators support the zoning controls, but adds: "Now we

must see that markets are available for our peaches, pears, plums and cherries that will allow the growers to make a reasonable living."

I have been saying that for years; the farmers tell me that. And, of course, that's why we will probably need a stabilization fund to guarantee that we don't lose our shirts when we get an oversupply in the world.

In the last year or so, the President of the United States clamped down on exports because he was afraid that if they kept on making those large exports to Russia and other countries, it would raise the grain prices, which would force food prices up. And he didn't want that to happen, with an election coming within a year.

A large trade union in the Florida area refused to load boats for export because they were afraid that it would force these commodity prices up and there would be a higher cost of living. The prices of soya beans, corn and many commodities are down below the cost of production, and that was one of the things that caused them to go down.

We must have some security if something the President of the United States does can lower prices to such an extent. We just can't stand that type of thing. We don't know how much of it had to do with it, however, because we do know that there is quite a surplus of many commodities. In Brazil last year, I believe they produced 350 million bu of soya beans, which are a high-protein feed; this year, in the harvest they are starting now, they expect to harvest about 450 million bu. They are producing to a great potential, and we find the same in other countries.

We have to really say that the potential of producing foodstuff is still there and still on the land we have. No doubt about that. As long as we can be sure that the price will be there so that the farmer can come out with a reasonable profit, why, we'll be able to produce it, no doubt about that.

Another thing, this year, the tomato and vegetable marketing board has gone to arbitration for tomato contract prices and they got two dollars less than last year. That would be similar to the teacher-board negotiations in Windsor, where the board was trying to cut down some. Actually they ended up \$2 a ton less for processing tomatoes this year than last year from \$83 down to \$81 a ton. So we'll have to accept it, but it's not good.

However, farmers, being as they are, will overcome. There are not many people who can keep losing money and still keep living. But sometimes you can do that for a while.

I don't really have too much more to add at this time. The thing I want to stress is the mismanagement of this government in its financial affairs for the last five years. I think that's very important. I think that's the most important part.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Oh, no. Just a minute. And you are pushing us to spend more money.

Mr. Ruston: I also think that the headline hunting that they were trying to find by cutting back a few of what we call the emotional areas—hospitals and social services—

Mr. Roy: Right, redneck, right there.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You keep pushing us to spend more money.

Mr. Ruston: These to me are the emotional things, and this is what they were looking for. This is what they were looking for with headlines. They were saving us money. "We're the saviours of the taxpayers." Well, as far as I'm concerned, that's a bunch of hogwash.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is not parliamentary.

Mr. Ruston: That was just looking for headlines to go to the public.

Mr. Good: But it is true.

Mr. Ruston: So be careful.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The Speaker said it was not parliamentary when the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) used that.

Mr. Ruston: We've got to be careful that we don't go to the public and they suck us in. That's all. We've just got to be careful. Thank you.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the member thought I was sitting here just to listen to him this afternoon.

Mr. Ruston: Yes, I thought you were just here to hear me.

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, I was. I was.

Mr. Gaunt: Bill, I will be right back. I want to hear you.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne expressed the government's determination, I think, and I feel—

Mr. Roy: "I think," yes. You are not sure. You are not really too sure.

Hon. W. Newman: —to protect and strengthen Ontario's agricultural production.

I don't intend to discuss our legislative intentions in detail today—

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: What legislative intentions?

Hon. W. Newman: —but I'd like to show how the measures we plan will fit into the overall policy of this Ministry of Agriculture and Food, especially as it has developed in the last five years.

At the risk of oversimplifying, our policy might be summed up in three sentences. We want the best agricultural land in any area used for food production. We want that land to yield as much high quality food as possible, at prices everyone can afford. And to make sure farmers stay on the land producing our food, we want them to earn a decent return on their heavy investment in money, time, effort and labour.

Mr. McKessock: That's a statement, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: The objectives are clear. But some of the problems in achieving them are enormously complicated. My ministry already administers 50 pieces of legislation and many more will be needed as new problems demand new solutions in the future.

Mr. Laughren: Start with saving agricultural land.

Hon. W. Newman: Perhaps the thorniest problems lie in the area of land use. With all the competing claims for land in this province, how do you maintain prime agricultural land for food production without state control of agriculture?

Mr. Roy: It's obvious you don't have the answer.

Hon. W. Newman: The trouble is, I don't believe in state control, and I hope the member for Ottawa East doesn't either.

Mr. Roy: I don't. You are talking to the wrong guys.

Hon. W. Newman: Certainly the answer is not through a provincial land freeze, the simplistic solution which some people advocate as though a policy of zero growth could be imposed on Ontario. Instead, there are sensible, equitable, reasonable approaches to this problem and this government will soon make a major statement on land use policy in this province.

Mr. Roy: We want action, not statements.

Hon. W. Newman: We have certainly demonstrated our willingness to tackle this problem, as witnessed by the positive approaches to urban encroachment on the rich Niagara fruitlands, which were just mentioned, along the Niagara Escarpment, in the Toronto-centred region and other areas.

Mr. Laughren: Tell us about Nanticoke.

Hon. W. Newman: Yes.

Mr. Shore: Is this question and answer?
[4:30]

Hon. W. Newman: A foodland development branch was established in my ministry in 1974. This is a very hard working branch. It develops land policies and programmes throughout this province and it reviews those of other provincial and federal ministries to help co-ordinate new programmes related to Ontario farmland.

It reviews municipal, county and regional planning documents to make sure that the municipal authorities are aware of their prime land and of our concerns for its use. The branch performs similar functions in the case of Ontario Hydro plans, power corridors, highways, airports, pipelines, parks and industrial developments.

The food land development branch has other responsibilities, too, including the administration of three Acts which cover draining water off farmland. The importance of proper farm drainage can hardly be over-emphasized. It can increase production of some crops by as much as two-thirds, depending on the soil and the year. We have seen a tremendous upswing in draining installation in recent years.

A select committee on land drainage was appointed in 1972 and most of its recommendations for changes to streamline the present Drainage Act were incorporated in whole or in part in the new Act passed last year. The Act has been proclaimed today except for two sections which will become effective in the future when funds are made available.

The Act provides grants amounting to one-third of the cost of a municipal drainage works for agricultural land; two-thirds of the cost to a territorial district or a provisional county, and up to four-fifths of the cost in some northern areas without municipal organization.

In 11 eastern Ontario counties an additional one-third grant has been provided through the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Agreement, better known as

ARDA. I have recommended that this federal-provincial cost-sharing programme be extended for another two years to March 31, 1978. Altogether the Ontario government has contributed more than \$14.2 million toward these larger drainage projects in four years.

Mr. Martel: How much has the federal government given in the same period?

Hon. W. Newman: If you know anything about ARDA, you know exactly how it works. If you don't you should read about it.

Mr. Martel: I am asking you. Obviously you don't know.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: It is usually on a 50-50 basis unless the federal government decides, for special reasons, to pay more.

Mr. Martel: How am I supposed to know that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Maeck: He just told you.

Hon. W. Newman: If you would go to school—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. minister continue?

Hon. W. Newman: While the Drainage Act helps provide municipal drains in rural areas the Tile Drainage Act helps individual farmers to have smaller connecting drain systems installed on their land.

Under the latter Act, the municipalities may grant farmers 10-year loans to cover up to 75 per cent of the installation cost. The municipalities issue debentures at the same rate of interest as the Treasury of Ontario and the interest subsidy is paid through my ministry. We estimate that approximately 60 cents of every dollar spent on tile drainage comes from provincial assistance.

There has been an astonishing increase in the use of this legislation since 1971, when it was substantially realized that debentures have added up to more than \$41.6 million in the succeeding four years, which means that tile drainage work done per year has almost tripled.

In 1975, the Act was revised so that farmers in unorganized areas and municipalities may get loans on the same basis as those in organized municipalities throughout the province. Under the other cost-sharing agreements, the provincial and federal governments have jointly spent more than \$60

million on the development of rural Ontario in this decade.

The farm consolidation and enlargement programme enables livestock farmers to expand and improve the value of their farms by leasing or buying lands from ARDA. It also enables elderly farm people to sell their farms to ARDA on retirement but to lease the house for their own use. ARDA leases the remaining land to neighbouring farmers at a subsidized interest rate for five years thereby guaranteeing that it is maintained for agriculture while at the same time helping the lessee earn enough to buy land in the future. To date, 2,769 farms have been purchased under this programme at a total cost exceeding \$28 million.

In addition, nine community pastures have been established to provide grazing for 5,000 cattle. These are some of the ways the government helps conserve and improve agricultural land.

Of course one of the surest ways to encourage foodland production is to make agriculture a worthwhile business venture. We have a wide variety of programmes that help offset the risks a farmer must take and improve his opportunities to earn a decent living. During this session we will take another major step forward by introducing legislation to offer farmers voluntary income stabilization plans.

This legislation will be designed to dovetail with the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act, but it can function quite well on its own if it proves necessary. The federal floor price under Bill 350 for certain commodities is supposed to represent 90 per cent of their market price averaged over the previous five years, with the production cost figure also brought in. Unfortunately the federal government keeps stalling instead of publicly announcing support prices that could have been calculated last fall.

Mr. McKessock: Let's not wait on them, Bill.

Hon. W. Newman: I guess not, because I was promised a date and I was promised a deadline. But don't get me wrong, I think the federal Minister of Agriculture really means well—and that's something for me to say in this House—but I do say that he means well. I am not sure that his cabinet colleagues agree with him and that's one of his problems. I was promised a deadline on this and that deadline has passed, which does kind of upset me as today I expected I would be able to announce what they had announced in Ottawa. I understand that some announce-

ment is coming tonight and maybe it will be included at that time.

Mr. Roy: Did you call them?

Mr. Riddell: Do you want me to give them a call for you, Bill? I'll call Eugene.

Hon. W. Newman: I probably talk to him more than you do.

Mr. Roy: Kissing cousins.

Hon. W. Newman: I still think a basic income stabilization programme should be national in scope and should apply realistically to as many farm products as possible, but it will take a greater sense of commitment than Ottawa has shown so far to get all the provinces pulling together. The Ontario government is going ahead because the time for action is long overdue, not because we want to establish any separate jurisdiction. Our legislation won't put any obstacles in the way of a national stabilization programme and it will include farm products that would not be covered on a nationwide scale.

Our goal is to provide a base level of support for commodities that are not already under supply management. Producers who want to be partners in a plan for a specific farm product will join the provincial government in contributing to a stabilization fund for it. The minimum support levels will be tied to production costs, including allowances for farm family labour, management and new investment costs. In a year when income from a commodity falls below the established support level, payments will be made from the fund to all participating producers. In years when prices are above this level, the fund will build up.

Thus farmers will have a safety net, if they think they need it, under our plan and through the government contributions the consumers as a whole will assume a share of the risk-taking to maintain a healthy industry that will keep food coming on to their tables. The increased stability will benefit everyone in the province, not just the farmers.

I am confident we can achieve the same kind of success we have seen since we introduced a type of stabilization plan for the beef-calf producers last year at a time when market prices were so low that some farmers were paying truckers almost to take their calves away from the stockyards.

Mr. Wildman: It cost you twice as much.

Hon. W. Newman: It sure did.

More than 12,100 producers enrolled in this plan, with 313,000 cows the first year. Payments to them totalled \$22.5 million

based on an average weighted price of a 450-lb calf at 50 cents per lb; and the average weighted price of course turned out to be 29.83 cents and thus there was a pay-out this year of \$22.5 million. My ministry is conducting a painstaking study, at this time, of various production costs across Ontario to help us arrive at this year's guaranteed price.

As I said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, the consumer has a vital stake in keeping the farmer on the land. It is only fair that he should contribute to a stable agricultural industry through the tax-supported share of stabilization and other programmes. Canadians have always enjoyed food at bargain prices, but far too few of them realize it. The average family spends, today, between 18 and 19 per cent of its income on food. In most countries the percentage is considerably higher. In some it is as high as 80 per cent of total income spent for food.

The greater share of income we can spend on other things is a major factor in the high standards of living most Canadians take for granted—most urban Canadians, but not most farmers. They are traditionally the poor country cousins in our affluent society.

Now that farm gate prices are becoming a little more realistic, shoppers will just have to face the fact that the country cousin deserves his fair share too. Such a sense of justice is sadly lacking, however, in many of the complaints about food prices that I keep hearing and reading.

I am particularly annoyed by the publicity given to critics who persist in portraying marketing boards for various farm products as the main villain behind rising food prices. A recent example was the final report of the federal food prices review board, issued long after the board itself ceased to exist. There should be no mistake where the government of Ontario stands. It stands squarely behind the marketing boards and the concept of collective action by the farmers of this province.

Over the years, more and more farmers have voted for such boards. Today, we market more than 40 farm products in Ontario. The 22 boards offer a unified system for negotiating with buyers for the major chain stores and food processors. They eliminate wasteful duplication of marketing and supply systems. They protect the grocers, the butchers and shoppers, as well as farmers, from wildly fluctuating prices.

In the era of marketing boards, food prices have gone down in relation to wages, while farm operations have grown steadily more

productive and efficient. If there are any rip-offs along the road from producers to consumers, they obviously don't occur in the operation of Ontario's marketing boards.

I am proud that our province is recognized as a leader and innovator in the development of organized producer marketing in North America. Every year experts come from around the world to visit Ontario to study our methods, and to find ways of applying our expertise to their own problems.

I am equally proud of our other programmes. In the remaining time I would like to touch briefly on some of those most important programmes in the ministry.

In 1973 the farm tax reduction programme was improved to rebate 50 per cent of the property taxes paid by genuine farmers who produced at least \$2,000 in farm goods annually. In effect, this is virtually equivalent to a full rebate of all property taxes, since 50 per cent of the grant includes the house and all farm buildings.

The Succession Duty Act was adjusted to forgive succession duties on farming assets that are bequeathed to farm family members. When a farmer dies and his heirs use his assets to continue farming, the succession duty is registered as a claim on the property, but is forgiven at the rate of one-tenth each year. This arrangement makes it possible for family farms to continue from generation to generation. In 1975 the basic allowance for forgiveness was increased to \$250,000 from \$150,000.

The Gift Tax Act was amended last year so that a farmer may make gifts of farming assets up to a total of \$75,000 to help a family member get established as a farmer. These lifetime gift exemptions are being widely used as another aid in preserving the concept of the family farm.

Like any other business, agriculture requires increased capital to expand and meet continuing economic and technological changes. Our grants programme for capital improvements was updated and expanded in 1971. So far about \$118 million has been paid in capital grants.

Agricultural development grants for northern Ontario were doubled in 1975, to \$420,000 per year. They are distributed to the 11 northern districts, each of which forms a local committee to allocate these funds.

Another very important programme was launched last year, the Ontario Young Farmer Credit Programme. Farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 may obtain provincially-

guaranteed loans for farm development purposes from banks and designated credit unions. The loans are for periods up to 10 years, with interest one per cent above the prime rate. The amount, terms and repayment schedules are based on individual production plans and ability to pay.

[4:45]

Mr. Laughren: With policies like that you would think southern Ontario would vote for you.

Hon. W. Newman: This new intermediate-term credit programme ties into our policy of maintaining government-owned land in agricultural production in situations such as the North Pickering and the Townsend projects. By providing the opportunity to rent farmland, the credit package generates sufficient cash flow over a period of years to assist a young farmer in the eventual purchase of his own farm.

So far, 152 applications have been recommended for loans totalling well over \$4.3 million. The Ontario government also provides individual credit counselling and farm management advice for thousands of farmers and would-be farmers. In many cases these services have helped farmers obtain extended lines of relatively low-cost credit. In addition, my ministry has conducted hundreds of seminars, short courses and workshops on credit management; and we have also printed and distributed very popular publications on this subject.

The Crop Insurance Act of Ontario is 10 years old this year, and now it provides comprehensive insurance plans for all major crops. Last year more than a million acres were insured, with the government of Ontario paying all administrative costs.

The Industrial Milk Production Incentive Programme was established in 1973 to enable Ontario farmers to expand their output of manufacturing milk at a time when the federal government was calling for increased production.

It also assisted dairymen in converting from milk cans to bulk shipments. Now that we are in an over-supply situation instead, this programme, of course, is no longer operative. At the time the programme accomplished what we were asked to do and what we asked our farmers to do, and 1,524 loans were made for a total of \$8.6 million.

The IMPIP programme provided for a five-year guarantee on bank loans designed to increase production. No repayment of principal was required in the first year and a

borrower who met his increased production targets received a rebate from the province of up to 20 per cent of the amount that he borrowed.

To help municipalities and conservation authorities provide flood protection measures for agricultural land in southwestern Ontario, new agreements have been initiated since 1970 with the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Environment Canada. The senior levels of government share equally to cover 90 per cent of the cost. In addition to the \$18.7 million authorized under these agreements, we have approved \$13 million worth of new flood protection works and are awaiting federal approval of these projects.

Last fall, the government of Ontario came to the aid of the grape growers who produced a crop of remarkable quality but found themselves with a huge surplus through no fault of their own. The government supported the Grape Growers' Marketing Board by guaranteeing loans to purchase all 11,500 tons of surplus grapes for \$2.25 million. They yielded about 54,000 gallons of brandy which is being aged. The balance of the surplus crop has been converted into concentrate and juice. Just remember that when it is ready for market.

To help achieve better markets and greater future stability, the government also initiated a three-year programme to convert 3,000 acres of Labrusca grapes to French hybrid varieties in keeping with the trend in consumer tastes in table wines. For growers who want to switch and who qualify, the government offered 10-year guaranteed bank loans up to \$1,500 an acre with the first five years interest free. The goal is to convert 1,000 acres a year for three years. Discussions with bankers on this loan programme are almost complete and detailed information on it will be available within a few weeks.

In five years ARDA grants totalling \$4 million have helped small industries locate in rural Ontario or modernize their plants. Another \$9 million has helped rural municipalities develop parks and in the process provide jobs and give local businesses a boost. Forestry programmes on Crown land accounted for another \$8 million; and projects to help Indians, with projects such as wild rice and cranberry industries, accounted for another \$2.5 million.

My ministry's manpower services branch recruits and places farm labourers: it also helps with their training and housing. This year, farmers who build new accommodation for seasonal workers are eligible for federal

provincial grants covering half the construction costs up to a maximum of \$3,000. The programmes I have mentioned and others like them provide straight dollars and cents assistance to the agriculture and food industries. We also operate many other programmes, where the benefits are less tangible perhaps but certainly not less important.

For example, the Ontario Food Council works constantly on improving the co-ordination between all segments of the food production chain from producer to consumer. It identifies and promotes markets for a wide variety of Ontario food products, domestically and abroad. Since 1970 the Food Council has sponsored more than 40 sales missions to foreign countries and taken part in four international trade shows. In 1970 exports of food and agricultural products from Ontario totalled \$420 million. In only three years they rose to \$599 million, almost a 50 per cent increase. The Food Council's work certainly played a large part in this improvement, and we intend to pursue our export campaign vigorously.

The Ontario Food Council will also strengthen its research and information programmes to tell consumers of good food values, products in abundant supply and the factors behind some price changes. I'm sure all the hon. members will be happy to learn they have been added to the Food Council's mailing list as of this year so they will be informed of all its material directed to consumers. This programme provides almost 100 articles each year promoting various Ontario food products.

Another vital function of the Food Council is to institute projects in Ontario which by the late 1970s will replace more than \$5 million worth of imported food products with products grown in this province. Considerable success has already been achieved in growing and marketing pickling onions and future prospects are very promising. We have shown that peanuts can be grown successfully in the Delhi area. The Food Council will continue working with co-operating peanut growers to increase the acreage and help with marketing problems. Other current programmes are designed to cut into imports of baby carrots and frozen vegetables and to make Ontario self-sufficient in feed grains.

My ministry recently established a trade and tariff committee because of the importance of tariffs to the future development of agriculture in Ontario. The Ontario government also has an inter-ministerial committee to present its concerns to Canada's negotiators in the so-called Tokyo Round of negotiations

under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva.

Mr. Roy: Did you write that speech yourself, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: Pretty well—

Mr. Roy: I thought so.

Hon. W. Newman: —because you ask me a question about any part of it and I can answer it.

Mr. Martel: Continue the rest of the speech without the notes then.

Hon. W. Newman: I want to assure you—

Mr. Martel: Give me the notes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: He is going to get his pages mixed up. Don't touch it.

Hon. W. Newman: I want to ensure that Ontario farmers not only have reasonable access to foreign markets but also have adequate protection from low-priced imports in cases where this is required. I have taken these matters up with the federal Minister of Agriculture, since this area is in the federal jurisdiction.

I want to tell you something about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. All the fine programmes we have in the province, all the great programmes we plan in the future, all we plan to do about agricultural lands and all of the things we are trying to do to help the farmers to make a decent living off the land, can all go down the drain. We can lose it all without proper agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

We are not asking for a lot around this province. All we are asking for is a fair shake. When we want to ship our corn out of the country we have to pay a tariff of 25 cents a bushel.

Mr. Martel: The Berlin wall.

Hon. W. Newman: Corn can come into this country at eight cents a bushel. On peaches shipped out of this country there is a tariff of \$1.93 a case; to come into this country from the US it's about 63 cents and from Australia seven cents. If you think those are fair tariffs, I don't. I am really concerned.

I could go on about other tariffs. For too long we have been trading off Ontario's agricultural products for other items in this country, and I say it is time we did something to protect the agricultural industry.

Mr. Roy: Why do you follow the tariffs, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: Now I've left my notes, I have forgotten where I left off.

Mr. Ruston: You made that up on the spur of the moment?

Mr. Roy: Why do you follow the tariff?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The NDP don't have any friends in Ottawa.

Mr. Roy: If you don't keep quiet we are going to give you a shovel.

Mr. Makarchuk: You wouldn't know which end to use.

Hon. W. Newman: Shall I tell you something? I am concerned about the agricultural industry in this province. I see what is happening in the food industry; I have seen what is happening in the greenhouse industry; and I see what is happening in many other fields in the agriculture industry. We are not asking for any special treatment, just fair treatment. I think we have been ripped off too long in the Province of Ontario on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I am not necessarily blaming Ottawa, but I think we have to really make our case.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Blame Ottawa, that is where the responsibility rests.

Mr. Ruston: You must accept the high price if that is the case.

Hon. W. Newman: Are you saying we should have differential tariffs?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister address his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. Ruston: Let's be honest about it, eh?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: I tell you that Ontario farmers are not getting a fair shake with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—

Mr. Ruston: I agree. Imported tomatoes are killing us.

Mr. Riddell: Bill, you were doing better when you followed your notes.

Hon. W. Newman: Our market information service is the envy of every other province for its accuracy, scope and popularity. It provides farm weather reports, fruit and vegetable market analyses, feed grain reports and summaries, hog reports, road reports and in-

formation on commodity movement and prices. More than 30 Ontario radio stations broadcast our reports one to three times a day.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food also maintains offices in each of Ontario's counties, districts and regions. In effect, every one is a mini-ministry for the area it serves; a wide variety of information is available there, with special emphasis on farm management and rural youth programmes.

We have in our ag offices some of the most capable, conscientious, hard-working people you would find anywhere in this great province of ours, looking after the concerns and the needs of the farmers. I don't think there is an ag office in this province you could walk into and not get some very helpful, friendly advice as far as agriculture is concerned.

Mr. Riddell: There have been some great men in that department too that are no longer with it, great men.

Mr. Kennedy: I would go along with that.

Hon. W. Newman: I have heard a great deal about your first one.

Mr. Riddell: And they have left some great offspring.

Hon. W. Newman: We provide feed testing and soil testing services on a province-wide basis, together with related feed and fertilizer advisory services.

Our inspectors monitor operations in the all-red meat slaughtering plants in the province. This work will be stepped up during 1976. We license and inspect community livestock sales. We analyse milk on a regular basis for quality and nutritional content. We train and license the people who work in dairies and edible oil operations, as well as inspect their work.

We license fur farms, fruit and vegetable dealers, nurseries, apple packers and controlled atmosphere storage plants. We maintain a year-round inspection and grading service for fruits, vegetables, honey, maple syrup, tobacco and even Christmas trees.

We have initiated a pest monitoring service to advise the farmer of the critical time for using pesticides. We have demonstrated that our advice can reduce the number of times he sprays. This saves him money and protects the environment from an unnecessary load of chemicals.

Our veterinary laboratories in various areas of the province offer diagnostic and consultation services to veterinarians, livestock owners and poultrymen.

We provide compensation for the loss of livestock to wolves, bears, rabies and trigger-happy hunters. This cost the province almost \$250,000 in this last fiscal year.

Among other activities, our agricultural and horticultural societies branch helps finance the annual fall fairs throughout Ontario. These fall fairs are wonderful institutions for promoting greater understanding between our urban and rural people, and I'd hate to see them vanish like so many of our other rural traditions.

Our agricultural research budget was increased by nearly \$3 million last year to a total of \$15.8 million. In spite of our austerity measures, I hope we can maintain a similar level of research in the coming year.

The areas of special emphasis in research change continuously in response to new problems that arise, and to the need to adapt research advances made elsewhere to suit Ontario's purposes. Naturally, a great deal of emphasis is being placed these days on ways of conserving energy in various phases of agriculture. Farming itself consumes only 2.5 per cent to three per cent of all the energy used in Canada, but the different processes that bring the food to the table consume 12 per cent to 15 per cent. At various institutions supported by my ministry, nine research projects are currently under way on energy management to improve the efficiency of production systems. They emphasize conservation methods in the areas of grain drying, tobacco drying, tillage systems, forage harvesting, barn ventilation and greenhouse vegetable production.

[5:00]

A new energy management resource centre has been established at the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology to provide an ongoing educational programme on energy conservation for farming communities. The centre will evaluate all the new technology that comes out of the research studies I mentioned and relay the information to the agriculture industry. We will also have a diesel van to travel across Ontario lecturing special groups on energy conservation this year.

Among other research projects, I might mention livestock programmes, experimental feeds, pesticides and the broad area of crop production. In fact, our research interests embrace every area of agriculture, and the potential benefits to both producer and consumer are incalculable.

My ministry is keenly interested in the calibre of young men and women who will be the farmers—and farm leaders—of tomorrow.

We have a continuing involvement in the 4-H programme for rural youths between the ages of 12 and 19, and in the 4-H homemakers clubs for girls and young women between the ages of 12 and 26.

We provide guidance and assistance to the many junior farmers' clubs which offer members a variety of educational, social and recreational activities. Each summer our junior agriculturalist programme offers about 200 youths from towns and cities the chance to live, learn and work on farms during the school vacation.

Mr. Riddell: Bill, what are you going to leave the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) to say in his Throne speech?

Hon. W. Newman: Listen, if I did all of the things I wanted to do, I'd be going all day.

An hon. member: Better not do that.

Mr. Martel: Why don't you play tennis for a while?

Hon. Mr. Meen: No, there is another expert at that.

Mr. Ruston: Sounds as if it is a lead off for the estimates.

Hon. W. Newman: Last year we had four times as many applicants as placement spots, and all indications are that the programme is as successful as it is popular. More and more young people are moving from the big cities to the country, just as I did as a young man, and I believe the steadily mounting interest in the junior agricultural programme is indicative of this trend.

My ministry supports agricultural diploma courses at the University of Guelph and in the colleges of agricultural technology at Ridgetown, Kemptville, New Liskeard and Centralia. Enrolments in these courses have increased 43 per cent over the last five years to an all-time high of 1,143 students. About 80 per cent of the students come from farms, and about 50 per cent of the graduates go straight into farming. I consider that another encouraging sign for the future of agriculture in Ontario.

I recently invited about 250 young farmers to a conference in Metropolitan Toronto where they discussed—

Mr. Gaunt: The federation of farmers unions were very upset with that.

Hon. W. Newman: There were many groups upset about it and I've talked to them

and explained the purpose to them. Maybe I'll just stop here and tell you about what I did.

We decided that we have some very fine farm organizations in this province. We have some very fine marketing boards in this province, all of which I think are great. But let me say this: I decided to have a group of young farmers in.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Some of them were probably members of the NFU, some of them were probably members of the OF of A. Some of them were probably members of various other organizations, the CFF and so on and so forth. But they came as a group of young people to express their views on their own. The staff were not involved except to organize, to set it up. They did their own thing; they discussed what they wanted to discuss.

Mr. Riddell: What did they say about the farm income stabilization programme?

Mr. Worton: I am glad you asked that!

Hon. W. Newman: All right. These young people came in with some definite and positive ideas of their own; I just have received—I understand they were put on my desk this afternoon—a summary of the conference they had. This was not a conference to take away anything from any other organizations. It was to get a group of young people together and let them hammer away at their thoughts and their ideas.

Mr. Moffatt: But they don't believe it.

Hon. W. Newman: They had a very useful and worthwhile day and I think if you talk to any of those young farmers who were there, they would agree with it. Even some of the ones from your county didn't agree with each other; and that's good, that's a healthy sign. I don't mind that. I told them I wanted to hear what they really had to say; and I did. They said exactly what they wanted to say; they were frank and open and honest about it, and I admire them for doing it.

Mr. Riddell: You will find that is typical of all people from Huron.

Mr. Martel: Even Charlie MacNaughton.

Hon. W. Newman: I won't say what some people from Huron county said about him. I won't do it; no, I won't.

I'm going to set up a committee, also of young farmers, who will meet me from time to time to give me their ideas. They're the farmers of the future; they're the ones who have to look down that road and plan. They're the ones who are going to be in the business 30, 40 years from now, long after we're all out of here.

Mr. Worton: We hope you will be, Bill.

Mr. McKessock: Is this an appointed committee, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: I think it's important that we get their ideas.

Interjection.

Mr. Ruston: The president of my riding association, he came down.

Hon. W. Newman: In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that of all the economic structures in Ontario, agriculture is the only one that has increased its percentage share of national productivity during the 1970s. Ontario farmers receive a bigger share of Canada's total cash receipts than farmers in any other province. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is proud of the part it has played in their accomplishment; it will continue to lend a helping hand, wherever and whenever it can, through the policies and programmes I have discussed here today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this; and I say this in all sincerity. I've travelled around this province. I've talked to various farm groups from north to south, and east to west; I'm very proud of the farmers in our province and the great job they are doing. Thank you very much.

Mr. Laughren: I was very glad to have heard the Minister of Agriculture and Food's remarks. We were hard pressed to understand how he can rationalize the loss of good farmland in Ontario, but I suppose over the years he has learned how to do that.

Mr. Makarchuk: He's serving us food and hot air.

Mr. Laughren: We, in this party, know that you have done nothing, but I'll comment more about that a little later.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I take part in the Throne debate. I mean that. I've always felt that the Throne debate is an opportunity, particularly for opposition members and back-bench members of the government, to get a lot of things off their chests.

When we serve as members of the Legislature we do bottle things up. There are

frustrations we need to express in a forum such as this. I can assure you that when we, in this party, put an amendment to the Throne Speech it was not done to posture, it was done because we feel very strongly against the way this government is expressing its goals, and the method by which it is attempting to reach those goals.

The purpose of our amendment, Mr. Speaker, was to indicate very clearly to the government, and to others, that we are fundamentally opposed to what they are attempting to do, because the goal of this government has always been to maintain the status quo at virtually all costs. They wish to maintain the status quo in a number of areas, including the distribution of income; including the management of our economy; the role of labour, whether organized or unorganized; to maintain the status quo in our educational system, including its role in restricting the mobility of lower income groups in our society; and finally, to maintain the status quo in the economic development of this province, not just in southern Ontario, but in northern and eastern Ontario as well.

As opposed to those goals of the government, the goals of this party would be to redistribute income in Ontario to the best that we could do, given the jurisdiction of a provincial government. We know that in the last 10 years the distribution of income in this country has discriminated against the bottom 20 per cent of income earners in Canada. The bottom 20 per cent earns less now, as a proportion of the national income, than it did 10 years ago, and the top 20 per cent earns more. We would use the taxation system to redistribute income.

When talking about management of the economy, we certainly would not approach management of Ontario the way this government has done. We see this government restricting the delivery of health and social services because of their mismanagement of the economy. We would differ from the way the Liberals would manage the economy because we see, as one of the keys in managing the economy, the resources of Ontario.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the latest figures available show that the return to the people of Ontario of our resources is 1.9 per cent of the value of those resources. That's the highest it's been as far back as the figures go that I could find. That's a very small return on the resources of this province.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the Economic Council of Canada has

been warning the provinces that we simply must get a better return on our resources; that we simply must use the resources as the key to unlocking the development of the various provinces. In Ontario we are not doing it.

Mr. Speaker, since 1966 in the resource sector in northeastern Ontario, which is where most of the non-renewable resources are located, employment has declined 10 per cent. At the same time, output of minerals has increased 27 per cent. So in absolute numbers, employment has gone down in the resource sector and product and output has gone up dramatically. Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is not the way to develop an economy.

And it is closely related, Mr. Speaker, to the provision of services, because as long as the people in Ontario are demanding the kind of social services and health services they are now, the private sector and the public sector that is responsible for creating new wealth simply must continue to create more new wealth. And one of the key ways of doing that is through the development of our resources; not the way we do it now, but by fuller processing and by manufacturing finished products in the Province of Ontario. That will never happen in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, there is a relationship between the closing of hospitals and the ownership of our resources. Only when the people of Ontario own the resources and the people of Ontario get the maximum return on those resources will we be able to afford those kind of services which the people in Ontario have a right to expect. Well I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in the riding of Nickel Belt which I represent, there hasn't been any hospital closing at all. As a matter of fact, two weeks ago I attended the opening of a new hospital. I would like to tell you what happened there, Mr. Speaker. I think you would enjoy that.

It was in Chapleau, and I flew on the very fine norOntair service to Chapleau. One of the things that I very much appreciate is the norOntair service in northeastern Ontario; and you never hear me calling it a Kamikazi airline that specializes in controlled crashes; never, Mr. Speaker, I am a great fan of norOntair.

At the opening ceremony, there was an assistant deputy minister from the Ministry of Health, and of course there was the chairman of the local hospital board, the vice-chairman and all other dignitaries in Chapleau. Mr. Speaker I know that you know what the politics of Chapleau are and how

for many years it was a Progressive Conservative stronghold. That has shifted in the last election, but nevertheless there is still a very strong Conservative element in the establishment in Chapleau.

Hon. Mr. Meen: And they will be at the polls next time.

Mr. Laughren: At the opening ceremony there was a very fine speech as the ribbon was cut by the assistant deputy minister. Then they moved over for the unveiling of the plaque, and of course traditionally the plaque has the names of all the boards of directors on it and the vice-chairman who was unveiling it was making some very nice comments about this plaque. I am paraphrasing now, I don't remember exactly what he said; but he said more or less that this plaque would show, not just to the people here today, and there were several hundred local residents, but future generations who it was made this fine facility available to the community of Chapleau, who it was who had put in so much of their own personal time and effort, and had served beyond and above the call of duty to provide a facility such as this to the people in Chapleau. He pulled back the curtain from the plaque and there, covering the entire plaque, was a picture of Stephen Lewis and me, and vote NDP at the bottom.

Mr. Speaker, I did not do that, but I can tell you it was one of the more delicious moments of my short political career.

Mr. Martel: Kind of embarrassing though.

Mr. Laughren: If I could get back to the more serious part of my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: Besides the redistribution of income and the management of the economy of Ontario, we in this party see labour as playing a different role than does the government. We believe that labour must share in the decisions that are made that affect labour and that affect the economy of Ontario.

We see this government doing the most incredible thing, which is reducing the minimum wage for people who serve alcoholic beverages and food.

Mr. Speaker, if ever there was a regressive move on the part of a government it was reducing the minimum wage for people because they happen to receive tips from their job. Why does this government think that they receive the tips? It is because their wages are so low; so the government lowers

their wages even further. What a lot of nonsense.

[5:15]

Isn't it remarkable that the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson), herself a woman, knowing full well that most of the people employed in this capacity—who receive tips and serve food and beverages—are women, would take this regressive step? That says something about the Conservative Party in Ontario.

Mr. Martel: Live on tips.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, we also see labour playing a much more progressive role in the whole question of occupational health; the Workmen's Compensation Board; public sector bargaining; the difficulties that the unorganized workers have in Ontario in forming a union—certainly they are given no encouragement by this government—and finally, the extreme difficulties faced by working women in Ontario.

One only needs to look at the cutbacks of this government to see who that is going to affect. Out of the 4,000 to 5,000 people who will be put out of jobs as a result of the restraint programme, I suspect that between 80 and 90 per cent of those will be women. This government, at the same time, has a Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) who claims that women must get back to work. There are obvious contradictions there.

We see our educational system playing a different role than does this government. I certainly see education as still being elitist from the elementary system right through to post-secondary education. Partly because of the failure of this government to provide universal day care in Ontario, children from low income families are starting out with less opportunity than children from middle and upper income families.

We know that the educational system has done very little to remove sex stereotyping from the school books in Ontario, particularly at the elementary school level. When a group in Ontario called "Before We Are Six" did attempt to introduce some non-sexist books, particularly for kindergarten and nursery schools and for the home, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) refused to provide a penny of support to that group. This was, to top it all off, in International Women's Year.

Neither has the real story of labour in Canada or in Ontario been told in our schools. Unless organized labour itself can convince the educational bureaucracy and the school

boards at the local level, no seminars are held in the schools to tell them the true story of the struggle labour has fought over the years.

Mr. Speaker, we see the educational system as being quantified and bureaucratic, measuring education in Ontario in terms of days and weeks and months and not on either the contents or the quality of content of the education that the children receive. That was evident when the debate went on about legislating teachers back to work. The major concern was that students in Ontario, in this particular district, had missed too much school and their educational career would be in jeopardy. It really does say something about the educational system if a student can spend 12 or 13 years in it and have it all jeopardized by 40 days. There is something wrong with that kind of educational system and we would attempt to do something about that.

I mentioned the economic development of Ontario as being something on which we differ fundamentally with the government. I was really thunderstruck by the previous speaker, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman), when he talked about protecting farmland in Ontario. I looked back for a landmark, and I think the Nanticoke decision was a landmark in Ontario. The decision to allow that steel company to develop a complex on Lake Erie was one of the most serious mistakes this government has made.

An hon. member: Using ore from the north.

Mr. Laughren: Using ore from the north? Using good farm land in an area that is already congested—namely, the Golden Horse-shoe—was a very serious mistake. That complex could very well have been developed on the north shore, or in Blind River, that area, or Thunder Bay even. But no, it was developed and allowed to go ahead at Nanticoke and I think that's a very serious mistake. History will tell, I suppose, but I really think that economists will look back in years to come and really pinpoint that as being one of the major failures of this administration. It won't cost the Tories an election itself, I understand that, but in terms of the development of Ontario, I think it was very serious. There was an opportunity to redirect growth in Ontario and the government failed.

Another area that bothers me is the whole York-Durham water and sewer project. At a cost of \$200 million—in the neighbourhood of \$200 million—they're going to put in a sewer and water system that will service anywhere between a half a million and a million

people. Talk about sewer pipe planning and that's a classic in its time.

Not only that, but now we have small communities—I've got a couple in Nickel Belt—with no water supply or a polluted water supply, one or the other. I'm going to talk about one of those communities in more detail later.

In the town of Chelmsford there are three subdivisions servicing 1,200 people and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) says they will not be able to have sewers and water because under what they call the management by results weighting system, they don't qualify. They don't have enough points. Why do they not have enough points? Because supply of water does not receive a very heavy weight. In other words, if the water was polluted, it would get a high rating and the people would get their sewer and water system; but they have no water, therefore they don't have a high weighting system.

Mr. Wildman: Can't be polluted.

Mr. Laughren: They do not have enough points under the management by results system the ministry uses. Therefore, the people are carrying water—1,200 people in three subdivisions and they're carrying water. What a lot of nonsense. At the same time, they tell the people—when we ask the ministry about the York-Durham region—the people aren't even there yet—what do they tell us? That it wasn't evaluated under the MBR system. There was no management by results rating for the York-Durham system but those existing communities, where the people are already, must fall into the MBR system now.

That's not the way to do it. The government services an area which is not even populated at the expense of areas which are populated. I don't know whether this government understands what it is like when people don't have water; or what it means to a family to have to carry water for every purpose.

I was in a home a week or two ago and a woman was melting snow. You can't do that in the summertime. She was melting snow because there is no water supply at all. What a lot of nonsense that is.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: The government says, "Sorry, you don't have enough of a rating system." No water for washing for families with small children. Can members imagine the amount of water they're going to have to

carry? No water for drinking unless they carry it all themselves. And then the government wonders why its popularity in northern Ontario has reached an all-time low. Maybe the Tories don't wonder; maybe they understand.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that there were ample reasons for our amendment and I might add there were ample reasons for the Liberal Party to support that amendment. It's not a question of whether or not the Liberals want an election or whether or not the riding associations want an election. It's a question of whether or not the people of Ontario have had enough of the insulated, aristocratic and arbitrary stewardship of the Premier. We think Ontario has had enough of that and the Liberals really should reconsider their position.

Again, there are a couple—

Mr. Martel: Fire them all.

Mr. Laughren: There are a couple of issues I would like to spend a little more time on. One is the whole question of occupational health.

In the fall of 1975, during her estimates, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) indicated that there was going to be a new accord. I shall never forget those words. "Don't be worried," said she, "there is going to be a new accord among the various ministries of this government to deal with the occupational health problems."

Well, we've seen some of the results of the new accord. It's the same old story. Nothing has changed, simply nothing at all. As a matter of fact, if you really want to get to the source of the problem—well, there are a couple of sources. One is the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). Another is the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and his occupational health branch. There needs to be massive housecleanings there.

Mr. Martel: Fire them all.

Mr. Laughren: They could certainly start with the Minister of Natural Resources. I'm going to say more about the Minister of Natural Resources in a few minutes. I will have difficulty restraining myself.

Today, in the question period, the leader of the NDP raised, once again, the problem of asbestos pollution at the Matachewan mine of the United Asbestos Co. I have never been so incensed in all the time that I have been in the Legislature—well, I suppose there was one other time when I was as incensed, and that was during the battle over Elliot

Lake. The battle at Matachewan is just as serious. As a matter of fact, the dangers of asbestos pollution are more certain, we know more about it, than we knew about the problems at Elliot Lake and of uranium mining.

When we talk about occupational health, there are certain options available to any government in dealing with the occupational health problem. One option is to simply sit back, do nothing, and pay more in benefits as time goes on through the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Another alternative is to prohibit the use of dangerous products, the manufacture, or the mining of dangerous products. That's extremely difficult to do because how do you prohibit the use of polyvinyl chloride? Or uranium? It is very difficult and really not feasible at this time in the development of a society such as we have in Canada.

Another alternative is to regulate, and control, occupational health dangers until they're no longer a hazard. The solution is that one along with enforcement with incentive. Without incentive the private sector will not develop the kind of technological changes that will clean up the dangerous work places, such as those involving asbestos and polyvinyl chlorides.

Industry should also be required to pay into a research and development fund which would go toward research on occupational health problems. As well, a separate ministry should be created, with special powers enforcement. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that makes a lot more sense than a Ministry of Northern Ontario. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) was tripping across northern Ontario a few weeks ago, telling everybody what he thought we needed was a Ministry of Northern Ontario.

Talk about flim-flammy, Mr. Speaker: Tell people you're going to create a new Ministry of Northern Ontario so the people in the north will think suddenly their problems would be solved. Is he implying that he's going to have the expertise in that ministry that's contained in all the other ministries of government?

As a matter of fact, I happen to have a lot of respect for the civil service in this province. We have a very knowledgeable, well trained, skilled civil service. There is a lot of capability in that civil service but it's spread among the various ministries of the government. Now, we have the member for Algoma-Manitoulin saying that a Ministry of Northern Ontario would look after the problems of northern Ontario. It would only be a referral agency.

Mr. Roy: He was looking for a job.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, probably he was looking for a job. As a matter of fact, isn't he the only Conservative backbencher in northern Ontario without a cabinet post now?

Mr. Roy: Probably.

Mr. Laughren: I think he must be. I never thought of that before. Thank you for bringing that to my attention. That's probably why he raised it.

We, in this party, don't see the creation of more bureaucracy in Ontario as being the solution to solving the problems of northern Ontario. If we did have a separate Ministry of Occupational and Industrial Health it would have the expertise and the kind of powers of enforcement that would not allow things to happen such as happened at the Reeves asbestos mine up near Timmins, or is happening right now at Matachewan, or as happened at Elliot Lake or at the Johns-Mansville plant in Scarborough.

[5:30]

What's required in Ontario is a whole new approach to occupational health. If you check the schools of medicine in Ontario you'll find that they don't really have the expertise either. As far as I know they don't have any full-fledged faculties of occupational health. There are different programmes and there is a programme being developed at one of the community colleges as well, but there's really very little expertise, despite the fact that the experts tell us that they suspect about 80 per cent of all cancers are environmentally caused. That includes smoking, I appreciate that, but there are many, many types of cancer that we simply don't know how to cure. Perhaps we could be more productive if we spent time on preventing cancer rather than trying to cure it.

I think that's really the direction we should take in Ontario. Those research dollars are not being pumped into it. In 1975-1976, the occupational health branch had a budget that as far as I can figure was 0.05 per cent of the total health budget. Well, that's not a serious approach at solving the occupational health problem in Ontario.

I'd like to talk a little bit about that Matachewan mine, partly because it's a repeat of what happened at the Reeves mine which is in the riding of Nickel Belt. On March 10, 1976, an air quality assessment report was made by the occupational health protection branch of the Ministry of Health. I'd like to quote from that report. This is on March

10, 1976: "1. Generally the personal samples were higher than area samples."

For your enlightenment, Mr. Speaker, they are talking about area samples and personal samples. Area sample is a sample taken at a particular location in the plant; a personal sample is a sample taken from your lapel—it could be on a jacket—which is very close to the mouth and nose of the worker, and that indicates whether or not there are asbestos fibres on the worker's person.

1. Generally the personal samples were higher than area samples. Some operations in the quality control room, particularly the dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust, could be hazardous.

Mr. Speaker, if ever I've seen an irresponsible statement, it was that "the dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust could be hazardous." We know it's hazardous, and here we have the inspector saying "it could be hazardous." That's irresponsible.

Also dry sweeping is carried out in the mill by cleaning crews. Industrial vacuum cleaners have been purchased and are in use.

If the industrial vacuums have been purchased and are in use why is dry sweeping being carried out? It's as though they didn't understand what the dangers of asbestos dust are. There are certain causes of asbestosis and of lung cancer, and it takes very few fibres to cause those diseases, and once they get in the lungs they stay there forever. They cannot be taken out.

Incoming air through vents without baffles on the fifth floor agitates the dust on the floors, machinery, etc. This is shown in the area where air sample was taken.

Can you imagine that, first of all, there are no baffles on the vents, and secondly it agitates the dust on the floor? Why is the dust on the floor to start with? Obviously it shouldn't be.

Here are some of the air sampling results, Mr. Speaker. The number of fibres, the threshold limit value as they call it in Ontario, is two fibres greater than five micrometres in length per cubic centimetre of air. In other words, in Ontario in a cubic centimetre of air there cannot be more than two asbestos fibres. These are some of the bad ones.

On the fifth floor I-beam No. 12, 2.6 fibres. That was on the area samples.

Personal samples: There are names attached to these samples; I won't give the names. Floor attendant, 3.8; instrumentation

technician, 4.5; cleaning, 2.5; floor attendant, 6.3; conveyor attendant, 5.5; quality control room, 2.9; and a towmotor driver, 1.8. That was on March 4 and 5.

Mr. Martel: I think that's when they shut down for the weekend so they could clean it up. Yes, they shut it down.

Mr. Laughren: That was after having shut down for the inspection, of course.

Mr. Martel: They cleaned it up first. What else is new?

Mr. Laughren: That was on March 4 and 5. On March 16, in a report—I will quote some comments:

The results showed that 12 of 21 samples were in excess of the standard of two fibres per cubic centimetre of air. At the time of the survey the plant was processing from 70 to 130 tons of ore per hour compared to a designed capacity of 175 tons per hour.

So you see that those kind of levels were reached by only operating at approximately half capacity. Also, some other observations from the report:

The major source of dust appeared to be leakage around vibrating screens and faulty or punctured flexible connections on screens, sifters and other equipment. [Further observations.] During the period of the survey, it was noted that general house-keeping improved considerably due to the conversion from dry sweeping to portable vacuum cleaners, one of which was assigned to each eight floors.

I ask you, why was it necessary to convert from dry sweeping when it should never have occurred in the first place and they know that? United Asbestos knows that. Every company involved in the production of asbestos knows that. They couldn't help but know it.

A wet plugging mill designed to mix the dry tailings with water prior to discharge to the tailings conveyor was malfunctioning and at times resulted in dry tailings being delivered to the outside dump area.

I am going to come back to that one. Results of the survey:

It can be seen that of 12 personal samples, nine were above two fibres per cubic centimetre and out of nine area or fixed position samples, three were in excess of the recommended standard.

I can tell you that that's an extremely dangerous situation.

In a report by the Minister of the Environment dated Nov. 10, 1975, Mr. P. R. Williams, a professional engineer of the ministry office in Timmins, had this to say when writing to the mine manager, Mr. Dave Cook. He said:

After the end of December, 1975, all this work having been carried out in accordance with the specifications laid down by the Ministry of the Environment and the provisional certificate of approval, should a failure occur of the plug mill, subject to the preamble under section 9, regulation 15, of the Environmental Protection Act, it may be found necessary to cause your operation to be shut down. This would be the case should the plug mill fail and no other suitable means of controlling the dust at that time can be made available. I must therefore advise you to look seriously into the possibility of installing a second plug mill if at the end of December it is found that such occurrences have become quite frequent.

That's why I said I was going to come back to that comment. I quote again—and this is dated March 16:

A wet plugging mill designed to mix the dry tailings with water prior to the discharge of the tailings conveyor was malfunctioning and at times resulted in dry tailings being delivered to the outside dump area.

So, in November you have the Minister of the Environment telling the mine that they must do that or they will be required to shut down. Then in March a report by the same Ministry of the Environment—no, Ministry of Natural Resources, saying that the plug mill is not operating. If that isn't justification for requiring United Asbestos to shut down the operation immediately, maintain all the workers on full salary and clean up the operation, I don't know what further proof we need, because that really is what must be done.

Obviously, the companies in the asbestos field are irresponsible. In Ontario, in 1976, we don't need this kind of buccaneer and they simply must be given the proper kind of incentive to make them clean up. I see no other incentive than to tell them, "You pay those workers full salary and you clean up. When you meet the standards set in Ontario, we'll allow you to open and operate."

Mr. Martel: I consider them criminals. Maybe the government is, too, though, for allowing it.

Mr. Laughren: The government in this province has always ignored the role of the worker in occupational health. That's a serious mistake because no one has more at stake in good occupational health practices than the workers themselves. It simply does not make sense to continue to ignore them. Not only that, there's the simple case of the dignity of the worker. He simply must have a say in those factors which can affect his life. It simply is ludicrous to continue the way we've done. We really must do what Saskatchewan has done, which is legislate occupational health committees in the workplace. It simply must be done. We must get tougher in Ontario with the offenders.

In British Columbia, Mr. Terry Ison, who was chairman of the Worker's Compensation Board last year, penalized Cominco, the subsidiary of CPR, \$28,000 a month until it cleaned up its act in its smelting plant; \$28,000 a month. The company surely had to think about that. I probably don't need to tell members that when the government changed hands in BC, regretfully, Mr. Ison was fired by Bill Bennett. We can't treat companies like that in a Social Credit regime or in a Progressive Conservative regime.

Mr. Martel: Those inspectors ruled.

Mr. Laughren: The government's attitude seems to be always one of protecting the worker and—

Mr. Cassidy: Protecting the company.

Mr. Laughren: I'm sorry; protecting the company.

Mr. Cassidy: Never protect the worker.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you for correcting me on that.

Mr. Wildman: Subjecting the worker.

Mr. Laughren: Subjecting the worker and protecting the company, and it carries through the different ministries.

It was interesting a couple of weeks or a month ago, my colleagues and I met with a doctor from the Workmen's Compensation Board to talk about chronic bronchitis. The smelter workers in Sudbury, at the Inco smelter, have a very high incidence of chronic bronchitis and he admitted this. As a matter of fact, there is a relationship of 22.6 per cent versus 7.8 per cent of workers with chronic bronchitis in the smelter versus those not in the smelter.

I asked the doctor why he did not make a rule or suggest to the Workmen's Compensation Board and to the Minister of Labour

that, if the incidence of an industrial disease was statistically significant, the employer be required to assume that all incidences of that disease were caused by the workplace and compensate the workers accordingly. He said that some of them perhaps didn't get it because of the workplace conditions. There's a knee-jerk reaction to protect the employer rather than the employee. I can't think of a better incentive for an employer than to be told, "Even though we know that some workers will get chronic bronchitis if they never went near the smelter, the chances of them getting chronic bronchitis are double or triple if they do work in the smelter, and we're going to assume that everybody with chronic bronchitis who works in the smelter will receive compensation benefits." I can't think of a better way to have the company clean up its act than under those kinds of conditions.

[5:45]

I really must say a few words about the Minister of Natural Resources. I shall attempt to restrain myself, but I can tell you this much. I don't need to look at the financial contributions to his election campaign to know where they came from.

Given the Elliot Lake conditions; given the Reeves mine; given the Matachewan situation, that man has lost the respect of the workers and, I suspect, if they were honest about it, the respect of his colleagues and certainly of us. He really has no right to continue as the Minister of Natural Resources because of the control he has over the mining industry, and the lives and health of workers in that industry. He is simply a blemish on the body politic in Ontario.

He spoke so clearly serving the interests of the mining companies and of the pulp and paper industry, that I'm offended by his presence in this chamber. The sooner he's got out of it, the happier I would be, and the better off the workers in Ontario would be. We can have no respect for someone who has prostituted his position the way the Minister of Natural Resources has.

We expect to differ ideologically with the Minister of Natural Resources on the ownership of those resources in Ontario. We don't think we forever have to witness the blatant disregard for the health of miners in Ontario, those same miners who create so much wealth and have given Ontario the standard of living that it has.

I'd say without any hesitation, Mr. Speaker, that I regard the Minister of Natural Resources as symbolic of the internal rot of

the Progressive Conservative government in Ontario.

It's more than that, Mr. Speaker, and I will try to restrain myself. He is the reality in Ontario of the subservience of this government to the private sector at whatever that price has to be. If that price is more expensive private labs rather than the more efficient public labs, so be it. If that price is private cable TV operators at the expense of a proper ETV system in Ontario, so be it. And, regretfully, if that price is the health of the workers, so be it as well.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, he must be removed from that portfolio. One of the biggest surprises I had after the election was when the Premier left the Minister of Natural Resources in that portfolio, because he clearly cost the government a considerable number of seats in Ontario, certainly many in northern Ontario, and he will continue to do that for them. I won't say more, because I simply can't contain myself when I talk about that man.

A problem related to occupational health is the Workmen's Compensation Board. All members here agree there are administrative problems with the board. I could tell you many horror stories. I won't, but I'll give you one example.

I wrote to the Workmen's Compensation Board in December, 1975, to appeal a decision of the board not to pay benefits for a silicosis claim. I was very surprised when I received a copy of a reply which awarded that worker a claim for industrial hearing loss.

That's the kind of thing we cope with with the Workmen's Compensation Board. We simply must replace that board with a comprehensive social insurance scheme like they have in New Zealand. That is the policy of the New Democratic Party in Ontario. That simply must be done. We can't continue with the maladministration of the compensation board as it is now constituted.

There are policy problems with the board as well as the administrative ones. Their policy on compensation for industrial accidents is bad enough, but when it comes to industrial disease they are simply terrible. It's partly because they do not have the expertise. They know it, and they feel vulnerable.

I think they feel a sense of not being able to cope with the problem. I think that's one of the reasons for the incredible delays of six and eight months when it comes to industrial disease problems.

The pre-silicotic problem is an example. Miners have worked at Elliot Lake. They go to work at Sudbury. The doctor examines them and finds out that there is dust affecting the lungs; they call it pre-silicotic. The doctor says, "You'd better not go back underground any more."

He applies to the compensation board for a pension. The compensation board says, "No, that is not nearly enough indication of silicosis. Go back underground." They beat him with a stick to go back underground.

"Come back when you've got full-blown silicosis." This is virtually what they are telling the man. And the doctor says, "Well I don't think you should go there." The company says, "You are not going back underground because we don't want a compensation case on our hands and we don't have any surface work for you." And the man is unemployed. No compensation available to him, despite the promises of the various ministers about Elliot Lake.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: They have reneged on their promises to rehabilitate people who have worked at Elliot Lake and have dust effects on their lungs. They don't know how to deal with the whole problem of silicosis, particularly when it's pre-silicotic, the early stages.

There are others, of course. The whole problem of chronic bronchitis, which I mentioned. There's every indication that that is caused by occupational health problems and the government really isn't dealing with that. The whole industrial deafness problem the government hasn't dealt with. It had a beautiful opportunity to establish a rehabilitation centre in northern Ontario at the Burwash facility. No way, the government just ignored it.

They won't do anything about it, despite the Premier's promise on the eve of the election that there would be a rehabilitation centre in Sudbury. They have totally reneged on that. Now they will say there will be a few beds in the new hospital. That was not the promise; the Premier has reneged on it.

I shall try and be quick. There are a number of other problems which bother me besides the occupational health and the compensation. Before I leave compensation, I really must say something about total disfigurement.

When a person is totally disfigured in an accident it destroys that person emotionally, psychologically and almost physically. I know someone with gross disfigurement very, very

well. That person received a cash settlement for gross disfigurement of \$29,000 and now receives a pension of around \$600 a month—\$600 plus. It is still based on his earnings at the time the accident occurred. Compare that to an incident in the United States where someone who had his leg amputated in an accident received over \$1 million settlement through the courts.

I am not suggesting we go back to the court system for settling compensation cases; on the contrary, I wouldn't do that. But it's an indication that the board doesn't seem to appreciate what gross disfigurement does to someone. I have seen a case close up and I know the person very well; it bothers me a great deal to see that kind of a settlement, and what that disfigurement has done to that person in terms of being a human being. I don't want to dwell on it but I can tell you it bothers me more than any other aspect of the compensation board.

One of the issues I would like very much to dwell on is the whole question of unorganized communities in northern Ontario. We have talked about this before in this chamber. Indeed, a couple of years ago a bill was introduced—the Northern Centres Act, I think they call it, Bill 102—which was to recognize the needs of some of the small communities. Many of us took issue with that bill because it really didn't suggest that there was a solution to the problem; they just said we would recognize community councils and give the right to collect taxes locally. This, I suppose, in a way, was a beginning, but a lot of the communities felt that really wasn't enough.

The government conducted some hearings all across northern Ontario and I think they were horrified at the enormity of the problem because they came back down to Toronto and at the next session of the Legislature they let that bill die. They never reintroduced it to this chamber, and it should have been reintroduced in an improved form, that's what those public meetings were for.

Now, when we question the Treasurer about the bill, or when letters go to him, he writes back or responds in the Legislature that "they are furthering the consultative process." Well, that's not a bad phrase I suppose, but it doesn't mean anything, and the northern communities are still there, they are not going to go away. There is no proper method of servicing them or indeed there is no proper method of controlling growth in those communities, and that's one of the failures too.

The problem, very simply, is that they lack services—fire protection, health, water—and

some kind of voice they can speak to government with. We know all the arguments, those of us who have been here for a while at least, and how the residents in those communities pay the same sales tax, same income tax, same gasoline tax, same OHIP premiums as the rest of us, but don't get the return in services.

Back in June, 1973, the Ministry of the Treasury and Economics presented a brief to the Ontario cabinet on the problem, keeping in mind that was three years ago, before Bill 102 was introduced, and in that brief they made some recommendations about the problem, and as a result of that brief Bill 102 was born. I assume that's how it got there. The brief that was presented to cabinet made sense, indicated what the problems were, why the people in those communities were dissatisfied and what could be done about it. But then the government, when it does understand the problem and goes across northern Ontario, backs off because I think it is afraid it is going to cost the government too much money.

I simply say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government simply must get on with some kind of legislation to provide a voice to those northern communities and to provide some kind of services to them. They simply must do that. By avoiding it, the problem is getting worse. It really is. There are people moving into those unorganized communities. The more the people move into them, the more demands are going to be placed on the government for services. My phone rings continually with calls from unorganized communities because they are not getting the services that they think they are entitled to.

Right now I can tell you of a community where there are going to be six new homes built this summer, with no controls on the area at all, no proper road into it, no hydro in it, and no water supply. Yet there are going to be six new homes—five or six new homes—built in there this summer, and the government sits back and watches it happen. It's going to continue to happen, it will accelerate, unless the government moves in with some kind of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I see that it is 6 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I did have a few, not many.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 1, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When the House rose at 6 o'clock, the hon. member for Nickel Belt was taking part in the Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Laughren: I shall begin to continue with my remarks, although I must say that with three Conservative members in the Legislature, I am not inclined to continue.

Mr. Hodgson: There are five listening to you.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that's correct. Which party forms the government in this House?

Mr. Hodgson: I thought you'd have more members to hear what you had to say.

Mr. Laughren: I see. Maybe if the Conservative government in this province listened to the opposition more they wouldn't be in the predicament they're in today.

Mr. Warner: Sound advice.

Mr. Laughren: And we happen to outnumber the members of the Conservative Party in this Legislature at this time as well.

Mr. Nixon: The Boy Scouts in the gallery are listening anyway.

An hon. member: Don't bawl him out, Floyd, he's here.

Mr. Young: He's here.

Mr. Laughren: We outnumber you seven to six at this point.

Mr. Nixon: We outnumber them every day.

Mr. Bain: Let's form the government.

Mr. Wildman: It will be on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member would continue his remarks on the Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Hodgson: He hasn't got any more.

Mr. Nixon: Good old Rene. Good old faithful Rene.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, it's difficult with provocative interjections.

When I concluded my remarks before the supper hour, I was talking about the problems of the unorganized communities and I'd like to move from the general to the specific and talk about some of the problems of one particular community in Nickel Belt. That community is called Gogama. I've talked about Gogama many times in the Legislature but as long as the government continues to ignore the rather serious problems there I shall, of course, be obligated to continue to talk about it.

Gogama is a community of about 800 people, approximately 120 miles north of Sudbury, just off Highway 144, which runs to Timmins. A few years ago when the government built a new highway to Timmins, they did not take the highway into the town. They bypassed it by two miles, gave an Esso station permission to build a service centre at the corner and effectively cut off any tourist potential for the town of Gogama. That's one thing they did.

In 1962 there was a train wreck in Gogama and there was a chemical spill as a result of that train wreck. Those chemicals seeped into the water table in Gogama and polluted the water supply. Since that time the water table has become polluted even further by a gasoline leakage of an underground storage tank and as well, more seriously, by nitrates which come from the open bottom septic systems prevalent in the town.

Mr. Nixon: What systems?

Mr. Laughren: Sewage systems, septic systems. The people in the town—it's a railway town—

Mr. Nixon: We don't have open bottoms in Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Laughren: —and a lot of the septic systems they've built are built with railway ties and have open bottoms.

Mr. Nixon: They give a lot less trouble, I understand.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that's right. And there have been a lot of problems with the water supply since it is very badly polluted. In June of 1975, the Ministry of the Environment conducted a survey of the water supply in the town. I should first tell you that there are three kinds of water supply in Gogama: There is the communal supply provided by CNR because of that chemical spill I mentioned. There is the communal supply provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources to their employees only. And there is the supply provided by wells, either sand point or drilled wells. It is the latter that are so badly polluted.

In the report of June 1975, the Ministry of the Environment had some comments to make in their summary. They said:

1. The private water supplies in Gogama are in general contaminated by nitrate. Both sand points and drill wells were found to be contaminated.

In case you didn't know, nitrates are injurious to pregnant women and to infants and should not be drunk.

2. From the map prepared at the time of the 1973 survey, it is evident that the nitrate is spreading and increasing in concentration. It appears that the contaminated ground water is moving radially away from the centre of the town towards the lake and in doing so is moving into areas which were previously free of contamination.

So, it's obvious that the contamination problem is getting worse and it may eventually affect the lake from which the communal water supplies are drawn.

3. In total 57 water supplies recorded excessive nitrate levels; 10 were bacteriologically contaminated, two showed phenolic contamination, and 23 had excessive levels of sodium. High levels of chlorides and free ammonia were also noted in several systems.

So there is no question about the contamination of the area; that's been well known.

The response of the government, a year or so ago, was to agree to install a community water-tap. They extended the water supply system of the Ministry of Natural Resources underneath the tracks to the other part of the town so that people could go to the tap and draw themselves some unpolluted water. It is a continuing tribute to the then Minister of the Environment, (Mr. W. Newman) that

he saw fit to put in a community tap in a community of 800 people where the temperature in the wintertime often drops to -20F or -30F. During the last winter the tap, I might add, has frozen on a number of occasions, not surprisingly. I still think—

Mr. Bain: Better watch it, the former minister will flavour it and make it into an ice machine to show how much compassion he has.

Mr. Laughren: I still think that he missed a grand opportunity for publicity when he didn't incorporate the tap into a statue of himself.

An hon. member: It's not too late.

Mr. Laughren: I think he could have done it. When the survey was being taken in June, 1975, this is one of the observations made by those people who did the survey, and I quote:

Some citizens were highly concerned with the quality of their water, even to the point of being brutally hostile. Many felt that no action would be taken no matter what results were obtained. Of the concerned citizens many complained that their children were sick more than normal, which necessitated finding an alternative source of supply. This means carrying water with a great deal of inconvenience.

Well, it's a little hard to accept in this day and age, 1976, that a community of that size has to carry its own water year-round. In the survey, 64 of the dwellings surveyed relied on sand point and a large number of these supplies were contaminated by nitrates.

Thirty of the supplies tested had nitrate levels exceeding 1 part per million. Eighteen supplies had nitrate levels greater than 10 parts per million, which is where the Ontario government draws the line for health purposes. In total, 47, or 73 per cent, of those sand points tested had elevated nitrate levels. And then they concluded:

It would appear from the results that water obtained from wells in the Gogama area is no less contaminated than that from sand points, because a lot of people in the community thought that if they drilled wells of a considerable depth, they would avoid the contamination of the water table which is only 12 or 15 feet down. But that just does not work and it's getting worse.

The conclusion of the summary was as follows:

Many private supplies are contaminated by nitrates in quantities as high as 25 parts per million. Contamination has increased as many areas free of nitrate two years ago now have levels exceeding the permissible level. Contamination is moving down the hydraulic gradient following the slope of the land, away from the centre of the community to the lake. With the continued use of cesspools and septic tanks in Gogama, and the trend towards increasing water consumption, it seems evident that nitrate levels will continue to be high in the areas presently suffering from high levels, and that other areas will become contaminated as the water moves slowly to the lake.

And finally the report makes two recommendations; very simple, very straightforward. They are as follows:

1. In Gogama, water from ground water supplies should not be used by pregnant women or infants.

2. A communal water supply system utilizing a source that is free from contamination should be developed for the community. There are no interim measures that can be taken to correct the existing problems on an individual basis.

Mr. Speaker, that report was made by the Ministry of the Environment last June. That the ministry still has not acted upon it is an indication of their attitude towards small communities in Ontario. They simply must put in communal water supplies in communities like that.

That was what I was talking about earlier—the failure of the government to bring in legislation for the small unorganized communities—and Gogama is a classic example. When a problem does occur, they have no choice about altering the priorities of the community. They have no say in the priorities of the community. They have no tax base. Unless the provincial government, through the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr), moves in and says, “Look, this is ridiculous, we don’t think that you should have a communal tap in 1976 and years beyond. We will put in a communal water supply,” then nothing would change. But it simply must be done; their own ministry tells them that it has to be done and yet they seem to neglect it.

I hope that as the years go by and the people in places like Gogama continue to live under these inadequate conditions, slowly but surely the government will get the message that that simply is not acceptable. I

cannot imagine a community south of the French River existing with those kinds of facilities. It just would not be tolerated. The media would blow it sky high. The public would be so incensed, they would simply demand it be changed. It would be raised in the Legislature and it just wouldn’t continue. But here we have a community in the north that’s small, it’s unorganized, no municipal structure whatsoever, and the government feels they can ignore it. Well, that simply is no longer good enough. I do hope that we’ll reach the point where government realizes those problems are serious.

[There is one final issue I would like to deal with, Mr. Speaker, and that has to do with the whole question of sex discrimination in the Province of Ontario. The one area that bothers me most in the whole question of discrimination against women, is that of sex stereotyping in our schools. I think that is where a lot of the problems begin.

I’m assuming, Mr. Speaker, that you wouldn’t accept the Marxist analysis—the requirement that there be a low-paid pool of unemployed or potentially unemployed labour in the province and that women fulfill that role adequately. Assuming you wouldn’t accept that, I’m going to say that sex discrimination is an area that should be dealt with by this government.

There is still no serious attempt by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to remove sex stereotyping from the texts in our schools. Until we do so, we’re going to have a continuation of the kind of expectations that have been held in the past on the roles that women should play in our society. Those stereotypes are no longer valid. We know what the statistics are in terms of the jobs that women are doing. We know also that they are not being paid as well for the jobs that they are doing. That’s the second point that is so very important and that’s the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

I stress to you, Mr. Speaker, I am not saying equal pay for equal work, I am saying equal pay for work of equal value, because the principle of equal pay for equal work is already enshrined in Ontario legislation. But employers, both in the private and public sector, are allowed to merely classify jobs as being different and pay them at different rates, and that’s not acceptable. There must be some kind of commission or task force struck by the Ministry of Labour to determine what jobs are of equal value. It’s a tough task and a very difficult thing to do, but if we’re serious about equity and we’re

serious about removing sex discrimination in the workplace, it's simply got to be done.

Just ignoring it or saying, as the present Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. MacBeth) said about a year ago, that "society is not ready for that kind of legislation yet," means it never will be accomplished with that kind of attitude. The government should be prepared to take the lead—start in the public sector and show how it could be done.

[8:15]

The third terribly important issue is day care. Until we have a system of universal day care in Ontario there never will be equal opportunities for women in the workplace. I know it's considered expensive. There's a danger that if it was to be complemented by this government it would be done on a cost basis in which only low income people would be allowed to utilize it through a means test.

That's the wrong way. All women with families in the Province of Ontario should have access to day care. The sociological and educational benefits are enormous. At the present time it's just not available to people.

The constraint programme announced by the various ministries is discriminating against these kinds of services. It's discrimination against women as well. Four or five years ago, the whole question of sex discrimination was very popular. It was appropriate to talk about the whole problem four or five years ago. Since then it seems to have died as an issue in Ontario, probably not just Ontario but other jurisdictions as well.

The death blow was probably International Women's Year in Canada which was a farce in which the various efforts of governments were pitiful. Very little meaningful legislation came out of International Women's Year. It allowed the various governments of different jurisdictions to make token gestures to women but really do nothing at all.

There is a great temptation in Ontario now to put it on the back burner and say: "Ah, let it simmer for a while. It's really not an issue any more." I assure you, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to allow the government of this province to put the whole question of sex discrimination on a back burner and ignore it as an issue in Ontario.

I see the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) with a rather supercilious sneer on his face. I can assure him that it is a continuing issue in Ontario and it's time he realized it.

Mr. Nixon: How can he say that about you?

Mr. Roy: Keep your cool. Go get him, Bob

Mr. Laughren: I'd like to quote from Statistics Canada if I might, I know that you have a great respect for that agency.

Mr. Nixon: We have a choice?

Mr. Laughren: We're talking about the whole question of how equality for women has moved backward in the last few years. Despite all the efforts of a very large number of people there really has been no progress made in fact. I quote:

The wage gap between full-time male and full-time female workers is growing. Figures in Statistics Canada show that in 1971 the average man earned 44 per cent more than the average woman. By 1973, the average man earned 45.1 per cent more.

In 1973, more women were working in traditional female occupations than there had been in a decade earlier. In 1963, 30 in every 100 Canadian working women held clerical jobs. In 1974, 36 out of every 100 Canadian working women held clerical jobs. Although women hold more than 70 per cent of all clerical jobs, men in the same field still make more money.

The argument that is used, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure you've heard it sitting in the chair as long as you have, is that if women would only improve themselves, get more education, then of course they could earn equal money. Perhaps you've heard that argument. Actually, the Canadian female labour force is slightly better educated than the male labour force.

In 1972, 26 per cent of all women entered the labour force with a high school diploma compared with only 18.3 per cent of the men.

Here is the one that really you would appreciate, Mr. Speaker. I extracted this from Statistics Canada just for you because I knew you would appreciate it.

In 1970, the last year for which figures are available, the average employment earnings of full-time male babysitters were more than twice those of full-time female babysitters.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: The whole question of sex discrimination pervades all areas of employment and very little is being done. The reason I think this government should be chastised is that it can do something about it. Do members know what it did? It appointed the Ontario Council on the Status of Women; it has a co-ordinator of women's programmes in Ontario dealing with women

crown employees. That organization tabled a report on Oct. 29, 1975, and there are some very interesting statistics in that report. It provides some statistics.

It's a good report. The organization provides some recommendations, very specific, and it is going to be very interesting to see just what the government does with those recommendations.

I extracted, arbitrarily, some of the statistics from that report. In the report the authors took a look at the various ministries and organizations within the government to determine what kind of salaries women were earning in the public sector. I would like to look first at the Management Board secretariat. It's a very interesting one because it wields a lot of power in the Ontario government.

For men in the Management Board secretariat: Under \$11,000, zero people. Zero men earned under \$11,000 in the Management Board secretariat, while for women, there were 11 or 46 per cent. Earning over \$23,000, there were zero women but there were 56 per cent of the men in the Management Board secretariat earning over \$23,000.

To summarize, Mr. Speaker, zero percentage of men in the Management Board secretariat earned under \$11,000; 56 per cent earned over \$23,000. For women, 46 per cent earned less than \$11,000 and zero per cent earned over \$23,000.

For the Ministry of Natural Resources; earning under \$15,000 were 69.5 per cent of the men and 98.2 per cent of the women. Over \$15,000, were 35.5 per cent of the men and 1.8 per cent of the women. Those are two examples I extracted—a couple of the worst examples—and it is going to be very interesting to see to what extent the government responds to those recommendations.

I assume there will be another annual report sometime in 1976 and at that point it is going to be very interesting to see to what extent the government took seriously the recommendations of the committee.

I would warn the government that unless it does take it seriously, it has truly created a token organization and that would simply not be tolerated by the civil service. I might add that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union is starting to make very serious noises about this problem as well. The government does have an obligation to look after its own employees and to lead the way in removing sex discrimination from the Province of Ontario.

Finally, I would like to give members a gentle reminder, as I conclude my remarks in the Throne Speech debate, as to what our amendment to the Throne Speech says. I ask members to think about it, and I ask them to consider who but an incurable Tory could not agree with it. I would like to repeat it.

Mr. Lewis moved that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor now before the Legislature be amended by adding thereto the following words:

But this Legislature regrets the inability of this government to meet its responsibility for a necessary programme as a result of the deterioration of the fiscal capacity of the province during successive Progressive Conservative governments.

And, further, this Legislature regrets the failure of the government to provide in the Speech from the Throne any significant proposals to deal with the present problems of: (a) occupational health and the lack of adequate safeguards for the health and safety of workers; (b) need to preserve agricultural land; (c) move for a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity throughout the province and in particular to northern and eastern Ontario; (d) need for job creation to offset rising unemployment; (e) inadequate housing supply and rising mortgage interest rates.

And this Legislature moreover regrets the mismanagement of the government's restraint programme leading to (a) the failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, especially as exemplified by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories; (b) the failure to respond adequately to financial needs for vital social services, particularly as exemplified in the inadequate funding arrangements offered to Children's Aid Societies.

And further still, this Legislature is opposed to the endless burdening of Ontario taxpayers, exemplified both by the excessive increase in the municipal property taxes which will result directly from this government's policy, and by the additional concessions to the mining industry, specifically set out in the speech of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor.

Therefore, the government has lost the confidence of this House.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to be able to participate in this debate, because it is one of those rare occasions when the opposition can express both personal and party philosophies.

Until I have reason to believe otherwise I am prepared to accept the fact that the men and women opposite are, taken singly, of good will and good reputation in their dealings with children. I assume, with reason I am sure, that they have the best interests of their own children at heart, that they are protective of their neighbours' youngsters and that in some abstract way each thinks of himself or herself as a friend to children generally.

It is, therefore, the more baffling to understand what happens to those sentiments when these people combine to become the government; because a description of their treat-

ment of the young, the elderly, the poor, the sick, the needy, would give Dickens pause; because their philosophy in regard to the helpless has more in common with John D. Rockefeller than with Dr. Spock or with any known set of ethical values.

Mr. Nixon: How true.

Mr. Laughren: You are against capitalism too?

Mrs. Campbell: I believe that at a time like this it behoves each of us not to shirk from a description, however uncool, that tells the truth. Not now, not when we are talking about what is happening to desperate men and women, to frightened and needful children; not when we are looking at a government whose sets of values and priorities is beyond the belief of rational people.

Let us examine some of these priorities. We have been able to wrench from this most secretive of governments the information that \$67,500 was spent for refurbishing the vice-regal suite, including \$50,000 for two powder rooms.

[8.30]

Mr. Laughren: Albert, did you know that?

Mrs. Campbell: We have learned, too, that the government has also expended \$19,000 to purchase 329 plants which are to grace or are gracing the regional offices of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications; and that an additional \$30,000 contract has been let for the care and seeding of these tender vines.

Mr. Nixon: What, to water the plants?

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, they are being fed too.

Mr. Gaunt: And they are being talked to, don't forget that. They talk to them.

Mrs. Campbell: That figure is, of course, only for two years, with more to come later we assume, on the basis that nothing is too good for a split-leaf philodendron.

Mr. Nixon: Or a dieffenbachia.

Mrs. Campbell: We have already heard of the \$9,500 car which is given the deputy in a ministry which is closing facilities to treat the sick.

We wonder how many more of these vehicles that guzzle gas at an astounding rate are secreted in various garages around the province—

Mr. Nixon: They ought to all be auctioned.

Mrs. Campbell:—multiplied by how many other cars and luxurious parks only God and this government, the latter tending to think it is the former, know.

The government sometimes shows a heart-warming concern for the hygiene and comfort of certain segments of the population. I shall, in time—and over a period of time because the answer won't come easily—be asking the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) to tell us all more about a certain bathroom—not a powder room this time—which has been installed in an expensive building at Bloor and Avenue Rd. to save one person of the election expenses committee the ugly necessity of stepping across the hall to share the facilities used by the other male tenants of that floor, fewer than 10 in number.

Mr. Nixon: Why doesn't he go before he leaves home?

Mrs. Campbell: A question you might ask him.

Interjections.

Mrs. Campbell: All of that is understandable in a government which has husbanded its resources as this one has not. Luxurious plumbing, expensive green thumbs, may all have their place, but that place, as any sensible government would know, is way down the list of a very large number of priorities.

Mr. Worton: Give him a Johnny-on-the-Spot.

Mr. Cunningham: Sounds like a royal flush.

Mrs. Campbell: I thank my colleague for that very interesting remark.

Let us look now at that part of the population which is being used by this government in a shocking and careless effort to shore up its sagging fortunes resulting from their own bad management and their own profligacy during at least the last five years.

We turned, first, to the sick and we considered the effect of hospital closings on them—an effect that government patently did not consider. Playing the most outrageous numbers game, the government has swaggered into hospitals, ordered them cut and then, as an afterthought, told them that if they could come up with alternatives the government might allow them to live in some form or another.

Were these cuts made in consultation with individual communities on the basis of re-

ports and research the government always claims it needs? No indeed. It seems, on examination, that the cuts were made on the basis of little more than pulling names out of a hat. In fact, the ministry has had to climb down on some of the more foolish moves it made with such fanfare.

I wonder, when I read of what the minister said about reasons for some of the closings, whether indeed even the population figures that they're talking about are back in the 1971 period. In any event, there is little of confidence in any of the reasons given for the government actions.

I find it difficult in one respect because I have not suffered, specifically, a hospital closing. However, in the riding of St. George, there are over 1,000 people who are accustomed to using the facilities of Doctors Hospital. This government has threatened to close that hospital in Toronto, which isn't unique in the efficiency, in the budget-mindedness of its care. In view of certain developments which have now taken place, one is left to conclude that there is a possibility that this hospital will remain as a medical centre.

One of the things that I can't understand about that is that when the hospital was asked to produce a model to incorporate a medical centre and to incorporate various stages of care, that was to be at the cost of \$11 million. That figure was then bandied around by the minister to explain that this was the reason for closing the hospital, because they should not expend this sum of money. I wonder if there is still in this ministry, the person or persons who recommended the expenditure of \$1 million for this hospital for renovations last September. That is planning?

That is what, of course, is so disgraceful about the way in which this government has been functioning. They are still repairing and renovating air conditioning and the rest at that hospital with that million dollars. They may have stopped doing it now, but they were still doing it up to a short time ago.

What are we talking about? I say to you, Mr. Speaker, it is a sorry business. In this case, this government is playing fast and loose with the truth and with reason. It is doing so on the calculated gamble that the ethnic community served by the Doctors Hospital will be too stunned to vote against it. It is a sorry business, not worthy of any citizen of Ontario, let alone of the people who pretend to govern it.

I was interested in hearing the acting minister discussing the approach which she said had been made over the past decade to governors of hospitals to come forward with some

suggestions, lest something serious happen to them. I don't understand it. What suggestions were made to the people of Durham in this last decade, when they were permitted to add an extension to that hospital in 1972? This is planning? This is a government with some kind of management?

Also, the acting minister today sought to explain this question of the \$16-million shortfall. Just imagine a government, having approved the budgets of hospitals, coming along and saying: "Gee, we're sorry, we have run out of money. Sorry about that."

The minister explained that the problem was that the hospitals are on a calendar year and the ministry on a fiscal year, which is different. I would have thought that ministry would have known that; surely they have known it for a long time. Yet they have the audacity to come to us for \$85 million in supplementary estimates and they don't know that they should have added that additional \$16 million.

I would say that I think the acting minister herself was deeply embarrassed by the position in which she found herself today, and one does not blame her in any way for the predicament in which she finds herself. As a matter of fact, I had occasion to call the acting minister to ask her if she didn't think she needed some help, having taken on this ministry along with that of Labour and, if she did, I knew a good psychiatrist.

I won't say that she said she was thinking about taking me up on the offer, but in any event she did find she was deeply involved.

Interjections.

[8:45]

Mrs. Campbell: One reason the minister gave for the cut was that the province had invested in non-acute beds, including those in nursing homes. The truth is a little less rosy, as usual with this government.

This year the nursing home operators asked for increases of \$3.26 per diem and, according to the ministry itself, justified increases of \$3 per diem. Having said that, the ministry then gave them \$1 per day on the basis if they didn't like it they could lump it. And what of the men and women, many of them helpless and a large number alone? Yes, it is corny to talk of old people, cast off by society and in many cases waiting only to die. But in the name of a merciful God, that is what is happening in this province today.

The elderly I know do not frequent your clubs and your posh dining rooms. These sick people are often not amusing and they may not feel specially interested in whatever book

or movie or fad you people consider worthy of your attention on any given afternoon. But they did have hopes and dreams. The ones you treat the worst are the ones who are least able to give substance to those hopes and dreams. Punished by life or simply overlooked by it, under your disdainful treatment of them they die without any sense of justice or respect. Only one thing can be said for your treatment of the elderly. You certainly make the alternative to life seem more attractive than most of us who are alive want it to be.

You may have read in the evening paper, Mr. Speaker, the story of a woman who was in a nursing home and had to go into hospital. Her bed in her nursing home was lost. One understands that a nursing home can't hold beds forever and one doesn't know how long such a person may be ill. But there ought to be a provision of care for that woman now that she is able to leave the hospital.

If only by your own Tory thinking that only money is important, it would save dollars to get her out of the hospital and into a nursing home. But there isn't that kind of provision, and so many of us are hunting around for a nursing home that can take her.

But even more than that, that woman in that hospital was worried because she didn't know what happened to her possessions and there was nobody to tell her. They may not have seemed important possessions to people in the government side, but they were all she had.

But who cares about her concerns? If those older people had anything in this life to which they cling, it is their homes. Corporation lawyers, heirs to nice fortunes, may have forgotten, but the old have not forgotten what home ownership means and meant to the people of Ontario. To have a place of one's own has meant independence, security and a sense of one's goals made manifest. A government which blatantly used tax money to buy homes for the young, some of those homes being very costly homes, is back at its old pre-election stance threatening homeowners, especially the most vulnerable of them, the elderly.

Let's face it, we do not have a restraint programme. We have a programme whereby this government hopes to bring forward a budget that is not too ghastly at the expense of the municipalities. So you have shown your complete lack of concern for these people who own their homes and who have little else.

On top of this we must never forget that the government still hasn't announced its decision as to what it proposes to do about market value assessment and the protection of the residential homeowner. I must at this point, Mr. Speaker, pay tribute to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). He does answer my letters and does seek to keep me up to date on the ongoing discussions relevant to this problem of the factor. We hope that this will be announced before the full force of this year's thrust to the municipalities, and next year's very possible switch of the onus from commercial/industrial to the residential homeowner, takes place.

We come now, Mr. Speaker, to the question of women and children in this community. You know if this province were a lifeboat, it is not too much to say that the government's motto would be women and children first, and would dump them into the sea.

Take, for example, the deserted wife living in Ontario Housing with her children. All of this is under the name of removing discrimination. We have got to keep that in mind because it is one of the most perverse things this government ever has done. If they are in Ontario Housing and the husband deserts, they want to be perfectly fair with the husband and wife. He must pay half of the arrears and so must she. What you forget in this table is that she has the children with her and so you punish the children, I suppose in an old religious tradition, for the sins of the parents.

We have seen the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) and I do wish, Mr. Speaker, we would go back to calling it the Ministry of Welfare because that's what it is—the old fashioned welfare, and not community and social services which has perhaps a certain dignity in its implications.

So the minister says that we are going to have civil servants telling these women that they have to go to work. Of course we are not going to tell all of them, but we are not quite sure who we are going to tell. I guess it is going to be a secret to us.

The interesting thing is that when I asked the minister what he proposed to do about the deserting fathers, he said we are going to teach them a thing or two. He doesn't even know that the deserting fathers basically have nothing to do with his ministry, and he obviously doesn't know what happens in the courts and their inability to do anything to enforce their orders adequately. But that's all right, we're going to make those women go to work because we don't want any discrimination. That's the name of the game.

There are places in this city—one is Interval House, the other is Women in Transition—and these two operations are showing some concern for that traumatic experience of a woman who has been deserted, often at a very late hour at night, and they take her and her children in to help her over this particular traumatic experience.

And there is the Y programme which is called Focus on Change. This is a programme to help mothers on welfare, to get some help to enable them to get out of the welfare scene, to give them skills. All of these programmes are waiting to find out whether in fact they're going to get any money, all in the name of no discrimination.

Many of these women in the past have sought retraining programmes but they have been advised, "Your place is in the home." So they have been discouraged. But now government policy has changed; now we musn't show discrimination. Now we must make them get out and work like men.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Working on an Oscar?

Mrs. Campbell: Well, you know it's a funny thing, back in 1959 we had welfare problems in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Nixon: The minister was the solicitor for Scarborough that year, wasn't he?

Mrs. Campbell: Our commissioner of welfare was one Miss Morris. She is known to you, highly respected and I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate you, as I believe she has had a three-year renewal of her contract. But we were discussing some of these problems and, of course, we were discussing it largely with the father of the family in the hope of trying to encourage him to get back into the labour force. This very wise lady said to me, "You know, the basic problem is that the penalties in welfare are too severe to be tolerated." I leave that with you and perhaps you might discuss her experience with her in detail.

Because, of course, even with the father, if they don't work what are you going to do? Starve the children? With this government it wouldn't be beyond belief but I don't see how you're going to really bring yourself to do that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You will say we will anyway.

[9:00]

Mrs. Campbell: I'm glad that the minister interjected because, you know, he says time and again how misquoted he has been and

yet, by all that is righteous, here he comes out in the paper saying exactly by regulation what he says he didn't say. So, if I say that, it is understandable.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's not right, you know. What I have been saying is manifested in the regulations. It's just a matter of which came first.

Mrs. Campbell: You weren't going to separate women from their children but you are going to separate children from their mothers. I guess that's the difference. The government thinks that—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Have you read the regulations?

Mrs. Campbell: I have asked to see them and I have not seen them yet.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you haven't read the regulations, what are you talking about?

Mrs. Campbell: Well, do you know what you are talking about, because I don't think you do?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I sure do.

Mrs. Campbell: I have been listening and you have fudged every single solitary answer because you haven't known the answers. You don't have to stand up in this House and ask your colleague, the Minister of Labor (B. Stephenson), about this. You don't have to stand up and give long-winded answers unless you don't know the answer. That is the trouble with you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am just trying to explain.

Mr. Speaker: I think if the hon. member would address her remarks to the Chair it would be more appropriate.

Mr. Roy: She is being heckled by the minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is just your own fabrication.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. George.

Mr. Roy: He is being provocative here.

Mr. Warner: The minister is being provocative.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I am supposedly uninformed as to the regulations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What do you mean, supposedly?

Mrs. Campbell: But I didn't draft them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You didn't draft them?

Mrs. Campbell: No.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Thank God.

Mr. Roy: No, they would have some heart in them if she drafted them. There is no heart in your regulations.

Mr. Nixon: No brains either.

Mr. Roy: Just cold hard law.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. George.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You wouldn't be able to interpret them.

Mr. Roy: I wouldn't want to interpret them either.

Mrs. Campbell: I would like to go back to the matter of deserted wives. From the experience I have had in this, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the minister will challenge my knowledge and information. In the matter of deserted wives, let me give you a few examples and then we talk about no discrimination. What of the women who have worked to give their husbands an education in law or in medicine? These women and their husbands have produced children but—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, you are an expert on that.

Mrs. Campbell: —once the husband has his education he chooses to leave.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Oh, it is unfair, you are bitter.

Mr. Warner: Only because you are here.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, there are plenty of these cases and so in the name of no discrimination we then say to these women, "You must get out of the home and work," because frankly there is no way really effectively of enforcing the judgement of the family court, save sending the husband to jail. What a great progressive province we have.

Hon. Mr. Taylor. Is that your answer, sending the husbands to jail?

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I thought my friend across the way was a lawyer. I am sorry, I must have been mistaken. He

has to know that the courts can only operate within the law that his government brought into being.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have sat on the bench. Surely you should know something about enforcement of maintenance grants.

Mrs. Campbell: I do indeed and I know that in these cases the only real answer in the family courts is to send husbands to jail for contempt and there isn't a family court judge that isn't very angry about that kind of treatment because it doesn't help anybody.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: So you know nothing about collections?

Mr. Roy: Are you going to control him, Mr. Speaker, or not?

Mrs. Campbell: He doesn't even know what a show-cause court is, I'm afraid.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You know it?

Mr. Bain: He wasn't a very good lawyer either.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have to improve further on collection too.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh I know you've got automatic enforcement. I'm just waiting to see how much automatic enforcement there is. In the case of women trying to get out of welfare, and I think it has to be said, since the minister has implied that there are all these very lazy welfare mothers who go back to bed when their children go to school, and that there are all these great jobs available to them if only they would get out of bed, get dressed and get out and get them.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: Become hospital workers.

Mr. Warner: Where are the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is your fabrication.

Mrs. Campbell: All right, Mr. Speaker. Do you think for a moment that you could restrain the minister?

Mr. B. Newman: It is you we are worried about.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It was.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, what of those women who do take the very gallant step of determining to get off welfare? As you

may have recalled, it was the philosophy of the Liberal Party that there should be incentives to assist these women. As I recall, a motion was made by our member from North Bay to that effect, only we thought there should be an allowance of \$100 a month for six months to give some stability to this effort.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That was the philosophy. What is your philosophy now?

Mrs. Campbell: The minister knows that instead, we have \$100 a month plus \$50 for each of the next two months. Let me give you a case history of what happens.

A mother, living in Ontario Housing with five children, decided she would take this step. She did get a job having, of course, duly informed the ministry.

In taking the job, Mr. Speaker, she dropped \$100 a month in revenue. I don't know how many over there would do it, while they criticize her, but that's what happened.

And, of course, she had to pay her own OHIP. She had to pay dental care, and Ontario Housing reduced her rent by \$10 a month. So, it left a shortfall.

Do you know what happened? Somebody informed the ministry that she was working and cheating on welfare. So what happens in this maze of bureaucracy? They pull her file, put it under 02 or something and won't pay her this money because she has to be investigated, although they must have known she had declared she was about to work.

Well anyway, one only has to know the way in which the government treats women around the more menial occupations of this place to understand that this government is saying to these women, "You have no skills." In some cases they do not, and maybe they should come and work by contract to clean this place the way the Portuguese women have been cleaning, only to know that there is discrimination against women in this area.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe that?

Mrs. Campbell: There isn't any question; there is no ability for them to even apply for any job other than the most menial, notwithstanding the fact of seniority in some cases.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: My deputy minister is a woman and a very capable one.

Mrs. Campbell: If we have a government that lets contracts to people who discriminate and does nothing about it when it is drawn to its attention; if the government enters into

contracts and doesn't demand at least the minimum of what the law requires in terms of employment standards, then how can we expect better of the government in dealing with women on welfare or in any other case?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe that?

Mr. Moffatt: It's called exploitation.

Mrs. Campbell: Then we come to the matter of day care. Surely, if the mother is to go out to work, her child is to be cared for. But the government acts as if day care is something it gives to mothers who are, in its lexicon, usually undeserving. I have news for the government: Day care is what this society does for children, and not for bankers, accountants or real estate speculators. Can the minister understand that? Day care is for children.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not necessarily—

Mr. Warner: No, he doesn't understand.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is day care for adults. They have all kinds of day care. You should know that too.

Mrs. Campbell: Perhaps the minister could repeat that to himself every morning. It is a very simple statement. Let him try it; he may like it!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are different kinds of day care; you know that. You should know that.

Mrs. Campbell: Day care is for children; it gives children a secure, organized learning experience, with the supervision of trained men and women.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Some day care does!

Mrs. Campbell: It is not a bingo palace for welfare mothers, whose sins seem to haunt the minister, although their needs do not. The most serious game of chance is hopscotch. The only people who sleep are two-, three- and four-year-olds at their naps. Milk is guzzled—not gin.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Who wrote that stuff for you?

Mrs. Campbell: John Dewey, the great educator, said that society should want for all of its children what the wise parent wants for his own child. Presumably, this does not mean using children as gimmicks or cutting back on programmes that most affect their lives.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What do you know about that kind of thing?

Mr. Warner: The minister doesn't care.

Mrs. Campbell: Let us go on to consider such matters as the Children's Aid Societies' budget. We have only to look at the newspaper today—I suppose the minister has read it, but when we hear that minister say, "No child in need shall suffer," this should be on the record—and read that the lack of services in Toronto for children who have more than one handicap is pushing the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto increasingly into an area of children's care for which it wasn't originally intended. The newspaper article goes on to discuss the problems. They are caught between two provincial ministries, Health and Community and Social Services, neither has anything for them and parents often turn to the Children's Aid Society because they have no other recourse.

[9:15]

Mr. Warner: The minister doesn't care.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What do you know about that kind of thing?

Mrs. Campbell: And this no child in need will want.

Mr. Warner: Do you really like children?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Do you have any children?

Mr. Warner: Yes.

Mrs. Campbell: The answers—I wonder, Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You do? I wouldn't have expected it from you with your attitude. You surprise me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. George is talking to the Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Are you speaking next, Jim?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I'm speaking now.

Mr. Roy: That's obvious.

Mr. Haggerty: That's about the regular level of contribution by you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I'm waiting to hear the member for St. George.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And the individual programme, that is necessary—

Mrs. Campbell: I would hate to ask you to name the minister, Mr. Speaker, but that may be the only way we can get a little order.

An hon. member: Throw him out.

Mr. Roy: You should get up and apologize that you're such a right winger.

Mr. B. Newman: Name him, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, the semantics of this ministry will not solve the problems. We have asked for programmes to help in the matter of child abuse. Surely that is not something which can be swept aside under a restraint programme? But yes, indeed it can.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's not true. It won't be and you know it.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I'm not clairvoyant—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's true. That's the most accurate thing you have said tonight.

Mrs. Campbell: —I can only go on what facts there are. Mr. Speaker, I have such pity for this minister. He is so inadequate for his job.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Don't pity me.

Mr. Cassidy: You should resign.

Mr. B. Newman: You should resign.

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you resign now, then Margaret can finish her speech?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Don't you wish I would?

Mr. Roy: You're lucky; the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) makes you look good.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It goes to show the talent we have on this side.

Mr. Bain: It sure does show the talent.

An hon. member: Shows the level of talent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are envious.

Mrs. Campbell: I referred to this before but, surely, when we know of the numbers of children — young children — who are either attempting suicide or are committing suicide, there should be an honouring of what was an undertaking—although I don't think in fairness I could say it went so far as being a commitment—of the former minister. If a society can't be concerned for the welfare of its children it is unworthy of the name of a society at all. There isn't anyone in this province who would oppose services to children; no one.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right and this government manifests that.

Mr. Cassidy: Except for the minister.

Mr. Good: Except one.

Mr. Roy: When things are tough, you've got to have compassion and you don't have it.

Mrs. Campbell: I am not going to refer in detail at all to the horrible insensitivity—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Watch the extravagance now.

Mrs. Campbell: —of the programme for the mentally retarded, although everyone knows how insensitive it is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe that.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you did your homework—

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I have never spoken without belief in what I say.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then I overestimated your intelligence and your knowledge.

Mr. Good: You didn't even show up the other morning for the breakfast.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I can't be everywhere.

Mrs. Campbell: It is interesting—

Mr. Good: You made sure you didn't go there.

Mr. Roy: If you keep up the way we are going, we are going to find out sooner than ever.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. George, I am awaiting her words.

Mrs. Campbell: I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if we couldn't let me move into the middle here so I could be a party to the cross-fire.

Mr. Speaker: I assure you the Speaker is listening to you very intently.

Mrs. Campbell: He is interrupting, I know that.

Mr. Roy: He is being provocative too.

Mrs. Campbell: Part and parcel, of course, of this government's consideration for children is its proposed cutback—not cutback, all right;

an increase which doesn't begin to match the increasing cost, in my view, is a cutback.

We get a ministry which decides that for family services we will not increase by more than 5.5 per cent, and that means that very possibly a function such as Illahee Lodge, a place for disabled children to enjoy summer activities, may have to be closed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: But not likely.

Mr. Reid: Do you guarantee to help them out?

Mrs. Campbell: We do not have anything from the ministry to give us any assurance, other than idle chatter.

Mr. Roy: She's right, you should resign.

Mrs. Campbell: Then, of course, we turn to the closing of the child unit of the Lakeshore Hospital—again, part and parcel of the fact that we have a government which has been in office so long and has never yet been able to develop a bill of rights for children.

Mr. Warner: Right on. It is called hereditary ineptitude.

Mrs. Campbell: So these children will be chucked around like laundry. They, after all, are not voters; nor are they, I assume, heavy contributors to the campaign.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not only are you bitter, but you are cynical.

Mrs. Campbell: They are not owners of advertising agencies who can smooth over the callousness and sheer stupidity of the government opposite. Let's add it all up so far. The welfare mother unable to feed herself and her family decently finds that there are disincentives to working provided by the very government that is now proposing that she go to work.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't know how you sleep at night.

Mrs. Campbell: One of the other things that happens in this kind of a case—and I have seen this happen through the years—is that when there are family debts and judgements flowing from them the creditors, like government, don't bother to try to find the husband—it costs too much money for that exercise—they lie in wait for the time when the mother gets into the work force and then enforce their judgements against her. Don't tell me if he's a lawyer, knowing

something about collections, he doesn't know that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have a persecution complex.

Mr. Wildman: You have contributed to it.

Mr. Cassidy: You are a disgrace, you know. I wish the assistance recipients could see you laughing and chortling over their misfortune. You are an absolute disgrace to this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order please. The hon. member for St. George has the floor.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I just have a few more points. We have problems in housing. We've been talking about them for a long time. I'm not trying to dwell on any but one aspect, but here again is a case history about a woman living outside of Metropolitan Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: How you can regurgitate nonsense like that, I don't know. You are expert at it.

Mrs. Campbell: The minister is going to get his turn, but I'm going to have my say. It may be the last time I get in at all, around here.

This woman, with three children, is living in a small home outside of Metro and is separated from her husband who owes her \$5,000 in support payments. She was working to support her family. After four and a half months she became ill and was discharged by the plant.

Her welfare allowance was \$370 a month. Her rent was \$197.50, her food \$160, her telephone \$12. Her expenses were \$369.50 for rent, food and telephone, and I'm sure, she had to clothe three children.

This is a case where rent supplement is the only answer because there is no Ontario Housing where she lives. But the municipality, and I regret the fact this has been a decision of theirs, but I can understand it, they have a one year residency requirement, the municipality says there is no rent supplement for her.

This is a government that cares, a government that cares for children?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right, I hope you are serious about that.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I never was more serious in my life.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Good.

Mrs. Campbell: I have one further case. I have tried to get some action from this government for a long period of time. I tried to be polite about it. Tonight I'm not going to be.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a novelty.

Mrs. Campbell: I have begged to have something done for those children who are victims of contributing to juvenile delinquency. Mr. Speaker, there is no way to move this government.

I did try to go through the official guardian; and I think that's an awful misnomer. The official guardian is simply, and solely, an administrative official who really has nothing to do with the welfare of children.

I tried, Mr. Speaker, to get the press involved at one time. Since I did all of the proceedings for awhile in the family courts, I asked one of the two columnists who came to see me at the court to come in. I put it to two of them.

One of them accepted. That man was Ken Bagnell, a columnist whom I trusted implicitly as to his discretion and concern. He came in and he wrote a lead article on the subject of the child in a contributing action and he came back the following week.

[9:30]

Fortunately in these cases, Mr. Speaker, if you have a good Crown attorney, and in Mr. Hoffman we had the very best in that court, a child is not before a court. The evidence is produced from other sources, and of course this is something to be desired. But unfortunately what happens is that the child is then a forgotten factor and becomes invisible in the total picture.

In any event, when Mr. Bagnell returned the next time, we had to take what was a particularly difficult case. It was a case, quite frankly, of one copulation; not pretty at all. But Mr. Bagnell wrote the story and, unfortunately, the paper would not permit it to be published on the basis that it was an obscenity and so the whole matter was lost. But none of those children get to the criminal compensation board. None of those children get any help with the problems which are created by the kinds of activities to which they're subjected. So I asked I don't know how many Attorneys General—three I guess it says here—

Mr. Nixon: They had three in one year.

Mrs. Campbell: —if they would do something to assist these children. I particularly

asked that we have the official guardian give him staff to watch these cases. The Children's Aid Society with this ministry, obviously, have no officers to work in their courts except on the specific cases for which they have special responsibility—child welfare, and in some cases, juvenile delinquency.

One of the law officers of the present Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) advised me that they were going to advise the Crown attorneys across the province to ensure that these children would, at least, be brought before that board where there could be developed a procedure for them which could be helpful for their futures. I didn't like that approach. I don't think a Crown attorney who is prosecuting in the one case should then become more or less an informer about the child, but that is what they offered.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: How about a friend of the court?

Mrs. Campbell: I wouldn't think you could be a friend of the court in the circumstances of having been the prosecutor in the case involving the parents or the adults. The other problem is that if he only informs the parent and if the parent is the one who is at fault it doesn't get anywhere.

However, it ended up that I said I would accept that as a first step if they would start it, and then I asked some of the Crowns and they had no such instruction.

Mr. Speaker, I would honestly believe that an Attorney General who is concerned about violence in hockey might be equally concerned about the violation of children in these circumstances.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You can rest assured he is.

Mrs. Campbell: It is proper to come to grips with this kind of a situation. I hope that he will do something.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, may I just say that almost a year ago, on April 28, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett), speaking to the Lions' Club of Credit Valley in Port Credit, outlined the philosophy of this government. I feel very guilty because I never did take him very seriously. Suddenly I realized that in fact he was philosophizing for government and he talked about a return to values and said that we must deal with the old values. Then he goes on to say that many of us haven't the right values and he said: "Don't think for a minute that I am excluding governments. They are just as guilty of waste and greed as unions, corporations and the little old lady down the

street," and the only one who is being restrained is the little old lady down the street.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I would like to express today my full support for the Speech from the Throne. In particular, I want to address my comments to the government's commitment. I found it interesting in reviewing the Speech from the Throne and the commitment is set forth in a number of spots. Let me quote:

Profit restrictions and wage limitations imposed on the public should be reflected in similar limitations on government spending at all levels. [In another spot:] For its part, Ontario will continue to curtail its costs and to reorder its priorities in the provincial and in the national interests.

This is a major initiative and I believe it is unparalleled in any other jurisdiction to say something in support of national policy actions to combat inflation. In this fight, public attention has focused on actions taken by the government to curtail the growth of major spending programmes.

I think we are all aware of four of those examples that come immediately to mind: The Ministry of Health, for example, with its hospital closings, its cutbacks in beds and its budget restraints; the Ministry of Education with its local boards' requirements to absorb increases; the Ministry of Transportation and Communications with its restrictions in local building programmes, the postponements—in some cases, the cancellation—of some programmes; and the general eight per cent ceiling on the growth of government grants on municipalities.

But, Mr. Speaker, to date it has not been at all well recognized that the government's constraint programme affects all ministries along the lines of the quotations I have just taken from the Throne Speech itself. It affects all ministries—

Mr. Bain: Are you going to cut back in the Ministry of Revenue in what you collect from the taxpayers?

Hon. Mr. Meen: —and it is designed to cut administrative costs, improve internal productivity and absorb greater work loads with decreased resources in some cases.

Mr. Shore: Only got 69,000 people there.

Hon. Mr. Meen: In the thrust of constraint and reordered priorities, I believe the experience of my Ministry of Revenue offers a particularly interesting case study.

We have been traditionally one of the less visible ministries, while nevertheless perform-

ing an essential function without which no government programmes could exist at all. For example, we have the revenue through taxes for our own purposes and in my ministry the other, rather more visible, side, the assessment of all real property in Ontario for the purpose of municipal taxation. It is therefore important that the application of these restraints does not impede the flow of revenues to the Treasury, particularly at this time when we are all bending every effort to reducing the deficit. And, of course, it is also essential to ensure that the—

Mr. Bain: Why don't you restrain yourselves in collecting taxes?

Hon. Mr. Meen: —taxing statutes continue to be administered fairly and equitably and properly in the interests of all taxpayers.

Now, I want to tell you that constraints have been met in the Ministry of Revenue. Like all ministries we have taken cuts in two different quarters, the first of those in complement. We reduced our complement by 153 positions during the last fiscal year, 1975-1976, and we will be held constant at that reduced figure for the current year 1976-1977. The resultant saving in the 1975-1976 year is somewhat in excess of \$1 million. In extrapolating that saving into the current fiscal year, 1976-1977—it is hard to estimate it accurately at this time, but it looks as if it could be in the order of \$1.5 million to \$2 million for a full fiscal year with that constant reduced figure.

Mr. Good: I hope so.

Mr. Shore: What service is going to be affected by it?

Hon. Mr. Meen: If we reduce 153 positions in an even fashion over the whole year then you would say the average reduction was 77½. Then you would simply multiply that by two and say we would save \$2 million in a full year. But we can't expect that because it may well have been that in the earlier part of the year positions carrying lesser salaries were terminated and the saving of \$1 million reflects the total effect. So as a rough estimate, and perhaps a relatively conservative estimate, it would look as if we were able to save \$1.5 million. That is on the complement side.

On the direct operating expenses, or DOE as we are inclined to call it, the cutback in 1975-1976 was \$1.8 million, which works out to a pretty healthy limitation. We will have no growth in DOE, as we estimate it now,

for the current year 1976-1977, and our DOE will be in the order of \$12 million.

The implications of this are, I guess, pretty obvious. We are just going to have to absorb inflation in my ministry like the others. And we are going to have to absorb workload increases that occurred in 1975 and we are going to have to absorb them again in 1976.

But I think we should put Revenue constraint in perspective. These cuts don't seem particularly large, I suppose, against the total government cutbacks in some of the more visible ministries, but restraint in the Ministry of Revenue is indeed significant. I shall demonstrate in a moment why the application of constraint in full measure was so difficult and indeed, Mr. Speaker, a real challenge to achieve.

The Ministry of Revenue has traditionally been what I choose to call a lean ministry. The complement has been essentially stable over the last few years. For example, across the ministry on April 1, 1972, we had 4,074 positions. In April, 1975, three years later, that had increased by all of 41 positions to 4,115—a one per cent increase in three years. The increase in total government positions in the same period was three per cent.

Direct operating expenses have always been kept in line. In 1970-1971 the DOE assessment was all of \$6.296 million. In 1975-1976, the fiscal year just ended, the total was \$6.633 million, an increase of just \$437,000. That's a five per cent total increase over five years, to answer the member for Waterloo North.

Mr. Shore: How will you survive?

Hon. Mr. Meen: A five per cent increase in DOE in five years—even with inflation built into it and even, for that matter, with the tremendous increase in workload and heightened activity over this same period.

[9:45]

Mr. Roy: As taxes keep going up you need more people.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Throughout the ministry we have combined our traditional practice of restraint with greater workloads to bring about continued increases in productivity and continued increases in efficiency in all the programmes. Let me give you some of the indicators we have established to gauge our divisional performance.

Look for example at the revenue division. Revenue collected in the 1972-1973 fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, was \$2.14 billion. That revenue in 1975-1976, collected by the revenue section of the ministry, rose to \$3.3

billion, an increase of 54 per cent. The cost per \$100 of revenue collected in the 1972-1973 fiscal year was 71 cents. In 1975-1976, the year just ended, our estimated cost is 62 cents for every \$100 collected, a reduction in the cost of 13 per cent.

The number of accounts per employee is another interesting yardstick to look at. In 1972-1973, there were 349 accounts for each employee in the ministry in the revenue section. That number has increased from 349 to 463 accounts per employee, an increase of 33 per cent.

Mr. Shore: Don't know how you do it.

Hon. Mr. Meen: If you want to take a look at the assessment division, I will get to the question of the hon. member for London North. He wants to know how we did it.

Mr. Good: Explain how your total expenditures went up 300 per cent in three years.

Hon. Mr. Meen: For the number of properties under the assessment division, if you want to take a look at that, in 1970-1971, when we took over assessment from the municipalities, there were 1.6 million properties. By 1975-1976, with the activities in subdivisions and the like, that number has increased to 2.8 million properties, an increase of 75 per cent. The number of properties per assessor has increased from 663 in 1970-1971 to 1,149, an increase of 73 per cent.

Mr. Shore: Slave labour.

Mr. Good: You don't reassess them every year—

Hon. Mr. Meen: In the Province of Ontario Savings Office the public moneys on deposit in 1971-1972 were \$138 million; in the fiscal year just ended, the moneys on deposit have increased to \$240 million, an increase of 74 per cent.

Deposits per dollar of cost, a unit used in determining the efficiency of operation, have increased from the 1971-1972 fiscal year from \$78.95 to, in the current year, 1975-1976, \$91.53—

Mr. Shore: You could have had five less if you didn't have these statistics.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —an increase of 16 per cent.

Mr. Roy: And the sales tax increased 40 per cent.

Mr. Good: Reduce the sales tax, and you would have—

Hon. Mr. Meen: In time/motion studies and efficiency studies there is a term called work unit. Work units per hour per person in the Province of Ontario Savings Office in 1971-1972 were 13.1; they increased to 16.9 in the last fiscal year, an increase of 29 per cent.

Mr. Roy: We are convinced here—

Hon. Mr. Meen: In addition to this increasing efficiency in operation, we have accepted—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is my understanding the member for Ottawa East will be participating in this debate later on.

Mr. Roy: I thought I should warm up, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Meen: He is trying to do so now, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure he will have his opportunity in due course.

In addition to all of this, we have accepted new responsibilities without additional resources—the introduction of the land speculation tax and the land transfer tax, non-resident aspects.

Mr. Shore: Your job is secure.

Hon. Mr. Meen: There are important instruments in the government's socio-economic policies of controlling foreign ownership in Ontario, and they were taken on and administered by my staff without any increase in personnel.

We assumed a major role in the area of income redistribution, involving close co-operation with Ottawa on the Ontario tax credit programme and, of course, direct administration of the Ontario GAINS programme; which at the end of the last fiscal year, for the month of March, 1976, was benefiting some 282,000 elderly citizens in Ontario.

We've also been responsible for administering a series of fiscal policy actions, the temporary retail sales tax car rebate programmes, the temporary home buyer grant programmes and the various investment credits and incentives for production machinery that have been built into the various budgets, particularly into last year's and the year before that.

We managed to take on these additional responsibilities, almost entirely without staff increases. We can't do that by some form of legerdemain. It's imperative that we have some tools at hand, of course, and there were

a couple of devices that we used for this purpose. One was that we were able to employ some temporary staff, where necessary, to avoid permanent cost increases.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Waterloo North have a point of order?

Mr. Good: Yes, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the minister would not want to knowingly mislead the House, so perhaps he would explain to us how the 1975 budget shows the Minister of Revenue's estimates have increased by over 300 per cent from 1973 to 1975-1976; that is, from \$54 million to \$168 million?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would care to look he will notice that that contains the GAINS programme and, obviously—

Mr. Good: All right. You are telling us you are doing the same thing with the same amount of money.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —those are transfer payments, Mr. Speaker. We are not talking about that one. I'm talking about the efficiency of operations of the ministry, and the hon. member knows it full well.

Mr. Reid: That's how you are going to rationalize it?

Mr. Good: You don't want to talk about the increase.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Maybe he would like to sit back and listen to some of the efficiencies that we have been able to accomplish in the Ministry of Revenue.

Mr. Roy: And here I thought you were a success story. I thought you were a success.

Hon. Mr. Meen: If you want to talk about transfer payments, that's something else again, obviously.

Mr. Roy: I'm disappointed in you, Art.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Oh, I am sure.

The first method, Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned. The second was that we redeployed permanent staff from other areas to provide experienced supervision and control when we took on some of these temporary programmes. That kind of flexibility and ability to meet our new demands was particularly demonstrated in actions like that. And of course the one we remember rather well from last fall,

the mail strike, where we had centres for GAINS cheque pickups established all over Ontario; the St. Lawrence Hall here in Toronto; the regional assessment offices in the 31 branches around Ontario.

Mr. Reid: That's what they've been doing.

Hon. Mr. Meen: The district retail sales tax offices. As a result of that activity, and the co-operation that we got from many of the municipal clerks around the province to whom we were also able to deliver cheques, over 85 per cent of the GAINS cheques were picked up during the mail strike. I think that speaks rather well for the way in which people were able to co-operate with us on this and, indeed, the way in which we were able to provide that service.

Mrs. Campbell: I thought Lorne Henderson delivered the cheques personally.

Mr. Roy: That was good, Art.

Hon. Mr. Meen: During that same period we maintained tax collection, and it's essential for the ongoing programmes of the province that the tax collection methods work and that the money continues to flow in. During that same period some 84 per cent of our normal revenues were recovered on time.

To recap for a moment, in the period before the constraint—and this is what I've been talking about up to now—we've grown in a pretty lean manner. We've assumed the increased workloads I've talked about. We've achieved, across the ministry, high standards indeed of performance. Further, I want to cite two significant items in support of my contention that we're already a lean ministry and an efficient one.

The first of those is that the government, in its ongoing search for further cuts through the special programme review that was set up, understood just what we would confront if we were to have further cuts and relieved us from the obligation of any further cuts for the current year, 1976-1977. They understood, and fully appreciated that to do so would be to jeopardize our revenue collection and would hamper the equity and effectiveness of our efforts from the standpoint of the taxpayer; and neither of those is, of course, attractive to anybody.

The second item is that in comparison with other tax administrations, I think we come off very favourably indeed. A study was done by the University of Illinois a couple of years ago. It studied all the taxing jurisdictions in the United States and, I understand,

all the taxing jurisdictions in Canada, at the federal level and our sister provinces. That study ranked Ontario with California as the most effective and equitable taxing jurisdictions in North America.

They had a very sophisticated way to work all this out on a scoring system. I am told that California came in at 83 points; Ontario came in at 82 points; and the next one down the list was somewhere in the 60s. We did our own little study just looking at some of the taxing jurisdictions around Canada.

Mr. Roy: Did it give any marks for the minister?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I can tell members that we ranked at the top of the list for efficiency. Without getting into comparisons with some of the other provinces—and I might tell you, Mr. Speaker, that comparisons, as in that old expression, are odious—

Mr. Roy: Did they rate the ministers?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Total revenues collected in the 1974-1975 fiscal year, Ontario collected \$3.268 billion, with each employee handling \$2.85 million of that—

Mr. Roy: In millions?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, in millions. That is the highest figure of any. There are others of our sisters ranking at \$1.28 million, \$1.09 million, \$1.52 million and so on.

It is pretty clear that we have a pretty efficient and, I think, a pretty effective taxing operation. Members might ask how did we achieve this?

Mr. Roy: When the sales tax was reduced, did you reduce your staff.

Hon. Mr. Meen: We have achieved this in two ways—

Mr. Warner: Does that include the temporary sales staff?

Hon. Mr. Meen: —new technology and a very flexible approach to the managing of talent.

With respect to new technology, wherever possible we have gone to computerized records—corporations tax, for example. Under corporations tax, the computerization brings us now from a formerly completely manual operation to a computerized system with a net accumulated savings to date of some \$8 million.

In the assessment division, since we took over the function in 1970, we converted

some 800-odd—and members can interpret odd anyway they like—some 800 manual and automatic record systems to one standardized and fully automated system. This system also processes and issues about eight million enumeration notices each year. We have introduced a computerized valuation system to process quickly the masses of revisions which must be incorporated each year into the assessment rolls.

As to the flexible management approach, the ministry makes utmost use of existing staff and resources without duplication of functions. The homebuyers' grant is an illustration, Mr. Speaker. Instead of setting up separate audit functions for the homebuyers' grant, we turned that audit function over to the retail sales tax auditors and their district offices. This enables them to apply existing professional expertise to the new area and eliminated unnecessary duplication for Ontario homebuyer grant applications.

Another illustration is gas tax. Occasionally, the gas tax branch borrows audit staff from other branches to supplement seasonal work loads. For example, the recent survey of usage of all fuels in eastern Ontario. In that case we supplemented the branch's staff by taking auditors on from regional sales tax offices to do the job rather than expanding the staff in the gas tax branch.

Assessment staff: As I mentioned, they process land speculation tax lien and clearing certificates and they do this in the registry offices. In many instances they would be there anyway taking off the other information when working on transfers of real estate. So we have been able to combine that operation as well. They perform valuations for succession duty as well so that there again there's a combination of expertise to keep the number of staff at a minimum. In short, we use a sort of task force approach to establish new programmes and implement policy objectives.
[10:00]

In our continued support of the constraint measures, we are determined to maintain this record of efficiency. It is going to require re-doubled effort toward flexible use of our resources but we are going to continue the utilization of the most up-to-date technology available to reinforce efficiency and to reinforce efficiency under constraint.

Let me return to the new technology for a moment, if I may. We're currently looking at the creation of an on-line, computerized, common-data-based information retrieval system, which would function throughout the whole of the revenue division. This would

expand the existing data base in corporation sales tax and gas tax—and, for that matter, succession duty—to other parts of the branch as well. It would include businesses as well as individuals; for example, the GAINS and the home buyer grants. It would be linked to the companies branch at the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Cassidy: You have been seduced, you know. You've been seduced by your bureaucrats.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Carry on, Art. I enjoy that. Very interesting.

Hon. Mr. Meen: The tax filer would be able, if we're able to put this into effect—and I think we can—

Mr. Cassidy: Does this turn them on in your riding?

Hon. Mr. Meen: The tax filer should then be able, with one inquiry or notification, to change his address, to notify us of the creation or demise of a company and, for that matter, to be potentially able to pay all taxes with one cheque or to transfer an overpayment of one cheque to an underpayment of another.

Mr. Cassidy: You're making a big mistake. The art of taxation is to hit them often and to hit them strong.

Hon. Mr. Meen: This retrieval system will allow the taxpayer to find current status of obligation to all taxes as quickly as we can currently check up on our savings account balances at our local banks.

Mr. Cassidy: When they see how much they have to pay, they will really vote you out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Meen: For the ministry, the common data base means economies in record keeping, less duplication of effort and considerable savings in staff and time. As well, I might add, it would permit more effective and easier compliance procedures and, for that matter, enforcement.

Mr. Cassidy: Does it also mean more speeches like this one?

Hon. Mr. Meen: And we hope, frankly, to act on independent consultants' recommendations, which I got some short while ago, to establish an on-line posting and clearing system for the major branches in the Province

of Ontario Savings Office, a matter we talked about last year during my estimates.

New technology costs money. Since we're committed to constraint on the fiscal side and zero growth on the complement side, funds for these projects will have to come from existing programmes. That's not going to be easy, but I'm optimistic that we can accomplish this.

Mr. Roy: I am sure you can, Art.

Mr. Cassidy: Good for you.

Hon. Mr. Meen: A final word, perhaps, on the flexible use of management talents in all of this. We shall continue consolidation and reorganization of staff resources—

Mr. Cassidy: How is this making Ontario a better place to live?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I might point out that there are three different, distinct areas of activity or fronts on which we are moving. Literally, by a move to 77 Bloor St. W., by September of this year, the ministry head office, which is presently spread around in four different locations will be consolidated into one.

Mr. Edighoffer: Will you have a royal flush there?

Hon. Mr. Meen: The resultant saving is obvious: support services and the elimination of wasted man-hours in travel between the various parts of the head office. As a result of a management study we've done, we are consolidating two former branches, the financial services and the administrative services branches, under one director. We hope to achieve greater efficiency and some staff reduction in that quarter, too.

Thirdly, as stated in the 1975 budget, we have placed a priority on a wide-ranging tax simplification system. We have established a task force of existing specialists from a number of branches to draw up a comprehensive tax simplification programme. These efforts are already evidenced by amendments to the Succession Duty Act, which I tabled here in the House two or three weeks ago, whereby we've raised exemption levels and granted more immediate access by family to an estate; and, very shortly, I expect to be releasing a comprehensive report on the topic of tax simplification itself.

Mr. Roy: I can't wait for that.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Like the common data base, simpler tax procedures will benefit the tax filer and the administrators at Revenue

as well. Overall, we're going to be explaining the legislation in comprehensive language, redoubling our efforts to simplify our regulations and our procedures, and outlining what the taxpayer's obligations may be. I hope to produce simpler forms, to be able to instruct the tax filer by regular bulletins and notices that are couched in precise, straightforward language that don't require a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret them.

Mrs. Campbell: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I hope to remove many existing areas of uncertainty such as—

Mr. Roy: I would like to have a translation of your speech.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —the area of tangible personal property: We design our instructions for individual groups and not just lawyers and accountants, for specific trades, retail outlets or specific types of corporations or contractors. We will aim at them but we will also aim at the individuals so that everyone will be better able to understand just what we are trying to do and just what their obligations are. In that way I trust that there will be a pretty significant reduction in the present complexity of our taxing structure.

Mr. Cassidy: You know, if you send this speech around York East, you will come third.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I hope I've established beyond doubt that we at the Ministry of Revenue have always been efficient although, frankly, I don't think we've ever been complacent.

Mr. Reid: You've got to be kidding.

Hon. Mr. Meen: We've met our obligations under constraint—

Mr. Reid: You should get rid of that speechwriter.

Hon. Mr. Meen: —and even more importantly, we're directing all our efforts to sustaining these constraints in the year ahead.

I personally want to be on record as one of the strongest proponents of the controls on the growth of government expenditure as set down in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Roy: All right, we're with you there.

Mr. Ruston: Good idea.

Mr. Roy: Great speech, Art.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peterborough.

Mr. Roy: She is going to have a hard act to follow.

Ms. Sandeman: Yes. Impossible.

Like the previous speaker, I'd like to address my remarks on the Speech from the Throne to the opening paragraphs of that speech. I don't quite have the previous speaker's confidence in those opening paragraphs. I was delighted, however, to hear that the Ministry of Revenue is looking after our affairs with efficiency and simplicity and flexibility and all those other things. I had always naively assumed that it was the business of the Ministry of Revenue to look after our business with efficiency and that government shouldn't have to tell us it was doing that—we should be able to take it for granted.

Mr. Makarchuk: It would become noticeable if they were doing it.

Ms. Sandeman: It would, yes. The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) read some opening paragraphs from the Speech from the Throne. The next paragraph is the one that I would like to comment on. The paragraph which says that:

Such restraint will allow consolidation and security of essential services in Ontario. We now enjoy one of the finest and most complete social service systems in the world. To maintain and preserve what Ontarians have worked to achieve in this field, it is necessary to streamline government programmes regularly to prune out redundancies or wastes that might arise.

I would like to address my remarks, not to wastes and redundancies that have arisen but programmes which haven't arisen—necessary programmes which the government itself seems to believe are necessary and which have not yet materialized and which may well be yet another victim of this constraint programme.

The first area which I'd like to discuss is the whole problem—and it shouldn't indeed be a problem, we should have had a solution by now—the problem arising from the excellent decision which this Legislature made last May to remove section 8 from the Training Schools Act—and I'm glad the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) is here this evening. When I read of that decision by the Legislature, working as I was at that time for that ministry, like all other employees of the ministry I think I can honestly say that we were all delighted that the Legislature had taken that action. But it's been a sorry story.

We've now nearly reached a year since that decision was made and we do not yet have in place programmes to replace train-

ing schools for the so-called unmanageable children who come before juvenile courts.

The timetable of procedures and lack of procedures around section 8 of the Training Schools Act has been very interesting. In May, we saw the amendment to the Act. By the fall, Children's Aid Societies and municipalities across the province were appealing to the ministries involved to give them some clarification as to where the funding was to come from for the children who were going to come into their care as a result of the deletion of section 8.

Children's Aid Societies, for instance, were pointing out that in order to provide for children who are now in the training school system and those who would come to the Children's Aid in the future as an alternative to training school, Children's Aid Societies would have to develop such services as short-term lockup facilities for youngsters. Those are not presently covered under the Child Welfare Act and there are some children who need to be locked up for their own protection or for the protection of others for a short term, but not in a training school. Local Children's Aid Societies would also need to have assessment facilities, where youngsters can stay for a couple of weeks while the staff get to know them and assess how best they can be helped.

Many local Children's Aid Societies in smaller centres don't have group homes with trained staff to care for youngsters who need special care. There is a great need too for specially trained foster parents for these teenage children, special foster homes and a training programme for foster parents who would be dealing with difficult teenage children. There's generally a crying need for foster homes for teenage youngsters across the province and a need for an increased staff in Children's Aid Societies to deal with these extra children on the case load, and their parents, at the time that they are under their care, maybe in a residential setting and when they are able to return home.

The municipalities, and my own municipality of Peterborough was one of them, were involved in a series of meetings with the various ministries and expressed their concern about where funding was to come from for these children.

Last fall, Mr. Turner, the executive director of the Department of Social and Family Services in Peterborough, wrote to the liaison committee of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association expressing the concern felt by our municipality and, I'm sure, by

many others across the province. He commented:

A meeting was held in late September in Oshawa, involving representatives of the inter-ministry committee established to develop plans for the implementation of section 8, representatives of local Children's Aid Societies and both elected and appointed officials from the city of Peterborough. Our impression was that most of the committee's work to date involved the transfer of responsibility from one ministry to another and very little interest or concern in what effect the change will have on municipal budgets.

I should point out that the city is not objecting to the proposed changes or their intent. We, in fact, support them. We do, however, request full and adequate consultation with municipal officials before the changes are implemented, and that consideration be given by the province to finding a financial arrangement to help offset expected increases in municipal funding to Children's Aid Societies resulting from these changes.

With a naive faith, I think, in the belief that the government, if they were transferring about 1,000 children from the Ministry of Correctional Services to the care of the Children's Aid Society, and to a shared care with the municipality, would also transfer the funding for those children, the municipalities and the Children's Aid Societies continue to ask the government: "Where is the funding coming from? What are you going to do to assure we can provide the alternate services needed?" Obviously the agencies and the municipalities are willing to care for these children. Reasonably, they ask for help and guidance.

It's too facile, I think, to say that a straight transfer of funds from Correctional Services to Community and Social Services is the answer, and I hope that we will not see, over the next few weeks when the committee finally presents its report, that that is what is suggested. I would suggest that if the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) allows a large chunk of his funds to leave his ministry to go to Community and Social Services, he is doing a great disservice to the community-based services for which his ministry is responsible. The community-based services of the Ministry of Correction Services are already drastically under-funded. Probation Officers have case loads which are so ridiculously high that—well, I'm just rendered speechless by the size of the case load which

I had as a probation officer when I left the service.

[10:15]

When I took my leave of absence to run for the last election I had 120 people on my case load as a probation officer in the adult service. When I hear the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) speak of increasing efficiency and his tax men handling double the case load, I do hope that the Minister of Correctional Services doesn't believe that increased efficiency in community services in corrections is achieved by doubling case loads. Probation officers at the adult and juvenile levels are already not able to give the service, they should to their clients and other backup services are desperately lacking in funds and staff.

As I say, in the fall the Children's Aid Societies in the municipalities were awaiting an answer of how they were to cope with this added burden. The answer came to them in December. It came loud and clear when the announcement was made of the level of transfer of funds to municipalities and to the social services for the fiscal year, 1976-1977. It became immediately obvious to those concerned with children now under section 8, that the new and necessary services could not be provided at that level of funding. The result of these financial decisions, the decisions that were announced in December, have been particularly disastrous for the Children's Aid Society.

I could give you some examples, perhaps, of what has happened to planning around the so-called section 8 children, again from the local Children's Aid Society in my riding, the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society. In January they were asking help again, desperately, from the minister, commenting that they were confronted with several serious difficulties which they needed help in resolving. Their comment was that the cost of children in institutions had gone up from the beginning of 1975 when they had one child in an institution at an annual cost of \$4,500; they now have five children in institutions at an annual cost of \$34,675.

These are children for whom we have no alternative way of providing care. The additional cost of providing care for these youngsters is about five per cent of our 1975 estimates. Our current total cost [they say] for children in institutions is \$95 a day. We need to know very quickly whether or not we will have the funds to continue to provide this care. Two of these youngsters whose care now costs \$60 per day might very well have gone to a training school under the provisions of the

Training Schools Act. They are now getting the care they need, but at a cost we cannot carry. We are proposing to care for them and four other youngsters in a group home provided for in these estimates.

The estimated budget that the Children's Aid Society provided for the Ministry of Community and Social Services represented an increase of 8.5 per cent over last year. That budget just allowed for them to care for children with special needs in a group home—and these are children who would otherwise have been in a training school.

The ministry refused to accept the 8.5 per cent budget and told the Children's Aid Society that they must cut back to a 5.5 per cent increase, with the result that the Children's Aid Society in Peterborough looked at their budget and decided that the difference between 5.5 per cent and 8.4 per cent must be made up by removing the funds allocated for a group home.

This means, in effect, that that society now has the capacity to provide care outside their own homes only for those children able to adjust to foster care and that they have no funds to purchase special care for children with special needs. They have no accommodation; they have no money for other children. They have passed this message on to the juvenile and family court judge who has responded by saying: "In that case, section 8 children will have to continue to be admitted to training schools."

It seems to me a very sad cycle to have come in less than a year; from last May, when we were bravely saying that no unmanageable child in Ontario should be sent to a training school, to the situation in April of this year, when there seems to be, for many family court judges, no alternative available because of the level of funding given to the local Children's Aid Society.

Duplication of this kind of disaster is happening across the province. In Renfrew we find, for instance, that when the local Viking Home billed the Children's Aid Society for a child in their care, the Children's Aid Society wrote back:

We are in receipt of your invoice of Jan. 31 for the month of January at \$49 a day. Because of the ministry's cutback to 5.5 per cent over 1975 estimates we are in desperate financial straits. The maximum amount that we could pay you at this time would be \$35 per day and we are enclosing a cheque for this amount. The only other alternative would be to remove Amy completely.

Should we get fairer consideration on our budget with respect to children in institutions, we could look at this rate later. Should you feel that you cannot continue with Amy for this per diem then you would have to reach your decision.

To which the National Children's Foundation, which now runs Viking Home, responded by sending a copy of that letter from the Children's Aid Society to the Minister of Community and Social Services and commented to the minister that:

There is no doubt that Amy needs to be in Viking; yet we are placed in this most invidious position by her agency due to government cutbacks. We cannot now at the beginning of March decide to pay our staff two-thirds of their salary for January. We are left with two choices: Either we sue the Children's Aid Society for this money; and/or we discharge this most needy child. This is a further glaring example that government cutbacks are hurting the old, the young and the poor.

We await urgently your response and assistance.

Though the juvenile court in Peterborough has decided that section 8 children will have to go to training school, other juvenile courts across the province have made exactly the opposite decision. Juvenile court judges are saying to Children's Aid Societies in their localities "If we place a child in your care, that is a decision of the court; if you refuse to follow we shall be forced to hold you in contempt of court".

This is a tough and admirable position on the part of the judge who, together with the courts and all the agencies concerned with that child's welfare, has decided what is best for the child. But it puts the Children's Aid Society in an intolerable financial position. They know if they accept the care of that child and have to place them in an expensive institutional setting or group home setting—sometimes with per diems of up to \$60 a day—they may have run through their annual budget by August or September of this year and the minister has made it very clear that there would be no supplementary payment. They are put in the intolerable situation of supporting desperately needy adolescents who are very vulnerable and very much at risk, or refusing to—and knowing that there is nowhere else for that child to go, and also run-

ning the risk of being held in contempt of court.

So in 10 months we have come full cycle from those brave words in May, 1975, to the situation where judges in juvenile courts, who have been delighted at the opportunity not to have to send deeply disturbed children to that most inappropriate resort, the Ontario training school, are now put in an untenable and intolerable position.

In fact, of course, many judges haven't been sending those unmanageable children to training schools since last May. Most juvenile court judges in the province have been acting as though the section deleting section 8 had already been proclaimed. The result across the province now is that the Children's Aid Society have the highest-ever percentage of teenagers in their care.

Over 50 per cent of the children in Children's Aid care at the moment across the province are over 13 years of age. It is relatively easy for a Children's Aid Society to find a foster home for a younger child. It becomes increasingly difficult to find a foster home or a good group home for a sexually acting-out teenage girl, an unmanageable boy and all the many children with behaviour patterns which many of us find intolerable in teenagers, with whom one copes only with special care and special skills.

On February 23 of this year the Ministry of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) assured me in a letter that it would be a matter merely of weeks before the Council for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth brought down their report about proclamation of the date of the amendment of the Training Schools Act. Several weeks have gone, and now I understand the report is being rewritten, and that a meeting is planned for the Association of Children's Aid Societies in April, which means a further delay in the provision of these very necessary services. We are back in the syndrome of everyone talking, everyone studying, and the children who need the care being the pawns in the game.

If I may say, in parentheses, the delay in handling the problem of section 8 children is mirrored in the delay in striking final budgets for Children's Aid Societies across the province. We are now into April; most of the Children's Aid Societies have not yet been able to come up with a final dollar figure for their budgets for this year. Their fiscal year starts in January and the discussions and the negotiations are still going on. Many of them are afraid that when they do get that final budget figure, what they have already spent will turn out to have been far too much.

If I may break my remarks there, Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue tomorrow on another topic.

Ms. Sandeman moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Tomorrow we will continue with the Throne Speech debate.

Hon. Mr. Auld moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, April 2, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I should like to report to the House that unit No. 4 at Ontario Hydro's Pickering nuclear generating station has been shut down due to a failure in the end windings of the generator.

Mr. Nixon: Is that the one you just got fixed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Let me get my breath.

Mr. Nixon: You are only 28.

Mr. Reid: There is an epidemic going on.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am pushing 30.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I should stress that this failure is in the conventional or non-nuclear section of the unit.

This unit had been returned to service on March 25 after 10 months of shutdown to repair pressure tubes in the reactor and to repair the generator. Yesterday evening it was discovered that a small threading tool had been inadvertently left in the coil of the generator and this has resulted in a failure of the machine.

Mr. Singer: That's always good.

Mr. Moffat: A cigarette lighter.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It must have been a surgical clamp.

Mr. Nixon: The minister must have visited there again.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the statement now.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It is anticipated that the unit will be out of service for several months.

I might remind the House that, despite the problem Ontario Hydro has experienced with this unit, the Pickering station during 1975 held a production record of 62 per cent of

capacity for the entire year and met 16 per cent of the total demand for power for Ontario during the period 1973 to 1975. This means that, based on the current value of coal imported from the United States, the station has saved the province some \$500 million.

Mr. Reid: It is not working very well either.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, just before we begin oral questions, have you responded to the letter from the photo editor of the Toronto Star complaining of the unnecessary restrictions on still photographers now that we have opened up this chamber to the television cameras?

Mr. Speaker: We have had a meeting with the hon. gentleman and I think everything has been resolved or is in the process of being resolved, yes.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, to the point of order, is the resolution going to remove some of those restrictions so that the still photographers can have access to the chambers?

Mr. Speaker: There was a misunderstanding on that, I might say.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you.

Mr. Renwick: What did you find out from that?

Mr. Lewis: A misunderstanding on whose part?

Mr. Speaker: On the part of the gentleman from the Toronto Star.

Mr. Renwick: Can they take pictures or not?

Mr. Lewis: It happens to the Star every time; they never get anything straight.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

DENTAL CARE COVERAGE

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a question first, Mr. Speaker, of the acting Minister of Health: Can the minister endeavour to explain exactly

what is intended on the part of the ministry in the cutting of costs associated with dental care for those who are recipients of social allowances and for those whose dental care is paid for via OHIP in hospital? Without trying to make an argument for what was revealed here yesterday on the take of some oral surgeons, what does the ministry expect to save by cutting back dental care for those on social allowances?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the question of the dental care programme for those on social allowances does not fall within the Ministry of Health, as a matter of fact.

However, we have been discussing with the Ontario Dental Association the problems inherent in the OHIP coverage of certain dental procedures and certain abuses which have been taking place under that programme. The ODA has agreed with us that certain modifications of the regulations must occur; and those regulations will be promulgated rather shortly as a matter of fact.

Really, what we are looking at is the problem of dental extraction of post-eruptive teeth in hospitals, which the programme was really never intended to cover in the first place but which it has, unfortunately, been covering because of certain practices.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Does the ministry expect to achieve a significant saving and can the minister put a dollar amount to that, as she has put to so many other of the health programmes? What kind of saving are we talking of, for Ontario?

Hon. B. Stephenson: About two-thirds of the total cost of providing dental services under OHIP.

Mr. Lewis: Which is?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I can't give the hon. member the exact figure right at the moment. I will get it for him.

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary: Is it the intention that the regulations will reduce the services which may be rendered by dentists or oral surgeons, or is it just an effort to control the amount of service?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it's an attempt to control potential abuse of the programme. It's not an attempt to decrease the kind of service which is provided by dental or oral surgeons.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: The implication that flows from that, if the min-

istry will save fully two-thirds of the cost, is that the abuse of the programme was at a level of 66 per cent—which says something about OHIP and its competence—but it also suggests that the dentists, not just the oral surgeons but dentists generally, were engaged in a scale of abuse which is hard to believe. Surely the minister didn't mean it?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would doubt that any specific dentist has been involved in any tremendous abuse of the system but, overall, a very large number of people have had multiple teeth extracted under the OHIP programme which the programme was not intended to cover. It has been a matter of discussion between the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Dental Association for the past several months that this potential difficulty should be removed.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Mr. Nixon: Will you permit a further supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: Will the minister look for the abuse beginning with those oral surgeons who are billing at the rate of over \$100,00 a year?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I promised yesterday that I would do that and I shall do so; we have begun today.

Ms. Bryden: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister assure us, since she is discussing it with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), that this correction of abuses, or whatever she calls it, will not mean less dental care for welfare recipients who may have trouble even chewing their bologna?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is again confusing two matters, which are entirely separate. The matter of providing dental services under community welfare projects and that sort of thing is a matter of concern for the Minister of Community and Social Services. We have not intended in any way to decrease the services which are necessary for people in the dental area.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps, having dealt with the minister in charge of multiple teeth, whatever that is—

Mr. B. Newman: And bologna.

Mr. Lewis: —we can go to her colleague, the hooded fang on her right, and see whether we can extract from him some information—which would be a joy.

Can I ask the Minister of Community and Social Services if he intends actually to decrease the dental services provided to those on social allowance as indeed the Ontario Dental Association asserts will occur under the ministry's programme?

An hon. member: If they have fewer teeth, they eat less—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In response to the Leader of the Opposition, he may or he may not know—

Mr. MacDonald: That's a good answer. Stop right there.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —that insofar as dental service to those receiving general welfare assistance is concerned, this is provided through contracts between municipalities and the dental associations.

Mr. Wildman: It's like pulling teeth.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that in the Niagara region the cutback in funds for dental care for this year is from \$330,000 to \$50,000 because of the limitations to social services? Does he think this is good for the health of the welfare children and that in the long run it's going to save money?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, in response to that, the region determines the range of services that will be provided to welfare recipients. By that, I'm talking about the general welfare recipients. I gather they had quite an elaborate agreement in that region. The region has now determined that its priorities apparently don't dictate that the same range and level of service be extended. That will be up to the region.

Mr. Cassidy: It is your heavy hand that has done that.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: In view of the fact that Metro has stated that it is likely to have to cut its \$67,000-dental programme by reason of the financial responsibilities which the minister has put upon them, could he comment as to his responsibility for this cutback in service?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. I'll deny that the cutback in service is as a result of the restraint programme of this province and my ministry.

Mrs. Campbell: Deny it?

Mr. Bain: Then you'll deny anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the member wants a further explanation—and I don't wish to be unduly provocative or extended in my answer—

Mr. Cassidy: You are being provocative and it is just rubbish.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —may I say that what will determine the type of agreement is the approach that any municipality may take in terms of the range of services. They may say: "If we're going to put a crown on, it should not extend to the acrylic type of crown." There may be a limitation on the types of dental work for adults. There are different ways of handling it. It will be up to the municipalities.

Mr. Cassidy: They are poor kids; let their teeth rot.

Interjections.

CARE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

Mr. Lewis: I have another question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is the minister aware that the mental retardation co-ordinating committee of Metropolitan Toronto wrote his ministry toward the end of February pointing out that the 5.5 per cent ceiling imposed on the Children's Institution Act and the Homes for Retarded Persons Act would result, effectively, in removing from placement a great many young children who might be placed by private families in the community, that they have not yet received a reply and that it has raised within his ministry many discussions and issues, both destructive and bizarre? Does he understand that's going on because of the 5.5 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, that's the conclusion the Leader of the Opposition draws from some correspondence. It's not the conclusion that I would draw. If they haven't received a reply yet, it's in the mail—and I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition will have a copy of that.

Mr. Renwick: Send us a copy.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Perhaps the minister could read or look at the memo which was sent by Alan Gordon, his assistant deputy minister for development resources, to Lloyd Jackson, the director of the mental retardation community resources branch, with a copy to the other mental re-

tardation people in his ministry, indicating the issues that were raised by this question. The memo pointed out—and I ask the minister about this:

Because of the financial constraints, Children's Aid Societies are reducing their number of placements, resulting in a number of vacant beds which cannot be filled. The ministry may want to force the freeze and closure—

[10:15]

Mr. Reid: Is there a question here, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Lewis: Yes. "The ministry may want to force the freeze and closure of these residences, and thus we should not increase our—"

Mr. Singer: Is that a speech or a question?

Mr. Lewis: To continue: "—funding through the Homes for the Retarded Act." There are several other possibilities within his ministry. Does he understand—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the question is inherent.

Mr. Singer: Question.

Mr. Lewis: Does the minister understand how destructive this all is in terms of his guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't accept that conclusion at all.

Mr. Shore: A supplementary: I understand this to be a semi-myth or a red herring; as I understand it, the 5.5 per cent is really not the true figure. Why can the minister not clarify to this House and to this province that any statutory requirements are going to be met? Why leave people dangling like this? I would like to hear the minister's comments on that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, sure—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question had to do with the mental retardation services in Metro and it seems to me we are getting back to the other set.

Mr. Reid: You let the Leader of the Opposition go on for almost five minutes without asking a question. What kind of rules have we got here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There was a question inherent in what the hon. Leader of the Opposition said.

Mr. Singer: It was inherent in his speech.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Leader of the Opposition have further questions?

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Speaker: Questions from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk?

PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy following his statement this morning. Since he has told us that the Pickering reactors have saved us \$500 million now, wouldn't he have felt that it would have been useful—and I now ask him—to tell us what is the cost of the further repair of unit No. 4, since somebody left a screwdriver in the coils when it was started up for the first time after having been shut down for many months to repair cracked tubes?

Mr. Singer: Ten months, he said.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: They weren't cracked tubes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: How much is this new repair going to cost?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As the hon. member knows, they were not cracked tubes; there was a problem with the rolling joints, the joining up of the various parts of the tubes for the heavy water.

Mr. Shore: How would you know?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The problem was just discovered last night. There is not yet an estimate of the cost of repairs. It is covered to a certain extent, I understand, by insurance but if the hon. member wants to let me take that as notice, when there is an estimate and we know the extent of the insurance coverage, I will give him a complete answer.

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary: It would surely be easy to calculate that if it's going to be shut down four months, even without the cost of repair, this is going to be a tremendous loss to the energy system of the province.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. member was talking about just the cost of repairs. There again, rather than giving an estimate off the top of my head, I would sooner give an exact one.

Mr. Nixon: That will be fine.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the minister if these repairs were carried out by private contract or by Hydro work forces?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I will take that as notice as well, Mr. Speaker. I want to make clear that my purpose in making this statement this morning was to allay the possibility of unsubstantiated rumours beginning in that area. I want to make it very clear that it is the non-nuclear part of the reactor we are talking about. I will take that as notice and, in answering the question put by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, I will include that as well.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, if the minister does find out that these repairs were done by outside contract, is it not reasonable to assume that the contractor should be responsible for the cost of any further repairs?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, again the member is getting into a hypothetical situation. I mentioned that it is my understanding that there is insurance coverage, probably with a deductible clause, but to what extent I am not sure. I think, again, rather than trying to deal with it piecemeal, I will, in answering the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk's specific questions on cost, include the member's concerns as to whether it was outside repair men or employees of Hydro, in the overall answer.

Mr. Bounsall: A supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: All right, a final supplementary.

Mr. Bounsall: Just a brief one to the minister on the close-down time of the unit at the station. Does this mean that the J. Clark Keith station in Windsor will continue to operate in order to provide the power lost?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, Mr. Speaker, because we are, of course, entering a period of the year when the demand for electricity declines substantially. I suppose if this had occurred in, let's say December or January when we are at our peak consumption, that would have to be considered; but recognizing the period of year we are coming into the mothballing of J. Clark Keith will not be delayed past May.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. From her

statements, mostly made outside this House, can we now come to the conclusion that the four hospitals that were to be closed under the previous policy will now not be closed in the sense of being locked and boarded up, as was inherent in the statement made by the Minister of Health? May we convey the information to those people concerned directly, that the buildings will continue to be in operation in some useful capacity and, in fact, will not be closed?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, since I do not know the precise words which the Minister of Health used on each of the occasions—

Mr. Nixon: He said they would be closed.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —I presume that his statement inferred that the institutions would cease to be used as active treatment general hospitals. I have said that we are considering the proposals and the briefs which those four institutions have presented to us, and that in fact we shall be announcing the decisions regarding this within the next few days.

Mr. Reid: It's 1984 already.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Since there was an implication that they would be closed—the statement was clear, and I'm sure the minister must have read at least his formal statement—would it be fair for us to communicate with those people directly concerned in my constituency and at Doctors Hospital, at Clinton, and in Durham, that in fact the facilities will continue to operate in some capacity? Can the minister assure us there is no possibility that the buildings will be locked and boarded up?

Mr. Shore: Claire Hoy can.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would again say that it would be entirely fair to communicate to the people involved in those institutions that we are examining their proposals and their briefs, and the decisions regarding the institutions will be announced to this House.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: I take it that if the institutions are transformed in nature, as now seems to be emerging, if that should happen, I assume that accompanying the minister's statement will be the revised estimates of cost savings from what was originally announced to what will now occur.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we will be able to provide those figures at the time the decision is made.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary; the member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Sargent: At the last meeting we had in the same vein, the minister had a list of 24 hospitals that were going to be closed. The Premier (Mr. Davis) doesn't know this. Will she tell him that's going to happen?

Mr. Nixon: Did the Premier tell the minister that it is not?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, might I say that I have never seen the list of 24 hospitals. I do not possess one. It was stated by the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) that there was such a list. I have never seen it.

Mr. Shore: It's in the shredder.

Mr. Sargent: Who knows about it?

POLICE CHASES

Mr. Nixon: A question of the Solicitor General: Did he not state, when he was questioned about the tragic chase in Peel county that resulted in the death of seven young people, that the policeman was not operating at anything over legal speeds? If that is so, how can he justify the fact that at the inquest the policeman said he was travelling at speeds up to 100 miles an hour and not able to catch the pursued?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I made a statement somewhat similar to that. I indicated that during the time they were in certain speed zones in the town and immediately outside the town, where the speed limit wasn't the full highway speed limit, that they had not been going over the posted speeds. I did say that, and that was the information I received at the time from an OPP report, parts of which I read to the press at that time.

From the evidence that has appeared to come out in the last two days at the inquest, it would appear as though that was not quite the case and there is a discrepancy there. I understand the inquest has finished, but the report of the inquest has not been made; and I would like to refrain from making any more comments on it until we do have that final report.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Even though the minister would like to refrain from comment, is he not aware that his statement, either in the House or at least widely reported, allayed the very serious con-

cerns that many people had about high-speed chases, because if it had been clear at the time that a high-speed chase had resulted in this tragedy, I'm sure that the community response would have been much stronger than it was. Is the minister going to reconsider his instructions to the police having to do with guidelines in these matters?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is any need to change the instructions that the various police forces have outside of what I said that day. I indicated that we should have instructions similar to those that the OPP and some of the metropolitan forces have, in the hands of all police constables. That is in the process of being done; there is a set of guidelines approved by the Ontario Police Commission which will go out to all forces no matter how large or small. I said that at the time and I'm sure that should still be done.

Now I've wandered off and forgotten what the first part of the member's question was, sir.

Mr. Nixon: That's good enough.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions from the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk?

Mr. Nixon: No.

Mr. Breaugh: I wonder if the minister would table a copy of that OPP report? It seems to me rather damaging since the Solicitor General did say, in his initial response to the House, that he was quoting a police report and that might raise some questions in some minds. Obviously, there is a great discrepancy between the report which he referred to in the House and the information that was presented at the inquest. Could we see a copy of that report?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I'll look that report over; I don't have it with me this morning. I don't believe there is any reason why I shouldn't table that report. I'll review it, and with that restriction I'll be pleased to table it.

I would point out that I don't think there is any great discrepancy from what I said the other day, which was based on an OPP report, and what has come out in the inquest, but that's the reason I want to refrain from any further comment.

Mr. Lewis: There's a discrepancy of about 50 miles per hour.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Not as far as the time is concerned. The member is suggesting now there was a high-speed chase. I'm not so sure it really was what one would call a high-speed chase.

Mr. Nixon: It was over 100 miles an hour.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Mr. Cassidy: You guys are abusing the English language you know.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Is this a supplementary? One final supplementary from the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Did I understand from the minister's reply to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that mandatory instructions are coming forward from the Ontario Police Commission to all police forces in the Province of Ontario, including the OPP, including Metro, including the Halton police—the people in the Halton police seemed a little confused about that this morning—instructing them as to procedures in case of pursuits?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Yes, sir, I have asked that such guidelines should be prepared.

Mr. Singer: When will they be distributed and orders given that they will be observed?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I can't answer that yet. I haven't asked them how long it would take, nor have I suggested that it should be done in a rush manner.

Mr. Singer: The OPP have them now.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: The OPP have guidelines and I assume that—

Ms. Gigantes: They don't work.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —they are suitable for all of the forces, but at the same time, it's the police commission that I have asked to do this. I'm not so sure they want to adopt holus-bolus the OPP guidelines. Although, again, I guess there's probably no reason why they wouldn't be suitable. But I've asked the Ontario Police Commission to review the various guidelines that the various forces have. I'm not so sure that the Metropolitan Toronto police force guidelines are the same as those of the OPP. I don't think

they are. There may be some co-ordination required.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any further questions?

Mr. Singer: Some guidelines are better than none.

CAVAN TOWNSHIP BUILDING FREEZE

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question of the Minister of Housing. In view of the considerable financial hardship—which I believe the minister is aware of—that individual lot owners in Cavan township are now suffering, and in view of the fact too that the building season is now opening up, could the minister tell me when he is going to lift the building freeze on Cavan township?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the problem to which the hon. member refers. We have discussed it informally and in letter form. The situation is that we have asked Cavan township to prepare zoning bylaws. They are in the process of doing that. I hesitate to remove the zoning order that I have on that township until such time as we get, from the township, a general idea of what direction they want to go within their development.

We are concerned about the scattered sort of development that will take place on individual lots and severances, which I think is very well in keeping with much of the attitude reflected by your own caucus as it relates to planning.

[10:30]

HOSPITAL CUTBACK

Mr. Shore: I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. Since the Victoria Hospital in London has pointed out gross errors in the figures and the corroborating criteria used by the ministry as reasons for its \$1.9 million cut at the hospital there, is the minister reviewing his earlier decision and when will this final decision be announced? Would the minister advise me why it has taken two or three days after the request was put by administrators in London to get the information that the senior officials of the ministry were not able to tell them and know where they got it? Could the minister advise on that?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the last question—no, I can't, but I'll find out. In answer to the first question, the ministry is actively reviewing all of the proposals and the information which is being

submitted by the various institutions. We will be discussing with those institutions the resolution of the differences.

Mr. Shore: A supplementary: With the greatest respect, I haven't had an answer to that particular question as far as the gross errors aspect is concerned. Would the minister assure this House that when the officials find that information she will present it to this House? Why would the officials allow the hospitals to have to go under the conditions they are now? Why would the ministry not bring into its confidence top senior administrative people, who are right in the front lines of hospital administration, in establishing these criteria?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure that that has happened but I shall most certainly investigate to assure the hon. member for London North.

Mr. Shore: Would you report back?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall attempt to find out the information.

POLICE USE OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS' FILES

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. On what grounds were the Metro Toronto police able to get a court order to review the confidential files of psychiatric patients at Toronto Western Hospital?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the Toronto papers the other day that the doctor there was complaining that police had asked for these files. I don't know whether or not they had any warrant or any authority to view them. I can get a report on it if the member wishes me to do so. I know nothing but what was in the paper. If they had proper authority to do so then, of course, it is in order; but if they didn't have authority, they shouldn't have been doing it.

Mr. Breaugh: A supplementary: That's a portion of the problem but the bigger problem is that a police force would actually review an entire set of psychiatric files, not just making an inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Is that a question?

Mr. Breaugh: I want to know if that is acceptable precedent in Ontario, to have a police force review a complete set of files for one psychiatric hospital during the course of an investigation?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I question whether those files are or are not properly available to the police; on the other hand, if they are properly available, I see no reason why the police shouldn't make use of them.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the member for Halton-Burlington would just wait a moment, please, I think we will allow a supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: I would appreciate it if the minister would give us a clarification, because what he said, whether he meant it or not, was that the police should have access to psychiatric files as a matter of course.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I didn't say that at all, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. W. Newman: He didn't say that at all.

Mr. Warner: Yes, you did.

Mr. Lewis: You did; you certainly did.

An hon. member: Even the Premier was surprised.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I questioned whether or not the police should have access to those files; that's what I said at the start. On the other hand—

Mr. Renwick: It's your file, not mine.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —if they have proper authority to look at them and they are available to them, I see no reason why they shouldn't make use of them.

Interjections.

Mr. Kennedy: Same as the NDP.

Mr. MacDonald: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There will be a final supplementary on this.

Mr. Reid: You can't argue with that.

Mr. MacDonald: If the minister questions whether police should have the right to go in and see confidential psychiatric files, will he move immediately to clarify the law so that that right will be withdrawn from them?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I undertook earlier to get a report on this matter. All I am going on is the newspaper reports and I think that's all the member is going on

unless he has some brown paper envelopes which I haven't got.

Mr. Reid: Is the NDP caucus file there?

Mr. MacDonald: That would be par for the course.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: In any event, I will undertake to see whether or not this review of the files—if, in fact, it was done—was done with any authority.

BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Energy. Has the minister, as indicated on March 30, looked into the total Hansard situation to determine whether or not the statement I reported to him as being made by the former minister in November, 1974, was out of context? In view of the apparent discrepancy between that statement made in 1974 and the action taken by the minister in 1975, will the cabinet now give the Ombudsman permission to investigate the Bradley-Georgetown corridor?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have indeed. I just got back late last night from a meeting in western Canada and I found on my desk a copy of a press release issued by the hon. member.

Mr. Shore: Everything all right out there?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes, just fine thank you.

Mr. Reid: Are you going to make a report on that meeting?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I did, at that point, investigate Hansard and I found that in my opinion, in fact, the member was taking it out of context if he was trying to suggest that the comment by my colleague the former Minister of Energy, the present Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), was meant to apply to the whole route. In fact, it was not.

In fact I dictated, last night, a four-page letter to the hon. member, which he will get later today or on Monday, answering this point.

In point of fact, what the hon. Treasurer was answering on that particular date, Nov. 14, 1974, was a question from the former hon. member for York Centre which dealt with the portion of the proposed transmission line between points 33 and 95—in other words, between Colbeck and Limehouse—not with the whole line.

To answer the second part of the question,

discussions are under way with the office of the Ombudsman on this question, to define whether, in fact, he has jurisdiction under the Ombudsman's Act in this case.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: When is the cabinet going to decide whether or not to give the Ombudsman permission to investigate?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of the cabinet deciding. It is a question of looking at the Ombudsman's Act and determining whether, in fact, under the terms of the Ombudsman's Act he does, in fact, have jurisdiction. I suggest to you that he does not.

Mr. Lewis: Under the terms he doesn't have; and he clearly doesn't have the money to launch the investigation.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: Is the statement reputed to have been made by the minister on March 24—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, it is difficult to hear with the interjections. Thank you.

Mr. Reed: Is the statement which is reported in the Georgetown Independent, which says it is now up to the government of Ontario to decide whether or not to give Ontario's Ombudsman permission to investigate the proposed Hydro corridor—a statement which was attributed to the minister by a Mr. Silverman of Global Television—

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question please?

Mr. Reed: —an accurate description of what the minister told him?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I didn't see the programme, Mr. Speaker, and I don't recall my exact words. If I said it that way then I said it wrongly. In fact, it is a question of looking at the Ombudsman's Act and determining the jurisdiction under the section—and I forget the section—dealing with executive council decisions.

Mr. Nixon: He would need a lot more staff to get into this.

Mr. Lewis: What do you mean looking at it? You know he is precluded from examining it.

PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. Does the

Attorney General consider it legal for a supervisor of a publicly-funded hospital to use his position and public funds to develop new medical equipment within the hospital, then use his supervisory position to order the new equipment for the hospital from his own company?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Riverdale has always advised me against giving off-the-cuff legal opinions. So my answer to the question would be that I would be delighted to consider the matter if my friend opposite would provide me with the total particulars which are in his possession at the present time.

Mr. Lewis: Your deference is appreciated.

Mr. Warner: Supplementary: If the Attorney General is willing to accept a plain brown envelope, would he be further willing to investigate the matter fully and report back? Is he willing to do that?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, I'm willing to review the information and advise the Legislature as to whether, in my view, an investigation is warranted.

CENSORSHIP OF FILMS

Mr. Singer: I have a question of the Attorney General. Could the Attorney General advise what action, if any, Ontario is taking as a result of the unanimous decision of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, which determined that it was beyond that province's power to set up a board which dealt with censorship of movies being shown in that province?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We are naturally aware of that decision. As to whether the policy will change in Ontario, that is a matter for cabinet as a whole and I have no comment to make at this time. My personal view is that, first of all, that decision is not binding on the Province of Ontario. Whether or not we will be influenced by the wisdom of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will remain to be seen, but that decision, as the member knows, is in no way binding on this province.

Mr. Singer: By way of supplementary, is the Attorney General going to intervene on behalf of the Province of Ontario when that decision finds its way to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: No decision has been made in that respect at this time.

Mr. Lewis: Don Sims doesn't censor anybody. He just enjoys it.

LUNG RESEARCH ON STEELWORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the Minister of Health aware of the work of Dr. Ronald Woulf, a biophysicist at McMaster, on the lungs of employees of the steel mills, and of his training and expertise which appear to be both rare and in much demand, and of the fact that he's leaving shortly for the United States due to a lack of funding at the university?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am aware of that specific physician and the work that he has done. I gathered from the information I had that he was leaving because of lack of research funds for the type of research which he was doing, which is a federal responsibility.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary: Would the minister not try to find alternate funding, possibly through the industrial health or Workmen's Compensation Board or even the environment area, for this valuable research on the problems which are just emerging, and on the extent of the problems in the lungs of steelworkers in the mills?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall most seriously consider it.

Mr. Bounsall: Supplementary: Does the minister realize that research funds provided to the Ontario Research Foundation are specifically in the area of applied research, and this would be a most appropriate body through which this type of applied research should be funded? Will she investigate that aspect most seriously?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes.

WINDSOR TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr. B. Newman: I have a question for the Premier. Has the Education Relations Commission reported to him concerning the effects of the disruption of secondary school education in the city of Windsor as a result of the walkout-lockout in the community?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I checked before coming into the House and I expect a report from the commission, both on Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma and Windsor, sometime this afternoon.

Mr. Deans: Walkout-lockout? That's getting on both sides of the issue, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You have done a good job.

Mr. MacDonald: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Lewis: Well, it's taken us years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, you have come a long way.

Mr. MacDonald: I hate to interrupt.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York South is placing a question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is his leader who is making the interjections.

COMPUTERIZED CHECKOUTS IN SUPERMARKETS

Mr. MacDonald: With reference to the planned installation by supermarkets of computerized checkout systems using the universal product code, is the government going to respond to the widespread demand by consumers' associations that price identification of individual products should be continued in order to make comparison shopping possible?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First, as far as we are aware there is one experimental installation in Ontario and we have been monitoring that. We have examined the installation at Steinberg's in Dorval. In both cases, there is product price identification at the shelf. There's also a means whereby the consumer can mark the price on the product before taking it to the cash register.

However, we have not yet accepted as desirable practice the whole concept of computerized checkouts. There are pros, and there are cons. Along with the consumers' associations, we've been weighing those, so we have not given our endorsement to the programme in its entirety. If we did, we certainly would be safeguarding the interests of the individual consumers.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: Does the minister mean the interests of the consumer will be safeguarded by making certain there will be price identification on each individual item, rather than giving him a wax pencil when he goes in so he has to do it himself, if he wishes?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: No, I haven't made that commitment. I said we would safeguard the interests of the consumer in the implementation of the programme.

Mr. MacDonald: What does that mean?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: There may be a variety of ways of doing it, not just a single way, as the hon. member suggests.

Mr. MacDonald: Final supplementary: What other alternative way is there of pro-

tecting the interests of the consumer so that he can do comparison shopping, other than having the price on each individual item?
[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The one alternative that has been put to us is giving the consumer the option of marking the product himself or herself if he or she wants to.

Mr. MacDonald: That's a piece of nonsense.

Mr. Deans: Can you imagine doing that on a Friday evening?

Mr. Lewis: Better budget some money for pencils.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GUELPH ABATTOIR

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. In view of the statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) that every effort was to be made to retain the \$168,000 that was payable to the Essex people, has the minister been able to obtain a legal opinion as to whether this can be used for payment to the farmers of the moneys owing to them?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, there is no legal way that could be applied to the debts owed to the beef producers; this was applied to the licensing fee for the beef station in Guelph.

Mr. Gaunt: A supplementary: On a matter clarification, since I gather the money has been paid, will that money become an asset of Essex Packers or otherwise?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the \$165,000 cost, resulting from an over-expenditure on the construction of the beef station, was applied at so much per month as a licensing fee to the receiver, and not to Essex Packers, and it is just about completely depleted.

Mr. Shore: The bank gets it.

Mr. Nixon: So the bank gets it and the farmers don't.

WCB STAFF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Bounsall: A question of the Minister of Labour: Will the minister involve herself directly in what is coming to be a very dragged-out procedure at the Workmen's

Compensation Board in management's negotiations with the newly formed CUPE union of the staff over there to ensure that a first contract gets signed rather quickly?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sure that all the provisions of the Labour Relations Act of Ontario will be applied in this instance and that the problem at the Workmen's Compensation Board will be resolved shortly.

COMPULSORY USE OF SEATBELTS

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

An hon. member: Wake up, Jim.

Mr. McKessock: Because of the number of complaints and petitions that I and others have received on the legislation on compulsory seatbelts, would the minister consider putting the question, "Are you favour of compulsory seatbelts?" on the ballot at the next election and let the people decide whether this legislation should be compulsory or not?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, here's the new policy of the Liberal Party. Where is Albert? Holy smoke!

An hon. member: Jack, did you hear this?

An hon. member: The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence) didn't want it.

Mr. Yakabuski: He didn't want it; you wanted it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The answer?

An hon. member: Was that caucused?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Do you want a plebiscite as to whether people want an election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable time here.

An hon. member: We sure are.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I wonder, could the member repeat the last part of his question? I didn't hear it at all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is such a gem we all want to hear it.

Mr. McKessock: Would the minister consider putting the question, "Are you in favour of compulsory seatbelts?" on the ballots at the next election and let the people

decide whether the legislation should be compulsory or not?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What are you in favour of, reversal?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Aren't you embarrassed?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as you well know, and I am sure the hon. member knows, when the legislation was passed a few months ago all members of the Legislature present that day voted in favour of the legislation. I don't know whether the hon. member himself was here or not that day.

An hon. member: He was playing tennis that day.

Hon. Mr. Snow: It may have been a tennis day, but—

Mr. Yakabuski: You all wanted it. It was a private member's bill.

Hon. Mr. Snow: In the light of the statistics that I gave the House yesterday on the first two months since the legislation was introduced, at this time I certainly have no intention of making a change.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission on mortmain charitable uses and religious institutions. This report proposes some fundamental changes in the law governing land holdings by charitable corporations and recommends substantial alterations to the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act.

In particular, the report proposes the abolition of the licence in mortmain and its replacement by a registration system similar to that in use for extra-provincial corporations. The commission also recommends revision in and consolidation of the statutes under which charities are required to report their financial affairs.

In its review of the Religious Institutions Act, the commission proposes major changes so as to permit religious bodies other than Christians and Jews to take advantage of its provisions respecting the holding of land by unincorporated groups. I will be studying the implications of the report and will be discussing it with my colleague, the Minister

of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), who will have a major interest in these proposals.

The government will be consulting with representatives of religious and charitable organizations to ascertain their views on these recommendations. From this process of public consultation, I will bring forward appropriate legislation to modernize the areas of the law which clearly need to be brought more in tune with modern society.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, this very short amendment to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act is intended to alleviate certain of the problems that have been experienced by users of and carriers of class R commodities whose established business practices have historically carried them across the present regional boundaries. By this amendment, the minister may issue an operating licence for two prescribed regions of the carrier's choice rather than the one as is now permitted under the Act.

MID-ERIE ACCEPTANCE CORP. ACT

Mr. Eaton moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Mid-Erie Acceptance Corp. Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

ATHLETICS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Grossman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Athletics Control Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill would be to require the use of the newly developed hockey helmet with face-guard that covers the eyes of hockey players, during all amateur-league organized hockey games—particularly, of course, by the younger hockey players.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table answers to questions 7, 8 and 10 standing on the notice paper. (See Appendix, page 987.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourned last night I was addressing myself to some remarks in the Speech from the Throne which announced that the government now realizes it is necessary to streamline government programmes regularly to prune out redundancies or waste that might arise. I commented that I took that for granted as part of the procedures of government, but what made me concerned was, in fact, that many programmes which are necessary are not in place. I spent some time talking about the fate of children now in training schools under section 8 of the Training Schools Act.

This morning I would like to address myself more precisely to the question of pruning out redundancies and waste, which the government has been attempting to do, it says, by cutting back spending in general hospitals. My colleagues have spoken at length on the closure of hospitals; I'd like to look at what happens to a general hospital which is told that it must cut back its expenditures.

I'd like to take as my example Peterborough Civic Hospital. This is a very average general hospital in what is often described as a super average Ontario city.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Described as what?

Ms. Sandeman: A super average city. Chatelaine magazine described it that way. "Could you live there?" they said.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes.

Ms. Sandeman: As an aside, I might say the Chatelaine article also said the women of Peterborough had not yet discovered politics and it didn't look as if it was likely that a woman from Peterborough would ever be elected to any office.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Chatelaine is becoming the sociological authority for Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Chatelaine has been wrong before.

Ms. Sandeman: It might be again.

Mr. Kennedy: Circulation will go down.

Ms. Sandeman: I think the recent experiences of Peterborough Civic Hospital can be looked on as representative of what's happening to similar hospitals across Ontario, as well as illuminating some general truths about how this government is handling health care spending. This situation, of course, is of particular concern to the people of Peterborough and area, and I'd like to speak very briefly about two facets of the situation at Peterborough Civic Hospital: Firstly, the \$550,000—just over half a million dollars—that the hospital has been required to cut from its spending, and I'd like to relate that to a budget shortfall they experienced last year. Secondly, I'd like to speak about the psychiatric programmes at that hospital and in that area of eastern Ontario.

As long ago as last July, Peterborough Civic Hospital made requests to the Ministry of Health for help with a shortfall in their budget. It became evident to the administration of the hospital that the price of medical and surgical supplies and drugs was rising much more rapidly than they had budgeted for, and there were other items in their budget which they had underbudgeted. They asked the ministry for some help.

The discussions with the ministry continued until March of this year. The hospital carefully documented its spending, and took extremely stringent cost-cutting steps on its own initiative in, for instance, inventory control, use of laundry, and not filling empty positions in the hospital. It took the ministry an extremely long time—from July, 1975, to the end of March, 1976—to recognize there was indeed justice in the request for a budgetary supplement. Finally, \$95,000 was granted to the hospital as a supplement for the 1975 budget.

However, how very different affairs are when the situation is reversed. When the ministry wants to go to the hospital and say, "You must cut \$550,000 from your spending," the ministry doesn't give the hospital from July of one year until March of the next to discover how it may do that. No, the hospital is given one month and four days to decide how it can possibly cut out that money and, in fact, start doing so. Not only does the ministry expect the hospital administration to act nine times as quickly as the ministry does itself when making budget decisions but it

does not do the hospital the courtesy of giving a detailed rationale of the figures arrived at, whereas the hospital, in its turn, patiently and frequently documented its own spending for the ministry.

[11:00]

The process of deciding that Peterborough Civic Hospital must cut half a million dollars is based on that mystical process, regression analysis. I find that procedure interesting and perplexing. It's a procedure in which the computer is asked to measure paid hours, which are a constant, against a series of variables such as patient days, pounds of laundry, people coming into the hospital, people being discharged, and a variety of variables. One problem the hospital has with looking at these variables is that it is not clear if they are weighted in any way—if a pound of laundry is worth more or less than or the same as a patient being admitted to hospital.

An interesting anomaly occurred in the figures which were finally supplied to the hospital after some weeks of asking. When the hospital began to look at the variables it found, for instance, that in the obstetrical department at Peterborough Civic Hospital the variables fed into the computer included pounds of laundry, of course, and admitting the patients but nowhere was there any figure which covered delivery of babies, which seems an extraordinary lack in a department whose main business is to deliver babies. I wonder if Peterborough Civic is being expected to save money by finding their babies under gooseberry bushes in the fine old fashion.

In fact, the ministry at first said it couldn't provide a departmental breakdown of overspending, if any, in the hospital. It explained that the cuts necessary were arrived at on a global basis after this regression analysis procedure had been carried out. The hospital found itself very confused at being told that somehow it had overspent or was overbudgeting by half a million dollars. The ministry's own statistics and the HSI statistics from the Ontario Hospital Association show that Civic Hospital is below average in its spending in all areas except in some special services which that hospital provides.

One might ask what are these special services which are provided by Peterborough Civic Hospital? It has a remarkable record, for instance, in outpatient surgery. Peterborough Civic Hospital performs more surgery on an outpatient basis than any other hospital in its group.

The percentage of surgery on an outpatient basis at Civic Hospital in 1972 was 42.5 per cent of the total. In 1975, that percentage had increased to 52.4 per cent of the total surgery in the hospital. Over half the surgical procedures in that hospital are done on an outpatient basis which means that the hospital is not put to the expense of keeping patients overnight. It's very careful to cut its costs in that kind of way and, of course, can only bill the ministry for a daily rate rather than the overnight rate.

If one compares the outpatient surgery rates at Civic with other hospitals, we find that the average for the 28 hospitals in the Peterborough Civic Hospital group is 19 per cent of surgery being done on an outpatient basis; whereas at Civic, as I say, it's over half the total.

That decision to perform surgery in that way was consciously and rationally arrived at by the administration of the hospital who, for years, have been conscious of the cost saving involved; of the increase in efficiency involved; and the fact that patients can be treated for minor surgery as outpatients and then sent home with proper backup. This kind of procedure is obviously to be encouraged—it's encouraged by the ministry—but the hospital feels that it is being penalized for this.

Other special services that the hospital provides include an excellent diabetic day-care clinic on a 100 per cent outpatient basis. Excellent preventive medical care is being given in that situation. It has psychiatric outpatient services and psychiatric day care, which deal with many patients who are not admitted as inpatients to the hospital but receive first class services on an outpatient basis. All of these services and others that the hospital gives, reduce the need for expensive inpatient care and they provide preventive care of a very high calibre for the community.

The hospital looked at its cost and it said to the ministry, "If our statistics show us as spending below the average in all areas except our special services, and if our costs are unusually high only because we have special outpatient services, is this where we should cut back on our spending?" "Well no," said the ministry officials, "we won't allow you to cut those special services."

So we arrive at an extraordinary circular argument where the hospital is told, "You are spending more than you should by half a million dollars." The hospital says, "We believe that the reason we are spending more

than other hospitals in the group is because of our special services and we believe we can document that," and the ministry says, "Well, if that's where you are spending too much, that is not where you may make your savings."

The hospital is put in the ridiculous position of having to close 30 beds of inpatient care in medical and surgical wards because it is spending too much on psychiatric outpatient services—too much, that is, according to the ministry's calculations, certainly not too much according to the needs of psychiatric patients in the Peterborough area.

One of the ministry's officials commented during these discussions that the hospital had with the ministry that regression analysis is rough justice, that it tags institutions which are high cost but it doesn't show why they are high cost. There is no way that the preliminary studies of regression analysis can show whether that high cost is justified or not, and indeed it may very well be that so-called high-cost institutions are doing a better job, a different job, or providing special services.

We know, of course, what rough justice means these days. It's the phrase which alerts us immediately for injustices. In fact, with the lack of information which is given to Peterborough Civic Hospital and to all the hospitals which have undergone this regression analysis procedure, those hospitals are unable to make rational decisions about where to cut the amounts they are asked to cut—half a million dollars or whatever it may be—and are forced in the Civic Hospital case, as I say, to close 16 surgical and eight medical beds which involves laying off 30 staff, most of whom are nurses, and we know what the employment picture is like for nurses. That's been discussed at considerable length in this House recently.

The hospital felt it imperative to act quickly to close those beds, because it realized that for each day they stayed open after yesterday, April 1, it would be overspending at the rate of \$15,000 a day and it wasn't prepared to jeopardize its budget later in the year. In fact, by bringing in arbitrary demands that the hospital cut large amounts in a very short time, with no helpful background information provided, the ministry was forcing the hospital to make arbitrary cuts in its turn.

The letter that arrived at the hospital requiring these cuts to be made contains a very strange sentence, which I would like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker. The letter, to the executive director of Peter-

borough Civic Hospital from Mr. Alan Backley, tells the hospital that it must cut out \$550,000, and says, "It is recognized that your hospital may have to reduce the availability of essential services required by your community." We've already heard some "new-speak" here this morning, and I think we're about to see a redefinition of essential services.

Let me just turn briefly to the ramifications of the decisions made about spending on psychiatric services in Peterborough and in the surrounding area. Within the past 18 months, Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, for which Peterborough is a feeder, so to speak—psychiatric patients from Peterborough go to Kingston Psychiatric Hospital and Whitby if they can't be treated in Peterborough; but most go to Kingston—has had a total loss, at the ministry's insistence, of 58 staff and now it has been told it must reduce its staff by a further 74 in the 1976-1977 fiscal year.

We are told that closure of beds does not take place before alternative services are in place. The alternative psychiatric service for the Peterborough area, if closures are taking place at Kingston which they are, would be found in the promised expansion of the Civic Hospital psychiatric department from 25 to 68 beds and a concurrent opportunity to increase the outpatient psychiatric services at the hospital.

But the expansion of the psychiatric department at the Civic Hospital has been put off once again. We're not even sure now that we shall be given permission in Peterborough to proceed to working drawings for that psychiatric facility this year. Meanwhile, acutely ill, long-term patients from the Peterborough area are being refused admission by Kingston Psychiatric Hospital but the facilities at Civic Hospital are intended mainly to provide short-term active treatment of less severely ill patients. Some of the severely ill patients are being admitted to Civic Hospital but it leaves a severe shortfall of psychiatric beds in the Peterborough area.

Where are these acutely ill psychiatric patients to go? We are waiting for the ministry to provide interim arrangements for them, but while there are bed shortages at Kingston and bed shortages at Peterborough for psychiatric patients the situation is very grim. I think the community would have to agree with Mr. Backley when he says that essential services required by that community may be reduced.

The pressure on beds in the psychiatric services in Peterborough is nothing new. The problem has been documented for the minis-

try for at least two years. We were aware that even when Kingston Psychiatric Hospital was working at full capacity before the staff cuts started not all the patients from Peterborough who needed beds there were getting them.

In 1974, the Peterborough Civic Hospital dealt with 1,080 psychiatric patients. Of those, 332 were admitted to the psychiatric unit at Peterborough Civic Hospital; 68 were sent to Whitby Psychiatric Hospital; 268 were sent to Kingston Psychiatric Hospital; and 412 of them had to be admitted to the regular medical and surgical beds in Peterborough Civic Hospital.

That was two years ago when over one-third of the psychiatric patients in Peterborough could not find psychiatric beds and were putting unwelcome and unnecessary pressure on medical and surgical beds. That was before the high level of staff cuts at Kingston Psychiatric Hospital began and before Kingston started refusing, even more firmly than it is now, patients from the Peterborough area.

Mr. Chatfield, of the ministry, commented some time ago that 1,000 psychiatric beds must come out of the system and there's been some discussion with the CMHA and with the hospitals about how this should be done. There's a new formula, apparently, for Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. The ratio in the acute ward at that hospital is now 1.4 patients per clinical staff member, which effectively reduces the care at Kingston Psychiatric Hospital to custodial care; it is in no sense fully effective active treatment. Custodial care is all that can be given to acutely ill patients with 1.4 patients per clinical staff member.

[11:15]

The plans for the Kingston area appear to include the Queen's Medical Sciences Centre which will become the active psychiatric hospital for the Kingston area and will not be part of the catchment area for Peterborough any longer. It looks as if Kingston Psychiatric Hospital will be reduced even more to tertiary—that is, custodial care—while the active psychiatric patients from the Kingston area go to Queen's; meanwhile, Peterborough Civic Hospital will desperately need its new active treatment facility for psychiatric patients. And the planning in the Kingston area is dependent on the assumption that Peterborough will have an enlarged psychiatric unit of 68 beds.

The planning at the moment seems to me to be in a total shambles. With staff cuts, with a refusal to admit patients to active treatment beds in Kingston, with a kind of

freeze on the planning procedure, we are in a desperate situation for psychiatric patients which is mirrored in other communities in the Kingston-Whitby catchment area.

Both the situations I have outlined to you, Mr. Speaker—the situation of children who should be looked after in the community and currently are in training schools under section 8, and the situation of general hospitals such as Peterborough in terms of their general services and psychiatric services—make me very sceptical about the fine promises declared in the Speech from the Throne.

We see a restraint programme which is reducing essential services to troubled adolescent kids; which is reducing essential services to mentally ill adults which does not ensure that alternative and adequate services are available for those children or those adults before the cuts are made; which does not take into account the needs of individuals; and which promises unacceptably high costs in the long run.

Troubled adolescents who go unhelped, and disturbed and unmanageable adolescents who go unhelped, will cost us all money, both in terms of financial costs, their unhappiness and unacceptable social costs. And the return visits of psychiatrically ill adults who do not get adequate treatment will cost us more in the long run. The inability to function of those psychiatrically ill adults will cost us more in the long run, besides costing them and their families unacceptable unhappiness and suffering.

Because of such failures as these of the government in its present restraint programme, our party has brought an amendment before the House, which states in part that we regret the government's failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of services and its failure to respond adequately to the financial needs of vital social services, particularly as exemplified to the Children's Aid Societies.

I, for one, shall have no difficulty at all in supporting wholeheartedly that amendment to the motion to accept the Speech from the Throne; and I would have no difficulty at all if the need should arise, and I rather hope it does, to explain my stand and that of the New Democratic Party to the voters of this province on those situations.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to make a few comments on this occasion, which provides an opportunity to every member to make a reply to the Speech from the Throne. First, may I congratulate the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe) and the hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr.

Stokes) on the fine way in which they are conducting the business of this House.

My first comments concern the length of the speeches during the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I have nothing whatever against anyone who wishes to speak for any length of time, but I think in fairness, to allow all members an opportunity to speak, there should be some type of time limitation.

Mr. Cassidy: Talk to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway); he took three hours.

Mr. B. Newman: The reason I say there should be a time limitation is so that everyone who wishes to speak will have that opportunity. Looking at the number of speakers who still want to make comment, there is absolutely no way that all of them will have that opportunity, simply because half a dozen others wish to use more than their fair share of the time.

Mr. Cassidy: You can help them by sitting down.

Mr. B. Newman: I would say that the time perhaps should be allocated to speakers on an individual time basis, and a total time given to each party, so that each party can speak, let's say, for the want of a figure, 20 minutes times the number of members that it has and in this way it would be allocated fairly. So if one member wishes to speak for two hours, there's nothing wrong with that. But, as a result, some other member in his caucus will not have that opportunity to speak.

Mr. Cassidy: Have you talked to the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell)?

Mr. B. Newman: I'm not criticizing the previous speaker one bit. I knew yesterday that the member for St. George did speak for more than 20 minutes, and the criticism—if it is criticism, and I hope it's constructive—refers to all of us. Likewise, there is always the discussion in the House as to whether we are using the 45 minutes allocated for the question period. I would strongly suggest as I have in previous times, Mr. Speaker, that a clock be on the Clerk's desk with a one-hour circle so that you, Mr. Speaker, can control it and after 45 minutes a bell goes off and that's the end.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Big alarm.

Mr. Haggerty: You can get a grant from Wintario on that one.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Especially at 8 o'clock at night.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the proceedings of this House, I asked the Premier if the Education Relations Commission reported to him concerning the effects of the disruption of the secondary school education in Windsor as a result of a walkout-lockout of recent days.

Mr. Cassidy: Which side are you on?

Mr. B. Newman: When I said lockout I referred to the teachers going out on strike. I did not refer to them simply walking out of the job. The lockout was the board locking the teachers out. So we have two situations in there, both a strike and a lockout, and in the interests of the students we would like this resolved.

The first topic that I would like to bring to the attention of the House is one that I found in the March, 1976, issue of the *Friendship News*, a publication of the Windsor senior citizens' centre, a very fine publication, edited by an Al Stephenson and assisted by a Miss Agnes Pineault and a Mrs. Shirley Smith. It's a publication that brings to the attention of senior citizens items of special interest, not necessarily local interest but interests that could affect them in their dealings with both provincial and federal governments.

The first article that really appealed to me was an example of unfair tax laws. I'm reading from the article:

A Mr. Herman Swanson, a member of the team that has been providing free income tax service to senior citizens for several years, agreed with our brief mention of tax unfairness last month and submitted the following article: [This is kind of interesting. It shows how \$1 in income can adversely affect you to the extent of almost \$70.]

Not only are the so-called simple income tax forms far from simple, they are downright discriminatory. Let us examine the federal and Ontario tax table first. If you have a taxable income of \$1,400 you do not pay any income tax. But if you have \$1,400.01 of taxable income you pay \$2 federal tax and you pay \$61.60 Ontario tax. [Just for one cent you are taxed to the extent of \$63.60. But wait, there is more.]

When you make out your Ontario tax credit form if you had \$1,401 in taxable income you would have to subtract two per cent of your taxable income from your total Ontario tax credits, amounting to \$28.

[So that one extra dollar affects your tax credits to the extent of \$28.] But if you

had \$1,395 or less of taxable income you subtract nothing.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that just cents, so to speak, affect the senior citizen by dollars. One can't quarrel with the federal tax table as it is constituted; but to say that there is room for improvement in this method used by the federal and Ontario governments to calculate income tax is certainly an understatement.

When the National Pensioners Association presented their annual brief to the federal government on March 3 of this year, one of the resolutions pointed out that the people with low interest income were being discriminated against. Those who have very little interest income get no advantage. For example, if two persons had the same income and the same personal exemptions, but one person had interest income of \$1,000 while the other person had interest income of only \$300, the person who had the \$1,000 interest income would have a \$700 greater tax exemption than the one with only \$300 interest income. As the Act says, one can deduct up to \$1,000 of the actual amount of interest income, whichever is the lesser. So one can see that even on the interest income, there's a substantial disadvantage to the individual who has the smaller amount. Then take into consideration the one who doesn't have any; his standard of living has been decreased by \$1,000.

There is another interesting article in there. I don't intend to read it, but I do hope that the Ministry of Community and Social Services keeps a very close eye on the experiment that will be conducted in Sweden effective July 1 of this year and that concerns the flexible retirement age. Too many of our senior citizens who work up until the age of 65 have never had the opportunity to prepare themselves for an early retirement. A lot of the times it's because they needed every dollar they could possibly earn to keep themselves in some type of a standard of living. We would hope it would be higher, but in a lot of instances it isn't.

As a result of working all their lives, then being retired on reaching the magic age of 65, all of a sudden they're told they're no longer good enough for the work force. They are put out on retirement without any type of preparation for coping with retirement. Maybe we're going to have to take into consideration, as in the Swedish experiment, a flexible retirement age so that these people can adjust to what is coming in the foreseeable future.

In the interests of economy, as the government keeps preaching economy, I just want to bring this one simple example of waste in government, and this can be multiplied by thousands and maybe a hundred-thousand fold. I received this from the Ministry of Revenue, a familiar brown envelope with one mimeographed sheet, 8½ by 11 inches. Why in the dickens couldn't this have been put in our postal boxes? Why had time to be wasted to insert it in an envelope and then put it into our boxes? Mind you, one of the good things is this envelope is not addressed, so it can be used again. But time and time again, I find this from all governments. Rather than simply folding this as some of the ministries do, we still have ministries in government that will throw away cents which make dollars in the long run. Surely those ministries that are using this practice should check on it. Let's save the few cents we can and we'll find out very quickly that that mounts up into substantial amounts of dollars.

My first topic is the unemployment situation. Probably the most important thing that we could concern ourselves with is jobs and unemployment. My own community happens to have either 10.3 per cent or 10.8 per cent of the work force unemployed. That's an extremely high number. It really is intolerable.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, you can imagine the effect such a high unemployment rate is having on the whole community and the social effects it is having on many of the families. There may be one bit of salvation in this in the fact that some are still eligible for unemployment insurance and are not suffering to the same extent as those who have no unemployment insurance benefits.

There has to be some method of resolving some portion of the unemployment problem. Government, management, the unions or a combination of all of them have to sit down and see if they can't come up with an answer—maybe not a complete answer but a partial answer—to the problem.

I don't have the answers but I can make a suggestion. My suggestion is the one I made on March 21 last year and, I think, one year prior to that when I introduced a bill entitled An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

In listening to television back home—what little time I do have to listen to it—and seeing and hearing the meetings of the UAW in the city of Detroit and some of the demands they were going to put to their employers in future

negotiations; and listening to the members, the executives from the UAW and from my own community making constructive suggestions, I think government, management and labour are going to have to sit down in an attempt to distribute the amount of work available over larger numbers.

It is wrong for one person to sit at a table and gorge himself while others at that same table are starving or not getting their fair share. What is the difference if it is at a table with food or if it is in a community with hours of work available? In my own community and, I would say, in many communities throughout the Province of Ontario there are many workers who are working substantial numbers of hours of overtime.

I can understand them wishing to have the additional overtime. I can understand the economic conditions with them. They have mortgaged themselves, so to speak, over the hilt and have heavy mortgage payments. Not only is the overtime needed by that individual but in many instances the wife and/or the children have to go out to work to take care of the high cost of housing and the high cost of other consumer items which they must buy.

I can understand their concern but that is exactly the same for them to take more than their fair share of the hours of work as it is for an individual who takes more than his fair share of food at a table. It has to be distributed a little more equitably.

My bill, at that time, attempted to distribute work a little more evenly. I admit it will probably be a little costlier than it is today. It will be costlier to the manufacturers; it will make the price of the consumer item increase. I admit that. I don't know how you could come along and hire more people and reduce the price of an article you are selling but something has to be done to distribute better the amount of work available in our work world.

My bill would have limited the work day to eight hours; the work week to 40 hours. I really think it is out-fashioned in today's society. Eight hours a day and a 40-hour week might have been good enough maybe two or three years ago but in an attempt to accommodate more people in the work force we are going to have to reduce progressively the work week. Maybe my suggestion of an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week will have to be phased down so that it becomes a 39-hour week one year, then 38, 37, until we get down to a figure so that the amount of work available is distributed over a larger number of people.

I know we have to have overtime in some jobs because there could be a machinery breakdown or something of that sort. If we don't get it fixed up immediately it is going to mean everyone is going to lose work the following day.

Let me bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the union on this, which is commendable. I am going to bring out the names of the union leaders in the community who speak out strongly. They were speaking out on this in an international meeting in Detroit trying to show their brothers in labour in the US, where they also have to consider the suggestions that are coming from our Canadian labour leaders. Let me tell you that a lot of our Canadian labour leaders are by far more progressive than many of them across the border in the United States.

Mr. Kerrio: Many of them are Liberals too.

Mr. B. Newman: There are a lot of Liberals. I wouldn't be here if they weren't Liberals.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Newman: Thousands of Windsor workers are collecting plump paycheques by putting in long hours on the assembly line; but for many more there is no assembly line. The only paycheque they collect is from a government computer and a lot of times that computer breaks down as you yourself know, Mr. Speaker, when you have unemployment insurance problems. The reason for the delay in payments or the incorrect amount was always blamed on a computer. A lot of those problems have been resolved today and things are moving a little smoother but still it is the computer while here we have fat paycheques and unemployment insurance. Can't we find a good balance between the two?

Overtime has become an accepted institution in Canada since the Second World War but the current recession is forcing the labour movement to look closely at the effects of extended work hours. One of the most powerful unions in North America, the UAW, over the last year had the bitter experience of seeing thousands of its members laid off while others piled up overtime.

I can speak from seeing this. The Chrysler plant is only three-quarters of a mile away from my home. The parking lots are filled up on a Saturday and Sunday quite often. I know darn well that a lot of these fellows would prefer not to have to work on the Saturday and Sunday, to be able to enjoy that time with their families and in the summers enjoy it maybe just in leisure. But maybe from financial commitments or maybe even pressure

on the part of management or someone else, they are forced to work overtime, even though I understand in the Chrysler situation all overtime is voluntary. But you know that sometimes "voluntary" has two different ways of applying.

The UAW has now decided that existing penalties in keeping employees on overtime aren't stiff enough. In the 1976 contract talks with the big three, the union is expected to press for bigger financial penalties for extended hours, probably double-time and triple-time in place of the current time-and-a-half and double-time. It is cheaper for management to come along and pay overtime than it is to spread the work out to a greater work force. The only way you are going to get management to come along and hire extra people is at the point when it is more economical for them to hire additional manpower.

Some workers in the community are putting in over 70 hours a week by double shifts on weekends. That's probably not many more hours than some of us work here and I know we can work 70 hours without any difficulty. Some of us spend probably eight hours just coming to our job. Maybe I am wrong in eight hours; it might even be substantially more than that.

The article makes mention that they can earn as much as \$110 to \$115 a week clear on overtime only, so one can see that over the course of a year, if that individual works 50 weeks a year that's \$5,000 in extra revenue clear. I don't begrudge him that, but I do think that the work has to be spread over greater numbers. Let's try to equalize the work opportunities.

Mr. Charlie Brookes, UAW Local 444 president and chairman of the UAW's Canadian council, says present penalties no longer discourage corporations from scheduling overtime. He said companies now find it cheaper to pay overtime rates than to put more workers on the payroll and pay their fringe benefits. The fringe benefits average about \$2.50 an hour by those who work for the big three. Mr. Brookes said corporations will stop scheduling overtime as soon as the cost of it is boosted higher than that of hiring more workers. He considers overtime a serious health problem, and I quote: "A lot of those guys are burning themselves out. They are working for an early date with the undertaker."

Overtime, says Mr. Brookes, is a case of one worker putting in extra hours in order to pay heavy income taxes to support another worker who remains jobless. To some members overtime seems to be a way of getting

over financial hurdles, but it gets him in over his head and then he is in constant search of overtime or a second job. They get so accustomed to that additional revenue they elevate their standard of living to assuming that they're going to keep earning that same amount, and then when overtime is cut out they have to jog around in an attempt to get a second job opportunity and then deprive someone else of that opportunity to work.

Mr. Brookes said Local 444 members in Windsor can average more than \$20,000 a year if they accept all the overtime that is available. Those who take it are not working out of a hole, as they think, they're working themselves into a permanent hole.

John Moynahan, the president of the UAW Local 195, the biggest auto parts industry union in Canada, believes workers won't be fighting to stay in the plant if they're given an adequate living wage based on a normal work week. If we have a normal work week we can spread the work out to many more individuals in our society. He says: "How can we argue for a shorter work week while our people are demanding more overtime?" That's the big problem. Some demand more overtime, yet the union would like to have a shorter work week. As I said earlier of food on the table, one eats more than his fair share and then the others don't get it.

Mr. Moynahan says we must get wages to the point where an employee can maintain his standard of living on a five-day work week. He said overtime should only be scheduled in emergency situations.

There's a little different situation when it comes into the construction trades, because weather affects the construction trades. They don't have that same opportunity for extended work, a 52-week work period, and as a result there may have to be, in any type of legislation or consideration, some factors built in to accommodate and to compensate for conditions that would affect those in the construction trades.

[11:45]

Pat Doyle, business agent for Ironworkers Local 700, which represents 500 southwestern Ontario structural steelworkers, strongly supports overtime for the construction industry. He wants overtime and he makes a good argument for it. Members of his union get double pay for overtime and rarely turn it down. Regular wages will be in the area of \$13 an hour in 1977. Mr. Doyle says: "Our people would like to get more overtime to bring them up to a full year's pay."

Now you see, they are not being work avaricious, they simply want to elevate their standards so that with that overtime they are

getting a year's pay. They are affected by weather conditions. Those who are not affected are in a completely different category.

As Mr. Doyle puts it:

Bad weather conditions and unemployment keep most construction workers from coming close to the 2,000 work-hours a year averaged by industrial workers. In our business it's often a race against time because of weather, construction deadlines and uncertain delivery schedules. We need to use all the daylight hours available. It amounts to "make it while you can."

Probably all the members of the House are familiar with the name Paul Forder. He's the political education director of the Ontario Federation of Labour who sent various questionnaires out to each of us prior to the previous election, and again sent information out to us after an election as members of the Legislature.

Mr. Forder says that he or the Ontario Federation of Labour, is going to make the issue of overtime an issue in the presentation to cabinet. He said the Ontario Federation of Labour will urge the provincial government to stop issuing overtime permits to corporations except in emergency situations. With 800,000 Canadians unemployed, said Mr. Forder, the labour movement must intensify a bargaining drive for measures that will result in a minimum amount of overtime. He said corporations get off cheaply with overtime because it doesn't involve any additional health and benefit costs, administrative costs or training expenses.

Mr. Forder thinks there will inevitably be a hue and cry from a minority of union members when their leaders take steps to eliminate overtime. Naturally, those who are receiving overtime hesitate to give it up but those who are not working at all and haven't been working for a period of time certainly would like their fair share of work available.

The other big local in the community is Local 200 of the Ford Motor Co. Mr. Steve Harris, president of that local, represents approximately 4,000 workers in the city of Windsor. At one time it was approximately 15,000 but with the switch of operations from the Windsor area to the Oakville area, the 15,000 work force has dwindled to approximately 4,000.

He comments that time and a half means nothing to the company as a cost factor. Mr. Harris says overtime shifts are scheduled at Ford's Windsor operations right up to the summer vacation period. He said some emergency overtime is necessary because of the breakdowns but the union takes the posi-

tion that more workers should be hired to help boost production. The guy working overtime isn't making that much more per hour because he is actually subsidizing the government with his taxes.

An interesting comment comes from one of the pioneers in the labour movement, one who has made a real contribution in the past; that is Mr. George Burt, who is the former Canadian director of the UAW. He said unions never meant overtime to be a means of increasing worker income. Mr. Burt, who is now 72, says: "Overtime rates were won in the 1930s, but the Depression kept extending hours from becoming an important problem. Prior to the war, we were lucky to get 30 hours a week".

Overtime was first heavily used during World War 2, said Mr. Burt, when it was needed to spur production in spite of manpower shortages. He said corporations since then have come to realize that overtime is a bargain compared to cost of hiring new workers, training them and paying for costly pensions and fringe benefits.

Overtime is unfair to those who are laid off. It is unfair to those who work it and it is unfair to Canada. We are all paying welfare and unemployment insurance benefits.

Those are comments concerning the limitation of the work week so that overtime can be used to hire many more individuals rather than giving it all to a select few. I know were I probably working in an auto industry, I too would like to have all of the overtime available in an attempt to prepare for a rainy day. But is it really fair to take more than your fair share?

Mr. Speaker, I have a whole series of topics that I was going to comment on, but I will simply touch on them very briefly so that the record will show that this member from the Windsor area is extremely concerned about more than just one issue, the issue of overtime.

The auto trade pact is an extremely important issue because Sen. Vance Hartke of the United States, truly a rabble-rousing Senator, wants the auto trade pact discarded. He doesn't see the benefits from the auto trade pact, which was strongly endorsed by the labour unions. In fact, the pact originally was suggested by the late alderman, Bill Riggs, on the Windsor city council; and it was Prof. Bladen of the University of Toronto who conducted the study that led to the auto trade pact.

The auto trade pact was an attempt to rationalize the manufacturing of automobiles

in the two jurisdictions so that at least we could get our fair share. Mind you, I'm not saying we got our fair share. I'm saying we should be able to get our fair share. Where we have fallen down tremendously on it is in the parts industry.

All the automobile companies are owned by the US interests. But when it comes to parts manufacturers, the majority of them are substantially small, independent and Canadian-owned and operated. They are the ones who are suffering. So if there is any change in the auto trade pact, I would sincerely hope that the changes are to adjust that difference in the parts industry so that we in Canada get our fair share. I don't ask for more than what we are entitled to.

We are fortunate that the automobiles being made in Canada today are big sellers in the United States. Subject to correction, I think 85 per cent of the production at Chrysler is exported to the United States; as a result, our people at Chrysler are working. On the other side of that token, a lot of the other cars are being imported from the United States; and the parts especially are being imported.

But there is another problem that is going to come up very shortly; that is, looking at the world-wide picture today, where an engine may be made in Brazil, the undercarriage could be made in France, the generators and so forth could be made in Italy and then all of them are brought to an assembly plant in some Canadian centre, and then put together, qualifying in some fashion under the auto trade pact.

The auto trade pact has to be looked at very closely; it's got to be brought along and made so that it is fair to the Canadian auto worker. I would prefer it to benefit us substantially, but for the sake of fairness, just as in the case of overtime I would like to be fair, I would like to be fair in the case of the auto trade pact. The automobile industry is the prime source of income to many people living in the community.

There is another problem when it comes to work, and that is the number of students who shortly will be put into the work force with very little concern registered on the part of perhaps governments or industries, or perhaps a combination of both. Just as the Ministry of Natural Resources uses the Junior Ranger programme, which is an excellent educational and work programme, I think the government has to look at other areas where we can provide employment to students, and especially students who are going to continue their education. The reason I say that, is that

we either provide them with funds to carry on or we're going to give them loans or grants. Why shouldn't we come along and allow them to earn some of the funds needed to go into post-secondary education and even in secondary education so that they can buy some of their books and clothing and so forth to make it a little easier on the family, especially if the family is a low-income family?

I know some will say how do you do it? If I had that amount of brain, I wouldn't be here and many of us wouldn't be here either. We'd be living a little easier type of life rather than going through the long hours of work, which all of us must like or we wouldn't be here.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I thought you were referring to that side of the House.

Mr. B. Newman: I beg your pardon, I didn't hear you.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, don't bother. It isn't worth it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. B. Newman: I think government is going to have to assist these students in some fashion by finding work for them. Sure we've got Experience '75 or '76. It's going to provide, I think, 7,500 jobs. One of the bad things on that is that last year, when we had Experience '75, one of the students in my community wrote in immediately—I shouldn't say immediately; actually it was before the time for an application. She wrote the letter, had her name in and everything of that sort, and never received a reply. She finally wrote again but it was too late. This hurts me. Here we're trying to encourage these youngsters to improve society, improve themselves and be good citizens, I hope. I don't think the jobs are being given to any with favouritism being shown, but I think that programme has to go through Manpower in a community and the individual applies there.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member take a question?

Mr. B. Newman: No, the minister will have a chance to get up.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member should continue. This is not a debate.

Mrs. Campbell: Let the minister sit down.

Mr. B. Newman: I want to give two other people an opportunity to speak yet today.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: He won't take a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a debate.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: He's afraid of questions.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has indicated he wishes to continue.

Mr. B. Newman: Ask me before the question period.

(We've got a way of providing these funds to students and to others. Wintario just makes scads of money. What better social and cultural benefit could moneys be put to than trying to assist these young future parliamentarians in obtaining an advanced education. Let's not have education the sole right and prerogative of those who have the financial wherewithal.

I know a lot of us in here haven't had the financial wherewithal to get the education that we got, but let's not have everybody, or too many, suffer as a result. Let's try to help them when we can help them and I think government can come along and help. They've got to find some method, and I don't just mean make-work where no benefit is obtained from it. There can be programmes established such as the Experience '76 programme, but on a broader base so that more young folk can be given this opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: How many more?

Mr. B. Newman: I have some comments to make on the nuclear power dangers, the outlook concerning that in the United States and the comments made by US scientists concerning even our own Candu reactor not being safe. I know the Ministry of the Environment hasn't looked into it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: What about the Rasmussen Report? Did you mention that?

Mr. B. Newman: The US government is looking for a dumping site for their nuclear waste, their plutonium. Where do you think they're looking for it? Right under the city of Detroit. They've got four or five million people in that vicinity and they're looking at the salt mines down there to dispose of material that will take over 1,000 years to deteriorate. We don't know with our present technology what could happen with it. I hope the overall ministry, and the Ministry of Energy in particular, looks into the US energy research and development administration attempt to find a dump site for highly radioactive waste from nuclear power plants in

the US—not in Canada—by putting it right in the city of Detroit, which can adversely affect millions of people.

[12:00]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: They are also looking at Nevada and New Mexico.

Mr. B. Newman: I was going to make comments concerning PCBs and legislation which has already been passed in the Michigan State Legislature controlling them. I don't have time.

I was going to ask the Ministry of the Attorney General to look into or to be a little more active concerning hockey violence. The recommendation I was going to make was to use a point system just as we have for driving licences where one loses points after certain violations. Let's do the same thing in hockey so that certain penalties are going to mean a certain number of points. When the player has accumulated a certain number of points he can't play hockey for a given period of time; that's all. His living is gone.

Let me tell the members that violence would decrease in a hurry. In the same way an individual is scared that he is going to lose his driving privileges by losing points, likewise they could lose their playing privileges through violence in hockey.

I was going to talk about gas stations and the big oil companies, the adverse effect they have on the stations and the vertical integration there which has to be broken so that none of the big gasoline companies is going to be operating the stations or having any connection with them other than providing the fuel. The others would be all independently operated.

Mr. Speaker, to enable others to have their share of the time, I would like at this time to thank those of the members who have stayed in the House to listen to the humble remarks by the humble member for Windsor-Walker-ville. Thank you.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would like to begin by offering my best wishes to the Speaker, the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Rowe), and to the Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes). I hope that during this session they may be successful in their efforts to assure that the atmosphere in this chamber is marked by dignity and an amiable spirit.

As the member for Scarborough East I would like to say a few words about my riding and about my borough. I have lived in Scarborough for almost 20 years and for many years I was involved in the life of my

community as a volunteer with many of the agencies which provide the social services.

I believe, and I can't stress this too much, that communities such as Scarborough are fun places in which to live because of the community participation in such programmes. The people in Scarborough have accepted their responsibility for each other. They have organized many social programmes on a community basis and they have developed those programmes with a lot of voluntary participation. That is the kind of dedication and involvement which governments just can't provide.

While I am on the subject of responsibility, I would like to turn to this government's measures—responsible measures—for dealing with the growing costs of social and other services. I believe this kind of responsible restraint is what the people of Ontario want from their government. I believe it is important for all of us in this chamber, if we hope that the debates and deliberations here will serve interests beyond partisan ones, to understand that what the people of Ontario want and what this government is proposing is no dismantling of a system of services which people have come to depend on. It is no downgrading of the importance of government's role as a provider of services.

I can give the most compelling evidence of that by stating the simple fact—one simple fact—that this year the people of Ontario, through their government, will spend more than \$8 billion, some two-thirds of the total provincial budget, on social services. I believe that fact is a clear demonstration of the very high priority this government continues to place on the services of people.

We will continue to have disagreement in this chamber. Part of the function of the debates we have here must be to state those disagreements clearly, so that the people of Ontario can decide. Yet, when we speak of the social services it seems to me that too often a large part of our effort is bent not to the clear presentation of our views but rather to the distortion of the views, philosophies and motives of our opponents.

The dilemma that we all face in Ontario and across Canada in the social services is very real. If there is not action to stop the process that we have witnessed in recent years—where each year the cost of each service increases more quickly than either inflation or our total wealth as a society, apparently regardless of the numbers of people using the service or even the effectiveness of the programmes involved—not only will government's consumption of our total wealth have to increase to impossible proportions,

but the capacity of governments and of communities to respond to new needs will be hopelessly compromised.

My colleagues and I do not believe that government's share of our total wealth can be permitted to increase indefinitely. We believe the individual citizen of Ontario is a far better and more prudent manager of his or her own affairs, responsibilities and income than any government can ever hope to be.

Our critics have a somewhat more optimistic view of government and of its capacity. They say that government can take greater and greater portions of the wealth that results from the productive work of people across Ontario without creating any serious disincentive to productive work. They believe, and sincerely, I think, that the results of government spending decisions will almost always be of greater general benefit to the community than the individual spending decisions people may make with regard to their own income. They believe, I think, that there are very few problems that are beyond the power of government, armed with the taxpayers' dollars, to resolve.

As I say, those are all legitimate beliefs. I hope I have not misinterpreted them. They are legitimate, although anyone who has watched the experience of governments in other jurisdictions—and I might mention Alberta, British Columbia, New York and England—will find it difficult not to feel that they are also very naive.

I believe there are beliefs that run contrary to the traditions and practices that have built the prosperity we all enjoy here in Ontario. We have succeeded in becoming one of the best fed, best clothed and best housed people in the history of civilization. In Ontario, we have built one of the best—and perhaps the best—systems of social services in the world. Our health, education and programmes such as GAINS are admired, studied and copied by many other jurisdictions. What has made all of these achievements possible has been the initiative and incentive of individuals. They have created the wealth that makes our social services possible.

When we talk of priorities and of the choices that governments must make, it seems to me to be only logical that we consider not simply whether government ought to devote resources to this social service or that, to this programme to create employment and opportunity or that, or to the police or to the roads, but that we consider the very basic alternative of choosing to leave the resources in the hands of those who work to earn them. The experience of this society has proved that it is often a very creative alternative indeed.

But no one on this side of the House has suggested that the essential services government provides should be removed or dismantled. We have said that the rate at which the costs of these services increase must be subject to a realistic restraint. We have said that the people whose work produces the wealth that pays for our social services have a right to demand that their government take the steps necessary to assure the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness in the colossal amounts of spending that are devoted to these services.

I would suggest that the deliberations in this chamber will be more useful to Ontario if all members understand it is possible to be concerned about the rate at which the costs of social services have increased, without in any sense denying the collective responsibility we share to all those among us who need our help.

We will not pretend that all of our actions to achieve control of the rate of growth in social services will be pleasant for everyone. I think it is safe to say that those who are employed in the social services can no longer expect their relative financial positions in society to improve perhaps as quickly as they have in the past decade or so. When one has come to expect constant and rapid improvement, that is really no small matter.

Those agencies that rely in whole or in part on government financing will find themselves faced by a demanding financial discipline. After years of rapid budget growth, that is no small change. But anyone who, like me, has worked with these agencies, will have little doubt either that there is room for improvement in their efficiency or that the people who operate them do have the capacity to realize that improvement. But enough funds will continue to be available for our network of social services to continue to meet the needs that people in Ontario encounter in their daily lives.

We have studied these matters in great detail and very carefully, and we believe the control we are practising on increasing costs is realistic. But all of us in this chamber will be watching closely to assure ourselves that the effects of restraint do not seriously hinder the provision of necessary services. I would suggest that serious efforts to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness within social programmes are more appropriate now than the indignant anticipations of disaster that will never happen.

It is important to remember that the levels of support for social services in Ontario, even with our efforts to restrain cost increases to a realistic level, are generous.

Mr. Reid: Does this mean we're going to have a tax increase? Is that what you're telling us? Are you getting us set for a tax increase on Tuesday night?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: But not all of our disagreements with our critics will be about the level of financial support available to the social services. Once again, some of our friends in the official opposition will disagree with us on a philosophical basis about the rate at which new services can be introduced and existing services expanded. I believe we should make our differences clear to the people across Ontario, because they will finally have to decide between the two positions.

In a sense, the development of many of the social services in Ontario has been a process whereby responsibilities that were the individual's or the community's, in a general way, have now been delegated to government, either because they were too onerous for the individual or the community or too difficult for them to discharge, or because the consequences of any failure to discharge them were intolerable. So we developed systems to provide health care, education, financial security and all the other services that we have built. But where it is possible my colleagues and I believe it is preferable for the individual to meet his own responsibilities directly, whether we are speaking of him as a parent or a spouse or a citizen. We believe that the greatest possible area of personal responsibility is a positive benefit to the individual and to those who depend upon him or her in Ontario. Some of our critics feel no such respect for the individual meeting of responsibilities. They see no particular disadvantage in having more and more responsibility delegated to the state, regardless of need, and that is where we differ very basically.

[12:15]

We believe that the state should intervene to meet those responsibilities that are beyond the capacity of the individual. Where people are generally able to discharge a particular responsibility without state assistance, we would favour the provision of particular assistance to those who, for some particular reason, need it. Our critics favour the assumption of responsibility by government, whether the general run of our population are able to discharge that responsibility or not. They believe there is something better in the uniformity of a government service than in the multi-faceted system that evolves from the various ways that individuals, acting

voluntarily, choose to discharge their own responsibilities.

I believe that people in Ontario do not want or need further government help or interference in the discharge of the responsibilities they bear as parents, spouses or citizens of communities. I believe they would prefer to retain the greatest possible portion of the incomes that they work to earn and be free to meet their responsibility in their own way. I do not believe that government is the repository of any special capacity to make problems go away simply by taking to itself a greater share of our total wealth or the sum of the responsibilities throughout our society.

Government does not have personal independence within its gift. Government can provide an income; it can provide food, shelter, and clothing, but these material goods do not equate with personal independence. We say that those who are able to work and have the opportunity to work should not live on welfare. We say that will help to restrain growing welfare costs but we say too that we believe a continued dependency on the government, when there is a realistic alternative is bad.

People who can work should work. They should contribute to the community around them and to its total wealth. It will benefit them materially and it will benefit them with a satisfaction and an independence that is not available any other way. I am aware that there are those who consider such beliefs to be, at best, old-fashioned and, at worst, heartless. From them I can ask only that they do my colleagues and me the credit of accepting that we hold these beliefs very sincerely, that a large number of people across Ontario share these beliefs with us, and that they are based not merely on a concern about levels of spending—

Mr. Reid: Only 38 per cent.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: —but on a clear conception of what best serves the interest of the individuals involved and of the community as a whole.

Interjections.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Being able to work, having an opportunity to work and support oneself and those who depend on you and then being asked to work is not, in my view, an indignity.

Mr. Warner: Is raising children work?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: As the minister responsible for the policies and the directions we follow in the social services, I have not tried to argue details or statistics. That role could be more properly performed by my colleague.

We, in government, are attempting to protect the interests and to follow the wishes of the people across Ontario. As we perceive them, there are different perceptions in this House. None of us can pretend away the very real dilemma that governments across Canada face as they attempt to achieve some realistic control of the rate at which the social services are increasing.

The final decisions about how we deal with that dilemma will be made by the people of Ontario as they choose among the positions the various parties take. The dilemma is real and its resolution is critically important—too important, I would suggest, to deserve anything other than the frankest and most open debate we can bring to this chamber.

Mr. Warner: Can you explain the \$2 million debt, then?

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss some problems which I believe are very serious, especially when one looks at the words contained in the Throne Speech as delivered by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, outlining the policies of this government.

The policies of this government as contained in that speech are riddled with omissions and failure. Failure because the Tories have done nothing to guarantee safety in the work place; they have done nothing to relieve the difficulties faced by farmers. For over three years, they have done nothing to resolve the caution on the Timagami area.

This government has supported Northern Telephone in its practice of charging \$800 to \$1,000 for the installation of a telephone in rural areas. Now the government is in the process of depriving people of proper health care and in the process of waging war on children who cannot defend themselves.

For anyone who has any knowledge of the communities associated with the extraction of resources, the problems which have existed in the mining industry for years have been of deep concern. The story of United Asbestos is not a pleasant one.

This company is located in Midlothian township, southeast of Matachewan, and was due to start operation last summer. Still today the asbestos mill is operating at about 30 per

cent capacity and recently the government was finally prodded into action and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) took a safari to the mill site. I would suggest that it is going to take more than one visit by the minister and his ensuing contradictory remarks to get the mess at United Asbestos cleaned up.

I will quote from some of the reports tabled in the House, which came out of that visit. The first I refer to is one from the occupational health protection branch, dated March 10:

This asbestos mill has been in operation for about eight months. It has operated below capacity, 30 per cent capacity. Both area and personal air samples were taken in the mill.

Of course, personal air samples, I feel, are much more important and more valid than the area samples because the personal air samples are actually taken by the men as they work in their individual work places.

Some of the comments in the report are as follows: "Some operations in the quality control room, particularly dumping of asbestos on benches without local exhaust, could be hazardous."

I would suggest that's an understatement. "Dry sweeping is carried out in the mill by cleaning crews." As anyone who is familiar with asbestos plants knows, dry sweeping is not desirable. "Incoming air through vents without baffles on the fifth floor agitated dust on the floors."

Some of the comments in the report from the mines engineering division, Ministry of Natural Resources, that came out of the same visit are as follows:

During the period of the survey it was noted that general housekeeping improved considerably due to the conversion from dry sweeping to portable vacuum cleaners.

I would suggest that the most important part in that reference is, "during the period of the survey." Of course, when people are on the site from the Ministry of Natural Resources or from occupational health, conditions improve. But what happens when they leave?

The report also makes reference to respirators. Respirators, as far as I am concerned, are just another way of trying to cover up the basic issue. These in fact are not respirators; they are simply masks that fit over the mouth and the nose. It has been proved repeatedly that these masks, if worn beyond two hours per shift, will cause enlargement of the heart and ensuing heart difficulties.

Some of the readings from the occupational health survey in the area are indeed disturb-

ing. As I mentioned earlier, area readings are not very indicative of the actual work place, but in this case only one out of 10 was beyond the acceptable level of two fibres per cubic centimetre. In the personal samples, six out of 11, or 54 per cent, were beyond the acceptable limit of two fibres per cubic centimetre. In the Ministry of Natural Resources samples that were taken, three out of nine of the area samples, or 33 per cent, were above the acceptable level; and in the personal samples eight out of 11, or 72.7 per cent, were above the acceptable levels. There were also samples that read as high as 12.8, 8.1, 7.3, 7.9, 6.8, 6.5. These readings are indeed alarming if one considers that the plant is operating considerably below capacity, and when it does operate at capacity the amount of asbestos fibres in the air will be even greater.

After the trip of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to United Asbestos, this directive went out from the Ministry of Natural Resources to the mine manager at United Asbestos. I won't read it all, but suffice to say I'm paraphrasing it accurately when I say that the only items mentioned were that respirators were to become mandatory, which in fact are nothing more than gauze masks; and the sample results are to be posted in the plant. And that's about it. Where is the directive to the company to clean up those hazardous working conditions, which the minister now admits do exist? In the House the other day, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) said there were such directives and she would make them available to us. That has not yet been done.

As early as the fall of 1975, the Ministry of the Environment at Timmins threatened—and I quote from an actual letter to the manager—that “if the pugmill is not cleaned up, it may be found necessary to cause your operation to be shut down.” If that was the case then, I submit it is even more the case now and, as the mill is shut down and cleaned up, the men should be retained on complete and full pay. The company has had numerous warnings and has responded in each case by doing nothing. In each case the mine manager sent a letter back to the authority from whence came the letter, saying that all is now in order.

All has never been in order and it still isn't today. Conditions have become so bad that the Manpower office in Kirkland Lake now refuses to send men to United Asbestos. It advises them of the risks, and if they choose to go they do so at their own risk.

As we all know, Manpower always insists that people take available jobs. If Manpower is not directing people to United Asbestos the conditions indeed must be bad—so bad,

in fact, that in an area of high unemployment, United Asbestos cannot find adequate numbers of workers. Recently, they have taken to advertising in the *Globe and Mail*, “Immediate opportunities available with United Asbestos.” Needless to say, they mention nothing about the working conditions.

I would suggest that if the government needs any more factual information it just go and ask the workers. Let it ask the workers what they think of United Asbestos and ask them about the conditions. They will tell the government that men are covered with asbestos; there is asbestos in piles all over the plant, on the floors and on the machinery; asbestos covers the men when they go into a lunchroom; asbestos is in their lockers where men put their street clothes that they bring to work in; and because the company will not allow them two lockers, put their work clothes in that locker when they come off the job, mixing their work clothes and their street clothes together, so that they are certain of taking asbestos fibres home to their families.

The men have asked for a laundromat where their clothes could be washed, and they have also asked for a double set of lockers, so they could avoid taking asbestos home to their families. The company refuses to budge.

What's going to happen in 10 or 15 years to these young men who are now starting to work at United Asbestos? Is the Minister of National Resources (Mr. Bernier) going to be around then to go and tell them there was no danger, when they are suffering from asbestos-induced diseases?

The problem is so serious because there is irrefutable proof that working in these kinds of conditions is a hazard. Dr. Selikoff, of the environmental science laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York, has made the results of his detailed and very reputable studies available to the public. Even under one month of exposure doubles the chance of death from asbestos diseases. With one year of exposure, you would expect the average person in the population who was exposed to conditions on the site to have this kind of disease. You would expect 3.7 out of 105 workers to get this kind of disease; roughly four workers out of 105. But in the actual study that Dr. Selikoff did, it was 20 workers. In the study he did, out of a total of 805 men who were exposed to asbestos, we would expect that, statistically speaking, 33 men out of 805 would get diseases that could be induced by asbestos. Yet, in the actual study, 153 men

ended up with asbestos-induced diseases, and the ensuing suffering that resulted.

It's important to remember that in the short time that the mill at United Asbestos has been operating, 200 men have already passed through that plant.

United Asbestos is indeed an interesting company in that it's almost impossible to find out who owns it. If one looks at Statistics Canada, foreign ownership of United Asbestos is indicated. From this source, 75 per cent is said to be controlled by foreign owners. Four of the directors are from the United States, and there is also Japanese money involved in the financing of Matachewan. The net income of the company in 1975 over 1974 was up 81 per cent—certainly a tidy return—but the company still refuses to act to clean up the mill.

One might say that if we push the company, they would close up their operation and the jobs would be lost. As someone who grew up not more than 25 miles from Matachewan, I am fully aware of the situation that existed in Matachewan when the gold mines closed and a population of over 3,500 people was left without jobs, with the small exception of a few jobs in other areas. Basically the entire economy was pulled out from under the community.

We were all happy when Matachewan was going to experience growth because of the location of United Asbestos there, but we are not happy with the present conditions, nor are the people of the community. If the company should threaten to close down, I would suggest that would be entirely a bluff. The company has over \$33 million invested in this project and they are unlikely to close the doors and walk away.

But they must be forced to clean up the plant. There should be a committee consisting of three men—one representative from management; one representative from among the workers; and one of the inspectors from the occupational health protection branch who warned the government last fall of the hazardous conditions—which would have control of the working conditions in the plant. This committee would have the power to close down the plant, direct cleanup operations and ensure that the workers were compensated in wages for lost time. This I believe is the absolute least that the government could do.

If the company should close down the operation because of the government's insistence, which I have yet to see, that the plant be cleaned up, I would think that this would

be an excellent opportunity for the government to do something that was worthwhile and innovative. The government could take over the operation as a Crown corporation, and because it was closed down and the corporation refused to operate it, this would only devalue the actual operation in dollars and cents terms, so the government could obviously pay a reasonable price for it; it wouldn't be exorbitant. The government could set it up, as I said, as a Crown corporation. There would be workers on the board of directors and the workers would have a veto power on all matters of safety in the plant.

Mr. Warner: Called industrial democracy.

Mr. Bain: Yes, it is called industrial democracy. I hesitated to use that phrase with the government because last time I used it, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) didn't know what those words meant, so in this case I trust they understand what would take place if United Asbestos was operated as a Crown corporation. Not only would this be a model of worker participation in the running of a plant, it could also become a model of what can be achieved in safe working conditions in the asbestos industry.

The government has a strong obligation to act in the case of United Asbestos. Failure to do so will jeopardize the future health and happiness of countless men and their families.

If we look also at the area of agriculture, we find another area that the government has at best been slipshod about. I won't get into as many aspects of agriculture as I would like to today. If I recited the government's poor record in this area, I would be going on for several hours.

Suffice it to say that one matter that has been recently brought to my attention that disturbs me greatly is that two years ago the provincial government actively encouraged farmers to get involved in the production of industrial milk. This government instituted the Industrial Milk Production Incentive Programme, whereby it lent farmers money to set up an industrial milk operation.

If I might quote briefly from a letter that was sent out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to all farmers who enrolled, it goes as follows:

An increase in industrial milk production on your farm is required in order to obtain a refund on the principal payments that are due in the second, third, fourth and fifth years of the loan.

In order to qualify for the benefits of the loan the farmer had to increase production; but now what's happened?

The federal government has indicated to the farmers that they are to reduce production and, in fact, on recent pay cheques the farmers have received for their butterfat, they were paid for only 60 per cent of what was shipped. Can members imagine working and getting paid for only 60 per cent of the work they do, considering the rising costs that farmers are faced with?

One farmer I visited took out his loan in 1974. He was asked to fill out a sheet indicating his costs. At that time he estimated that in 1976 his hydro for a year would be \$350. His actual hydro for the two months just passed was \$250. His costs are escalating. He's in danger of losing all benefits under the industrial milk production incentive programme loan which he took out. He's going to be penalized on that loan and he's also being penalized because now he can't produce the milk he needs to pay off the loan.

This government, because it encouraged farmers to get into industrial milk, has an obligation at the very least to redo the terms of the incentive loan so that farmers won't be further penalized.

The government's record in cow-calf stabilization is not a good one. Recently it has been asking farmers to make a commitment to a \$10 premium per cow—whereas last year, it was \$5—without any commitment whatsoever from the government as to what the support price will be; or any sort of commitment as to what poundage of animal the support price will apply to.

Needless to say, farmers are not willing to accept this kind of pig-in-a-poke attitude by the government. It's time the government was straight with farmers, sat down with them and honestly negotiated with them for a decent support price for the cow-calf operators.

As I mentioned in my introductory remarks, and as I exposed to the House yesterday in my question to the Attorney General, there has been a caution on 110 townships in the Timagami area since 1973. Since many members are not aware of the situation in regard to the caution, I think it would be beneficial to outline some of the problems and some of the repercussions which will be evident if the government refuses to act.

On Aug. 14, 1973, a caution under section 48 of the Land Titles Act was registered in the land titles office in North Bay against unpatented lands in 110 townships in the Timagami area. This caution, in effect, has been a land freeze and has caused a great deal of

difficulty for people in the area, since they can't obtain any loans from the bank, because they can't receive clear title to their land. The community itself is unable to expand in any way. In effect, the community has been held in a state of limbo.

The government is supposed to assist in the resolution of this problem. A directive circulated within the Ministry of Natural Resources in the summer of 1974 indicated that the claim as registered by the Bear Island Indian Foundation is sufficiently strong that the claim should not be resolved through the courts for fear that the Crown would lose.

I might briefly add that the principle which would be established and set by this precedent would be the same one that would give the Indian people of the Northwest Territories the right to their claims in that area. In effect, this claim and its resolution is not only important for the Timagami area but is important for other areas of this province and of this nation.

[12:45]

The Attorney General's office therefore suggested very strongly to the Ministry of Natural Resources that its claim be resolved through negotiations that would be undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources with the Bear Island Indian band.

The Ministry of Natural Resources refuses to do anything, and in return indicates that it is something that should be settled by the Attorney General. But the Attorney General, as was indicated yesterday, is not really aware of the problem and his ministry is not doing anything. Nobody, whether in Natural Resources or the Attorney General's office, is doing anything to resolve the problem; and the people in the Timagami area are experiencing a great deal of difficulty.

That's just another area of government inaction. I hope, now that this has been pointed out clearly to the government, that it will embark upon a clearly stated policy to resolve the caution, either through negotiations or through the courts, so the people in the Timagami will know when they can expect this caution to be resolved.

Something that I could not believe when it was first brought to my attention—and I am sure the members in this House cannot believe it either—is that Northern Telephone Corp. is charging rural communities as much as \$800 to \$1,000 per phone as an installation charge. When was the last time anybody in an urban area was charged even \$100 to install a phone, let alone \$800 to \$1,000? If this was happening in Toronto, you could rest assured that the government would take

action. But because it is happening in a rural area, the government refuses to do anything.

I submit that the government has a moral obligation to ensure that people all across this province, whether they be in rural communities or in urban areas, get the same rates and the same rights. And I would suggest that the next time Northern Telephone applies to the Ontario Telephone Services Commission for a rate increase, which it is going to do within the next year, that the government should say there will be no rate increase until the people in the rural areas have phones installed at the same installation charge that is charged to urban dwellers.

Mr. Grossman: In Metro Toronto you sometimes can't get a phone at all.

Mr. Bain: I am sure that if you are a Tory backbencher the phone company is wide open to you. Unfortunately, these people don't have the same "ins" that you have.

Mr. Grossman: My people still can't get the phones.

Mr. Bain: The problem of educational TV is one that has been brought up in this House repeatedly by northern members. I would just like to add one thing; Everything they have said about the need in northern Ontario, about the lack of facilities in comparison to southern Ontario, is true—and I want to second what they have said.

The government was forced to go ahead with the transmitters at Sudbury and Thunder Bay, after it was pointed out by the official Opposition that we were going to lose \$900,000 by defaulting on those contracts to have those transmitters installed. The government grudgingly went ahead with the installation of those transmitters—but they will only be hooked into cable television in both those communities. I would simply like to point out that for an extra \$500,000 we could have those transmitting stations broadcasting to the communities of northern Ontario. How much money has the government spent on educational television in southern Ontario? Only \$500,000 would ensure that countless communities all across northern Ontario had access to educational TV. I am sure that even the government will admit that this is something that everybody in this province deserves and has a right to expect.

The report, tabled recently in this House, from the Ontario Educational Communications Authority, says in the preamble:

The goal of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority is to utilize

electronic and associated media to provide educational opportunities for all the people in Ontario.

It didn't just say for southern Ontario. So let's live up to the goals as outlined for the educational television network in this province.

Hospital cutbacks, Children's Aid; the topics themselves create a great deal of difficulty for me. I just cannot conceive how a government would use things like hospitals and children for political purposes.

All I can say is that cutting back in hospitals in this province is not warranted. The government talks about cutting back on frills. Ask the hon. member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) if we have any frills in the hospital line in northern Ontario. I'm sure he's not going to point to too many of them. I certainly can't point to any in my own riding.

The government is closing out the public labs. The public labs are cheaper than the privately-run labs. It's strange to note that public labs don't make a profit. I don't know whether this means that something that isn't dedicated to the profit motive is cheaper or not, but certainly that is a conclusion that could be drawn.

The private labs simply assess the government their fixed rate. There's no competition amongst them. Figures have shown that if the public health labs did the work that was done by the private labs the savings to the taxpayers would be approximately \$33 million in 1976 alone. I feel that the government has a moral obligation to keep the public health labs open. The one in North Bay provided extremely good service to northeastern Ontario and the private lab set-up the government has initiated will be a very poor substitute.

We hear an awful lot about the escalating cost in health care. I think one figure alone will put this into perspective. In 1970, the percentage of the Ministry of Health's budget in comparison with the total provincial budget was 33.6 per cent. That same percentage was down to 26.3 per cent in 1973. Where's the escalating health costs?

As to 5.5 per cent increase in the Children's Aid budget, such generosity is totally overwhelming. The government knows and has to admit that keeping the budget for the Children's Aid Society at 5.5 per cent is going to inflict many injuries upon the children of this province who need its services. In my riding alone the Children's Aid Society has said that 20 to 40 children this year will not

be able to receive the services required because of the cutbacks. Essential needs such as a group home for girls will not be able to be embarked upon. There'll be a further delay in the badly needed increase for foster parents' home rates and there may even be the possibility that the home for young boys in Haileybury will have to be closed.

Surely the government realizes that a few dollars now to provide adequate care for the children that are in need will not only be returned in financial terms, in that these people when they grow up will not need detention in training centres or perhaps even later in life in prisons, but it's also a tremendous return on that money in a human sense. Surely the government cannot turn its back on children who are in need in this province.

Another problem that arises for all people who represent natural resource industry areas is compensation. The Workmen's Compensation Board, when it was set up in 1914 under its Act, didn't progress very much from that date. I have one case I would briefly like to share with you that illustrates to me some of the severe shortcomings of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Recently a constituent came to me because his compensation had been cut back in 1972. He'd written for two years to the board for an explanation. His compensation was for a smashed hand. Finally, a letter came back saying his compensation had been reduced because the board had inadvertently made an error in the original settlement. This man had one finger missing from his hand, so when his hand was smashed and the compensation board calculated his pension, they deducted that finger from his compensation. Do they mean to tell me that when a man smashes a hand, because he had one finger missing already, in some way he still has the use of that missing finger as far as the Compensation Board is concerned in calculating his pension for the smashed hand? I would hope not.

The only thing that can be done to provide workers with decent compensation when they're injured in the work place is to enter into an insurance programme that would guar-

antee that workers would be able to apply, much like OHIP, and collect when they were injured and unable to work on the basis of their doctor's report. This compensation programme through insurance would be covered by a premium contribution from both the employer and the employee, which then could become an item of collective bargaining. I would feel this would be a far better, far more compassionate type of compensation to provide the workers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, would you entertain a motion for adjournment?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, if you are—

Mr. Bain: I have ended at one section and I have only a few more sections to cover, but I feel it would take me about 10 more minutes. If you want to go over the adjournment period, I'm quite willing—

Mr. Nixon: We don't.

Mr. Bain: —but I am sure the members would like to adjourn on time for today, so I'll move a motion of adjournment for today and continue on Monday. Thank you.

Mr. Bain moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, on Monday next will be the wind-up of the Throne debate with the vote on the amendments and the motion in reply to the Throne Speech at about 10:30 on Monday night.

On Tuesday, we will be in legislation until 6 o'clock, and then at 8 o'clock will be the budget speech. On Wednesday, I am advised that the House will not be sitting. On Thursday, we will have legislation in the afternoon and in the evening; and on Friday of next week we also anticipate legislation.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 967)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

7. Mr. Ziemba—Inquiry of the ministry:

How much did the LCBO purchase from Seagram's in each of the following years—1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974? How much did the LCBO purchase from Hiram Walker, Gooderham and Worts in each of the following years—1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974?

Answer by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

		Ounces
Purchases from Seagram's	1970	390,821,570
	1971	417,443,234
	1972	451,289,770
	1973	457,814,983
	1974	502,490,995
Purchases from Hiram Walker	1970	277,423,234
	1971	295,605,129
	1972	321,284,813
	1973	329,134,727
	1974	356,360,925
Purchases from Gooderham and Worts	1970	57,056,622
	1971	58,287,407
	1972	60,371,685
	1973	57,463,243
	1974	59,605,628

8. Mr. Nixon—Inquiry of the ministry:

What specific statutory authority permits the Minister of Health to close public hospitals which have been established, originally financed, and operated by municipalities and administered by locally elected boards?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

Subsection 2 of section 4 of the Public Hospitals Act provides that no premises shall be operated or used for the purposes of a hospital without the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Subsection 5 of the same section 4 provides that any approval given or deemed to have been given under the Public Hospitals Act in respect of a hospital may be suspended by the minister or revoked by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

In the case of each public hospital now being closed, the closure is being effected by the suspension and revocation of the prior approval.

(Concomitant with the foregoing, the public hospitals in question will, by an amendment to regulation 726 made under the Public Hospitals Act, be delisted from the schedule of public hospitals. Further, the hospitals in question will be delisted from the schedule of public hospitals in the regulation made under the Health Insurance Act, 1972. The effect of the latter is that such hospitals cannot thereafter provide insured hospital services).

10. Mr. Mackenzie—Inquiry of the ministry:

How many new contract, casual, part-time and unclassified employees have been employed at the psychiatric hospital in Hamilton since Oct. 1, 1975?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

Unclassified staff employed since Oct. 1, 1975

Group 1 (contract)	6
Group 2 (casual)	7
Part-time	4

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, April 5, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Oral questions.

DESIGN FOR ONTARIO LAND-USE PLAN

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I could, to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development: In conjunction with his major design for Ontario, which I understand is scheduled for publication later this week or early next week, why was it necessary, on the land-use question relating to the preservation of agricultural land, to hire an outside consultant from the Hedlin Menzies firm to produce a document for the government which the civil service itself was unprepared to produce?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I don't believe that the civil service was not prepared to produce it. The report was prepared in co-operation with the civil service at all times.

Mr. Lewis: I see. Now that we have it pinned down, by way of supplementary, when the provincial secretary is dealing with a matter of government policy, why does he bring in someone from the Hedlin Menzies firm to help create something which is largely an extension of everything we've seen for the last several years? Why was that necessary at all?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is talking about something which is a supposition on his part. It's not something that he has seen, as he said, largely for the last several years. It's something that is going to be absolutely different and very practical for the people of Ontario to deal with—

Mr. Lewis: I have a copy, and it is not different.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: And although he may have a copy which he thinks is something

the same as what has been happening in the past, that is not actually the case.

Mr. Lewis: It is a cop-out.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: Is it accurate that the department which has been living with this problem and its solutions for a long time, prepared a couple of documents, both of which were turned down by the cabinet and, therefore, the provincial secretary got a politically acceptable one from a consultant outside?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, no.

RENT INCREASES

Mr. Lewis: A question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Is he able to do anything about the rent dilemma at 118 Overbrook Pl., where notice for rent increases was given to the tenants on Jan. 26, 1976, to be effective March 1, 1976, in direct contravention of the 90-day notice required in the Landlord and Tenant Act, and yet the rent officer ruled that the increase would take effect on March 1, thereby violating the Act?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the option, of course, is open to the tenant to appeal to the Rent Review Board under those circumstances. In a situation where the rent review officer's finding is in violation of the law, I have every confidence that the board would find so.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, what can be done in this case? Is it possible, once I turn the material over to the minister, for him to encourage the tenants to make this direct appeal to the Rent Review Board, since they feel largely intimidated by the process even though they know from the rent review officials in North York, and from the landlord-tenant bureau, that there has been a violation of the law, they feel quite helpless?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I think it's very regrettable that anyone feels intimi-

dated by the process, although I appreciate that the complexity of the process may very well intimidate people. It is certainly not intended to do that, and I would appreciate receiving the information from the Leader of the Opposition so that I can look into it. I think we must appreciate, of course, that we will not direct either a rent review officer or the board to make a decision. This is an appeal process, which I think should be completely separated from the political process—even from the administrative process in the ministry.

PROPERTY TAX INQUIRY

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Treasurer, is there any substance to the rumour about a gentleman named Willis Blair launching a major commission inquiry into use and extension of property tax?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Not to my present knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Is it to the Treasurer's imminent future knowledge?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, there are many things which are not to my present knowledge but which will be unfolded to all of us in the fullness of time.

Mr. Lewis: Tomorrow night. Well, Willis is waiting, I guess, breathlessly.

TASK FORCE REPORT ON TRAINING SCHOOLS ACT

Mr. Lewis: One last question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Now that he has received the interministerial task force report on section 8 of the Training Schools Act and the consequences which flow from it, can the minister indicate when he will be prepared to make a specific statement to the Legislature on the disposition of children and the funding arrangements?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, with respect, the hon. Leader of the Opposition's intelligence may not be entirely accurate, in that I expect the interministerial study to be coming forward for recommendation through the policy field and then it will go on from there, presumably, to the cabinet.

Mr. Lewis: What is the timetable on that, may I ask?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I've been pressing very vigorously for some time to expedite that, and I'm hopeful that it will be soon.

FANCY LIQUOR BOTTLES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Are we to understand by the introduction of fancy new liquor bottles by the LCBO that its function has been altered from a liquor supply house to a promoter of increased liquor consumption? I refer to the fancy bottles the LCBO is very keen about now.

Mr. Sargent: It's the same old stuff.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what assumption the hon. member is making. The LCBO has been carrying liquor in fancy bottles for many many years and there is no special promotion on that kind of container.

Mr. Roy: That's not what they say.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I simply don't understand the question. The LCBO has been doing this for years and simply announced it is going to continue to do it.

Mrs. Campbell: That's not what they say.

Mr. S. Smith: As a supplementary, is the minister able to explain then the point of view taken by the LCBO that the new bottle marketing plan is one of their new directions and is expected to bring in an extra million dollars to the LCBO through sale of these fancy bottles? Can the minister explain why they should put forward that point of view?

Mr. Nixon: How about that?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the hon. member should understand that the minister who reports to this Legislature for the LCBO does not direct the LCBO. I would be glad to get an explanation, if one is really required.

Mr. Peterson: Like everything else.

Mr. S. Smith: Could the minister tell us whether he has been in consultation with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) concerning that latter minister's point of view about moving to fancy attractive bottles of this kind, rather than to standardized refillable bottles?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister of the Environment would object if the fancy bottles were put out for collection, but, of course, the purpose of the fancy bottles is that they remain in the person's home as an object of decoration in the home.

Mr. Peterson: You wouldn't have room in your house.

Mr. Reid: You must have run that through your shredder.

Mr. Lewis: If you had learned French, there is an expression for that.

LAB PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAMME

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the acting Minister of Health: Would the minister consider making the results of the laboratory proficiency testing programme administered by the OMA available to the doctors using these labs, as opposed to simply keeping them as something known to the labs and to the government and to the OMA?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, most of the physicians who use these labs are aware of the fact that the lab has been accredited. They may not be aware of the fact that the lab has not been accredited, and I would seriously consider that proposal.

Mr. S. Smith: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, in fact, I have received a positive reply but I'm afraid I didn't understand it. Could the minister please explain simply whether the results of the laboratory proficiency testing programme that goes on, that is a regular programme, would regularly be made available to the doctors using these labs? It's a pretty straightforward question, I thought.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the accreditation programme provides the laboratory with a certificate which is usually displayed within the laboratory. Therefore, the doctors who use the laboratories know whether, in fact, the laboratory has been accredited or not. They might not be aware as far as specific directions regarding upgrading certain tests are concerned, and they lose their licence if, in fact, they do not manage to keep abreast of the kinds of upgrading which has been suggested to them. If there was any merit in the thought of allowing physicians to know that laboratories need to be upgraded in certain specific tests, I would seriously consider that problem.

[2:15]

FLOOD DAMAGE

Mr. Rollins: Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious flooding in Hastings county, in Thurlow township and other municipalities south

of Highway 7, I would like to ask the provincial Treasurer what funds will be available for those who are affected by water damage and property loss in this area? There is a high water level this year. What steps can be taken in this area, and also in the area of the dam at Marmora where there has been considerable expense with sandbagging and other items?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I think there are perhaps two parts to the question. First of all, with respect to the damage which occurred, the Ministry of Natural Resources is the lead ministry in the case of flooding such as this. I am informed that they are assessing the situation to see what help can be provided and what further help may be needed.

In terms of provincial assistance, the first step would be to declare this a disaster area, and I understand that MNR and other ministries are assessing those facts to see what dollar damage there is. There is to be a meeting, as I understand it, on Friday of this week of the conservation authority. Officials from various ministries will be there and any decision on the part of the province will be taken after that meeting.

Mr. Rollins: Supplementary: With reference to the final decision which will be made after the meeting that has been arranged by the Moira Conservation Authority in this area on Friday, this will also pertain to a similar situation as it affects Marmora?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. O'Neil: A supplementary: I would ask if the Treasurer would keep my office informed as to the results of this meeting, as it affects part of my riding?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, any information requested by any hon. member will, of course, be supplied.

POLICE COMMISSIONS

Mr. Germa: A question of the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker: Now that the feds have passed legislation which precludes county and district court judges from receiving extra remuneration, will that not encourage the Solicitor General now to amend the Police Act to remove judges from the police commissions of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, yes, it is being considered by the cabinet as to whether or not an amendment will be necessary. I

personally am hoping that it will still be possible that some police commissions will retain the services of judges, but in view of the federal action it is quite possible that some judges will not want to act. In which case, I think it will be necessary to amend the Police Act, because we might be operating with only two commissioners in places where they call for three.

Mr. Germa: Supplementary: Do I take it that the minister favours retaining judges on police commissions in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I have expressed the personal view that I do favour retaining county court judges on police commissions.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: How can the minister, especially having a legal background, square the conflict of interest—which is real in some cases, but certainly there—of the judge sitting as a judge judging the actions of police officers and then also being on a police commission? How does he square that?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of difficulty in squaring a lot of relations, I suppose, in conflict-of-interest matters. But it seems to me that the judges of this province probably have fewer conflicts of interest and know how to deal with conflicts of interest better than many other people do. The suggestion has been made that municipal politicians should take the place of some of the county court judges. I don't know of any group that perhaps has more conflicts of interest than politicians.

Mr. Reid: Well, we are not dealing with that.

Mr. S. Smith: Speak for yourself.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: We all have to deal with these conflicts of interests. There are very many other virtues that judges bring to police commissions. I think it is reasonable that those virtues should outweigh some of the objections that my friend has to the judges.

ICE STORM DAMAGE

Mr. Spence: I have a question for the provincial Treasurer. Has the minister made any decision on the request of some towns and villages that they be designated as disaster areas to receive assistance to restore hydro, after the severe ice storm on March 2 which caused a tremendous amount of damage to those villages and towns? These municipali-

ties feel they must have some financial assistance or else it will be a hardship on them for a year or two.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, an interdepartmental committee was formed to assess the whole situation, I think with representatives from Ontario Hydro, the Minister of Energy, my own ministry, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Because this was a storm which did not fall into any category which heretofore we had contemplated, the Solicitor General's is therefore the lead ministry. There is a committee of officials examining what the damages were and the costs and the implications. They will be reporting in due course to cabinet through the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth).

WINDSOR TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Education: Does the minister agree with the Premier's (Mr. Davis) statement of last week to the effect that the Windsor Board of Education lockout of the teachers and students should be ended shortly by action of this House? I ask this question because it has led, in my opinion, to a slowdown in negotiations between that point and now. Will the minister clarify what his intentions are with respect to legislation, if at all, with respect to the Windsor situation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, Mr. Speaker, of course I agree with what the Premier has said. I think any thinking person would realize that an area where there was a 16-day strike in 1973, a 28-school-day strike in 1974-1975, and the thought of another strike that might go on 10, 20, 30 or 40 days affecting students who were affected by the other three strikes, has got to be considered in a different light from any of the other stoppages that we've had in this province. So therefore, I think the Premier very rightly expressed real concern at the time about a situation.

Mr. Roy: A real insight.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would have to disagree with my friend's statement that the statements made here last week, which I learned about in other areas, have impeded negotiations. I think the negotiations—

An hon. member: There should be a contract—

Mr. Lewis: You continue to support the Premier, do you?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I continue to support the Premier, of course—

Hon. Mr. Davis: As does the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —as does the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope that the Premier will continue to support me.

Mr. Moffatt: Well, that is nice.

Mr. Lewis: That was incestuous, that was.

Mr. Foulds: As the minister and the Premier have both admitted the situation in Windsor is quantitatively and qualitatively different from the other situations we have faced, does it mean that if the government is forced to legislation it will bring in more innovative legislation than it has to end the previous disputes?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to speculate on what type of legislation might be needed in this particular situation, if such is in fact needed. I think I've said many times in this House and will continue to say it, negotiated settlements are the best kind of settlements. I'm now making myself again familiar with what's going on in Windsor. The Education Relations Commission will be doing likewise. We're going to be seeing what innovative ways and means can be brought to bear to try to get a settlement in that particular area.

I might just say, for the member's information, the Education Relations Commission is meeting at 8 o'clock tomorrow evening in Central Algoma to listen to presentations from both parties, particularly as to whether the pupils' programmes are in jeopardy in that particular area, and at 9:30 on Wednesday morning in Sault Ste. Marie, to listen to presentations from both the board and the teachers in those particular areas.

Mr. B. Newman: Is the Education Relations Commission attempting to meet with both sides in the Windsor situation now?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, they will be deciding about that either today or tomorrow.

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, a question of the same minister, the Minister of Education: In view of the overwhelming success of the French immersion programme for English-

speaking students in Ottawa, and in the view of the fact that this programme is now in jeopardy because of a lack of funds from the province and the federal government, what is the minister doing to make sure that this programme continues and, in fact, is extended across the province?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, let me correct one wrong assumption that the hon. member has made. There's never been any definitive answer given to the four boards in the National Capital area that there would be no particular extra funds coming from this government toward those programmes. I met with the boards on Feb. 23 and they made a presentation to me in which they said they would need roughly \$3 million additional to continue on programmes which were begun with federal money for two years, then half federal and half our money in the last year. At that time, I said we would look at that and I asked our regional director to assess whether the \$3 million was, in fact, an accurate figure. This he has been doing, his reports are coming forward and we will be back to those boards probably next week. That's exactly what the situation is now.

I must say that also, at the same time, I gave them a letter from Mr. Faulkner which indicated that the federal government would not be making any more special grants, as it had been for the three years previous.

Mr. Roy: If I may ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Spicer report just recently, and of the fact that it is hoped emphasis will be put more on education of students than senior civil servants, and in view of the fact that the federal government seems to be suggesting there is no question about the success of the Ottawa programme and that the funds to the province are contingent on the extension of the programme not only for Ottawa but right across the province, what is the minister doing to extend this programme, not only from the Ottawa experiment but to other areas in the province?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, we have had no indication from the federal government that it was making available extra funds to us under the bilingualism programme for extension of programmes in this province. They've indicated that they do make available funds now and that they feel they're probably adequate for the extra costs necessitated because of bilingual programmes. I haven't seen or heard since the—

Mr. Roy: You should get in touch with Faulkner.

Hon. Mr. Wells: As a matter of fact, I talked on the phone with Mr. Faulkner this morning and we intend to meet in the very near future.

I just wanted to make it clear, though, that I've heard it said, and read a couple of times in the paper in the last few days, that federal money was there if we would extend our programmes, and I say that is not so.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: Is the minister satisfied that the present federal funding for limited programmes of French education in Ontario schools is adequate for the kind of immersion which is clearly proving successful in helping kids to become totally bilingual?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think my friend should perhaps wait until the research from the Ottawa programmes is presented at a research colloquium that's going to be held on April 26 in Ottawa, to see whether in fact the oft-held notion that immersion programmes actually are very costly things is actually a true one. I'm not sure that after one pays the startup costs, the actual cost of immersion programmes—taking away the cost needed to prepare curriculum material, which I think we have to face and we are facing—are indeed that much greater, and I see boards like the Scarborough board moving from two schools to three schools with immersion programmes without any particular special financial incentives provided.

Mr. Cassidy: What steps is the minister prepared to take in order to ensure, if the points he makes are correct, an adequate supply of qualified teachers? That's where the bottlenecks are going to arise if immersion is to be offered across the province.

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are prepared to take the very necessary steps in this regard. We agree that's where the bottlenecks are, and part of our programme was outlined in the Gillin report and part of our thrust now has to be in that particular area. A lot of the money that is needed will have to be spent there, not necessarily on increased grants to school boards but on programmes to get the teachers available so that they can offer the programmes in the boards.

POLICE CHASES

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh)

asked me if I would consider tabling a report which I received from the OPP in connection with the Acton fatalities and I am pleased to do that now. It is dated March 9, 1976, and is the report to me from the Ontario Provincial Police of that accident together with a copy of the statement made by the officer immediately after the accident and the diagram involved.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT ON FOOD

Mr. Burr: A question of the acting Minister of Health: How has the ministry reacted to the three-year study at the University of Guelph revealing that fluorescent lighting has a harmful effect on foods displayed in stores—food such as milk and butter—destroying vitamins in as little as three hours?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would think that question would more properly be directed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. However, we are aware of that report and I am aware that stores—the large stores—have been made aware of this potential problem. I am not sure what the retailers are doing about it at the moment.

Mr. Burr: A supplementary: Inasmuch as I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) the same question three weeks ago and he referred me to the Minister of Health and some other ministers unnamed, I think it is about time the government got busy on this problem.

STUDENT SEMINARS

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Labour: Based upon predictions coming from the government's own youth secretariat that there will be up to 150,000 students this summer unable to get employment, will the ministry be starting any special crash programmes to assist them this summer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware of the fact that Experience '76 has established a larger number of job opportunities for the students in this province than we had originally planned to do. We have no further plans right at this time. However, the youth secretariat has been very diligent in its exploration of the problem and in its advertisement of the opportunities for young people. I must say that the applications have been coming in very rapidly.

An hon. member: Where are the jobs?

Hon. B. Stephenson: In all the ministries.

An hon. member: You are sidetracking.

Mr. Sweeney: Would the minister be prepared to speak to her colleague from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and perhaps suggest that some large sums of unspent money might be used to set up special programmes in culture and recreation as crash programmes for this summer?

Mr. Ruston: From Wintario.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think the member has done that most effectively, sir.

Mr. Warner: In all these deliberations, is the Minister of Labour aware that there likely will be at least 120,000 students without work this summer?

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the preceding speaker had a larger figure than that one; however, I am not sure that either of them is correct.

An hon. member: It's misleading, that's what it is. No OFY programmes.

NEWMARKET COURTHOUSE

Mr. Hodgson: I don't know whether or not the Attorney General is aware—I am sure he is aware of the bad condition of the courthouse in Newmarket—that on Friday of last week due to that poor condition of the building and due to the building having—

Mrs. Campbell: Question?

Mr. Hodgson: —no handrails, Judge Munroe fell down and was seriously hurt. Judge Munroe comes from Lindsay, Ont.

An hon. member: This is a speech.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Hodgson: The question I would like to ask the—

Mr. Lewis: Are you saying if he hadn't come from Lindsay he wouldn't have fallen?

Mr. Hodgson: Well, you may think it is funny but it is not funny when you have a gentleman who is administering justice and he falls down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hodgson: If you think that is a joke, you are not fit to sit in this chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hodgson: Can the Attorney General tell me where are the plans at the present time for the new courthouse? Have they gone to the architects or the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener), or are they in the minister's department?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of this misfortune in relation to the judge. I do recognize the fact that there is a new courthouse required in that area. The plans have been prepared and I hope it's a matter that we will be able to proceed with in the near future, but—

Mr. MacDonald: Which year?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As to which year, I am not prepared to give a specific answer at this time, but I can say that the matter of the courthouse in Newmarket is receiving the highest of priorities in so far as the Ministry of the Attorney General is concerned.

Mr. Bullbrook: By way of supplementary: Would the Attorney General consider handrails as a stop-gap measure?

SHORTAGE OF SEALING LIDS

Mr. Swart: A question, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Is he aware of the projected shortage of sealer lids for home canning this year and what is he doing to prevent that shortage?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is suggesting the government get into the production of sealing equipment for home canning, I would say we are doing nothing along that line.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The same situation arose last year and we advised all home canners to try to make arrangements with their hardware stores and their suppliers for early supplies. That's all we can do. We are not going to go into the manufacture of this product.

Mr. Swart: In view of the fact that the minister has admitted there is apparently going to be a shortage, is he prepared to give any direction so that there is at least a fair

supply made for home canning? What steps will he take to ensure that there isn't the price ripoff that took place in previous years?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, there is a limit to government intervention in the marketplace and that's it.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Let them suffer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INSURANCE AGAINST RADIATION

Mr. Sargent: A question of the Minister of Energy: Is he aware of the fact that no insurance company in North America or in Canada will give one cent of insurance against nuclear power radiation and, further, that the State of California now is voting on a plebiscite regarding any future development of nuclear power plants? Can the minister tell me why Ontario citizens can't have the same right to vote against a \$30-billion project in nuclear power in this province?

An hon. member: We're waiting for the budget.

Mr. Yakubuski: Do you want to take it away, Eddie?

Mr. Sargent: Yes, I do.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact the Ontario voters have had three such occasions on which to vote against nuclear power—in 1967, 1971 and 1975—and they returned the party which put it in.

Interjections.

Mr. Moffatt: This may be the last time you have the chance.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am aware, Mr. Speaker, of the plebiscite which is being held in the State of California on June 5. We are all, of course, interested in how that will turn out. I was in California about a month ago on a holiday and viewed for myself some of the material which is being distributed—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are trying to hear the answers too.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Does somebody else want to say it instead?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister will continue, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How about if we put it on the ballot with seatbelts?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As for the question of insurance, I would think that should be more properly put to my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), as it relates to the insurance industry.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary: Do I understand the minister to say that we have had plebiscites on nuclear power for the people of Ontario directly?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, what I was referring to is the fact that there have been three general elections in this province since the basic decision was taken, and the people of Ontario had the opportunity to hear the comments of the member's party—I am not sure where his party stands on this or any energy-related issue, notwithstanding memos that have gone to his leader on this question—and they have shown their decision.

Mr. Lewis: That's seatbelts and power plants.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What else do you want on the ballot?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INTERFLOW SYSTEMS

Mr. Davison: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of the Environment: Would the minister table in the House the results of the investigation that his ministry's officials conducted into Interflow Systems of Hamilton as a result of a citizen's complaint in December, 1975; particularly those sections dealing with the company's disposal of mercaptan, so we can understand why charges were not laid against the company for acting in such a dangerous and irresponsible fashion?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to table or give the hon. member any information or correspondence dealing with Interflow and that particular matter.

SECURITY AT DON JAIL

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. What, if any, instruction has his ministry given surrounding the security at the Don Jail wherein on this weekend there was a jail break from the exercise yard where prisoners formed a human pyramid and hoisted a prisoner over the walls to a successful escape?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have asked for a full report on this. My initial understanding is there were 80 inmates in the exercise yard and two correctional officers and there were additional correctional officers on the other side of the wall; they were equipped with walkie-talkies and they were able to alert them immediately when the pyramid was discovered and the man was over the wall. In fact, when the inmate who made the break found he was being chased by the police—

Mr. Reid: Transfer the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman).

Mr. Breithaupt: He is in charge of pyramid schemes, isn't he?

Hon. J. R. Smith: —he turned around and turned himself over to one of the correctional officers in pursuit.

Mr. Cassidy: After he swam the Don River.

Interjections.

COST OF SABBATICALS

Mr. Yakabuski: Mr. Speaker, I have a question. I guess it could be directed to either the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) or the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott), or both.

Mr. Martel: Take your pick.

Mr. Yakabuski: I, and I'm sure, a great number of the taxpayers of this province would be—

Mr. S. Smith: Question. Question.

Mr. Reid: Speech. Speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, we're wasting time.

Mr. Yakabuski: —anxious to know what sabbaticals are costing the taxpayers of the Province of Ontario. This being an era of restraint, when are we going to end the sabbatical ripoff?

Mr. Sweeney: Better have a conference.

Mr. Speaker: Does one of the ministers wish to answer that?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're wasting valuable time. Does one of the hon. ministers wish to answer that?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Is the minister going to answer?

An hon. member: Quit while you're ahead, Harry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Sabbaticals are for those who use their brains.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Wentworth with a question.

Mr. Deans: Is the minister going to answer or not? He can answer if he wants.

Mr. MacDonald: Your cabinet bows out.

PROTECTION FOR CONDOMINIUM BUYERS

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Can the minister indicate what steps he's prepared to take now, given that we don't yet have home warranties, to protect purchasers of condominiums against delays in registration; against rent continuing to be charged far beyond the period where the registration ought to have taken place; against workmanship that is downright shoddy; and against people like Settlement Corp., who made it clear in their advertising that the people who purchased would be eligible for the government's \$1,500 homeowner grant but who are now in doubt as to whether or not they will be because they didn't complete the project on time?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the amendments which were brought in to the Condominium Act last year in our view, and I think in the view of most of the members of the House, achieved most of the objectives which the hon. member is questioning.

As far as the misrepresentation concerning home grants is concerned, a buyer of a condominium has protection under the Business Practices Act and he can actually rescind the contract, provided, of course, there has been misrepresentation. It takes more than an allegation to prove it.

Certainly as far as speedy registrations are concerned, the amendments to the Act last year should have achieved that. If there are any specific cases where there appears to be deliberate delay on the part of the original developer, I would be pleased to know of

them because our property rights division would look into it.

[2:45]

Mr. Deans: Does the minister have within his attention the situation which currently exists in Hamilton with regard to the Settlement Corp. development on Upper Ottawa St., whereby those people were assured in the advertising they would qualify for the home owner grant and where there are now some serious questions and reservations as to whether or not they will, as a result of the company involved not having completed the business it had to complete in time to allow them to qualify?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: To the best of my recollection, I don't know if that has come to my personal attention. There have been a number of cases involving condominium purchases where the homeowner's grant was not paid because of some confusion as to the terms. If there is any confusion as to the terms of eligibility for that grant, those questions should be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen), who administered the payment of the grant.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are several people wishing to ask questions along here. I forget who was first. I think it was the member for Windsor-Walkerville.

Mr. B. Newman: I will yield to my leader, Mr. Speaker.

SYNCRUDE PROJECT

Mr. S. Smith: Now that the Minister of Energy is in the House, I have a question to ask him. Could the minister explain to us some of the utterings by the Energy Minister of Alberta who, with regard to Syncrude and the Alberta-Ontario negotiations, has said that Ontario was about to reach agreement and then changed its mind and backed off and who has said that, long before they will risk the Syncrude plan, they will let Ontario withdraw? Can the minister explain whether Ontario is thinking of withdrawing from Syncrude; and could he explain why the Alberta Energy Minister should have made comments of this kind? What is the state of these negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't know the date of those remarks. Could the hon. member say what year those remarks were made?

Mr. S. Smith: It was about three weeks to a month ago.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If the hon. member had been in the House last week, he would know that I met with the Minister of Energy of Alberta, the Minister of Energy of Canada, and representatives of the private sector last week—well there is Hansard—and all outstanding issues were put aside.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: But has it been settled? Forgive me if I missed the minister's original remarks but this is quite important. Did he in fact settle with Alberta on the rate of return to the Alberta Energy Co. which was the problem at the time and what is that rate that he has settled at?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the final documents have yet to be signed, so I would like to take that last part as notice.

Mr. Peterson: A surprise on signing day or what?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I indicated in the House some time ago that Ontario was not considering withdrawing. I thought that must have been an old report. The member has confirmed that in fact it is, and since then we have met.

Mr. Reid: Will the minister table the documents when they are signed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: When they are signed, I will take that as notice.

COST OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Ms. Bryden: I have a question of the Premier. Will the Premier obtain for us the figure on the cost to the taxpayers of the party which was given for the consular corps at the Art Gallery of Ontario in February; and does he think that perhaps this kind of public entertainment should be eliminated in a period of restraint when there is not enough money for a cost-of-living escalation for social allowance people?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would be quite delighted to get that figure for the hon. member.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mr. Mancini: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that it has been mentioned there will be chemical spraying against encephalitis, and in view of the fact that the bee-keeping industry of Essex county has suffered thousands of dollars of damage due to spraying last year,

what is the ministry going to do to prevent more of this; and what is the ministry going to do about damages suffered last year?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member knows a number of municipalities will be taking part in a spraying programme this year. The pesticide advisory council of my ministry attempts to advise local authorities how to conduct the spraying operation as safely as possible. Along with the Ministry of Health, we make recommendations as to the type of pesticides we feel are safe and effective. So, hopefully, the damage that occurred in the hon. member's area last year won't be repeated this year.

As far as last year is concerned, this was a municipal undertaking. We did not have the same type of surveillance, shall we say, in control over the municipality as will exist in this year's programme. We advise as to the type of pesticide but not as to the method of application and how to apply it, whether by aircraft or otherwise. I don't feel there is any obligation on the part of the province to reimburse those people who suffered damages. I think they should look to the municipality.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, there were meetings of the ministers of finance on Thursday and Friday of last week, and I thought I would table today the three statements which I made at the conference. I am also tabling two additional documents tabled at that meeting; one is a review of financing issues of the Canada Pension Plan, while the other one examines the federal costing of a recent guaranteed income proposal. The latter study shows the huge cost of proceeding with the kind of support and supplementation additions being considered by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the House would not sit on Wednesday, April 7, but will sit on Wednesday, April 14; and when the House adjourns on Wednesday, April 14, it will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 20.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is to repeal section 34 of the Public Utilities Act, which now provides for debentures issued on behalf of public utilities to be secured by the utility works and the land on which they are situated. Since debentures issued by municipalities are not secured on any specific asset, the repeal of section 34 brings the Act into conformity with this fact.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose last, I believe the hon. member for Timiskaming was making some remarks.

Mr. Bain: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to conclude by briefly discussing two final items that are of concern to the people in my riding—OHIP charges as made by some doctors and the growing power of multi-national corporations.

Recently, a young boy was injured while involved in sports activities in the riding away from his home. This was very early in the morning and he was rushed to the hospital, where he had to wait a considerable length of time. The nurse in charge phoned the doctor on duty. The doctor wouldn't come to the hospital but prescribed two pain pills. These were taken by the boy. He got more than a little restive, so finally he left the hospital.

Several days passed and the family received a bill for \$17 from that doctor. The mother, of course, was very concerned about this and contacted the hospital, as the hospital was not in her home town, and she wanted to know exactly what was going on.

A spokesman for the hospital told her: "Why should you care? You're not paying for

it; it's OHIP. Just give us your OHIP number." Needless to say, the mother refused to do this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are far too many loud, private conversations going on and it's not fair to the hon. member who has the floor. Would you please carry them on at a very low level or outside someplace? Thank you very much.

Mr. Bain: Especially the members from the government side Mr. Speaker, for I'm sure they'll want to follow some of my suggestions in fixing up OHIP.

The mother, as I mentioned, wrote the doctor in question for clarification of why the family would have been charged \$17 for the doctor merely prescribing two pain pills over the phone. The letter that came back stated that the charge was now \$5.

This whole experience indicates that in many cases charges are made by doctors when people have no idea what they are for. They don't even know they've ever been made because the hospital or the doctor has the OHIP number on file. The only reason this case was ever brought to anyone's attention was that the family in question did not normally go to this hospital and the hospital did not have their OHIP number.

I strongly urge the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) to investigate a system—perhaps it could be a credit card system similar to that used by gas companies—whereby the patient would have an accurate record of the charges that were made by the doctor in this patient's name. I feel this would eliminate the abuse that exists and, far more important, it would also clear the names of many doctors who do not indulge in this sort of shady practice. The vast majority of doctors do not do this and their reputations are being unduly blemished by those doctors who do indulge in this type of a practice.

Another item that is of concern to me and also to working people in Timiskaming and all across this province is a reference that was made in the Throne Speech to the need to eliminate industrial strikes from the private sector. I feel that this can only be a method that would further take away the rights of collective bargaining. These rights are badly enough mutilated in this province already. They can't afford to be curtailed any more.

The problem that exists in collective bargaining and in inflation is actually the multinational corporation. In the 18 months up to last August, the nickel corporations, Inco, Sherritt Gordon, Falconbridge, etc., raised the

price of nickel five times for a total increase in that period of 44 per cent. In the two years 1973 and 1974, the average weekly wages and salaries paid in Canada rose by 21.8 per cent and the cost of living by 22.7 per cent.

You'll notice, Mr. Speaker, that the rise in the cost of living in that time period was greater than the increase in wages. So what has happened with all these big wage settlements that the working man is supposed to have been extracting? How come inflation has been rising even faster than wage settlements? What about Inco and Falconbridge and all the rest who raised nickel prices 44 per cent in 18 months? What action is the government going to take to curb their avarice for profit? It's obvious that the real power isn't in the hands of the working people, whether they be unionized or non-unionized.

Mr. Martel: They walk across the water.

Mr. Bain: We read about strikes all the time in the newspaper, but they are always strikes by working men and women. We never read about strikes by capital and corporations. What about the potash corporations which have been on strike against the people of Saskatchewan? They've been refusing to report financial data that is required under Saskatchewan law. They fail to pay royalties and taxes required by law and they refuse to expand the industry so that the province's potash production can grow to meet world demands.

[3:00]

Mr. Martel: They won't have to worry about it much longer.

Mr. Bain: We never hear any screaming headlines against the corporations when they hold people and whole provinces for ransom. It's very fortunate that in this country we have one government that's willing to stand up to the corporations—

Mr. Nixon: That's the government of Canada.

Mr. Bain: I hope this government will pursue some of the policies enunciated by the Saskatchewan government and get into natural resource industries.

Mr. Martel: They'll give another tax concession.

Mr. Bain: The least the government can do is extract a decent tax from them.

Mr. Martel: Oh God, heaven forbid, no! Do you want to bankrupt them?

Mr. Bain: Just as Saskatchewan has, it's time the government of Ontario stood up to Inco. Does the government think it could meet that challenge?

Mr. Martel: No way.

Mr. Bain: It's time the government, on behalf of the people of this province, also stood up to Falconbridge and to United Asbestos.

I believe that the people of Timiskaming and of this province have basic inalienable rights that this government is thwarting. This government has forgotten about people. This government has forgotten that the most important thing in our society is the needs of people. The desire of a mill worker at United Asbestos to grow old and enjoy his grandchildren. The hope of a young farm family that they'll be able to stay on the farm. The legitimate wish of the people of Timagami and area that they be able to enjoy the normal rhythm of growth experienced by other communities. The wish of a rural family to have a telephone at a price they can afford. The prayer of a young northern Ontario mother who would like to be able to have ETV so there will be suitable alternatives for her children to view—

Mr. Martel: Ask Bob Welch about that.

Mr. Bain: The young girl with emotional problems who pleads for a Children's Aid group home so that she will not be sent to a training school or a reform school. The injured worker who asks for proper compensation so that he can support his family with dignity.

The people of Timiskaming and of this province demand justice. What will the answer of this government be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Huron-Bruce.

Mr. Martel: He's speaking from the second row.

Mr. Gaunt: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to pay tribute to you, sir, for the job which you do in this chamber on behalf of us all. It's not an easy or enviable job, but I say to you, sir, that given the make-up of the House, I think we all agree that you do a very commendable job.

At the same time, I want to pay tribute to the Deputy Speaker and to offer my congratulations to him on his appointment. He certainly has a faculty of getting along and pursuing the matters at hand so that he can call up the co-operation of all of the members in the House to get the job done; and I'm sure that we're all very grateful for that.

I want to talk about a number of things today but I want, first of all, to comment on the government's restraint programme. The whole emphasis in the Throne Speech was on the matter of restraint. Restraint is the new byword of the government. It's rather amusing, and sometimes a little sad, that the government hasn't come to recognize the word long before now, because the fact of the matter is that only after the horses get out of the barn and have almost gone out of sight down the road—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You are the fellows who opened the door.

Mr. Gaunt: —does the government realize that, somewhere along the line, it has got to embrace restraint. So here we are, entering into a phase on behalf of the provincial government where restraint is the byword in the application of all government programmes.

It's interesting to note that in this period of restraint the government doesn't hesitate to save money on the one hand and pour it out the pipe on the other. I draw to your attention, sir, a number of things that have been drawn to my attention from time to time in this regard. I have to mention—it's been mentioned before—the \$67,000 renovation for the Lieutenant Governor's suite; the \$500,000 undertaken to be spent by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to see whether high school students can read and write when they graduate; and the fact that while the government closed down the public health laboratory in Kenora to save \$12,700 it had no qualms about spending \$9,500 to provide a car for the Deputy Minister of Health.

I noticed also in the paper a while ago that the Ministry of Natural Resources flew 300 Canada geese down to Tennessee, all in the period of restraint. Not that I have anything against Canada geese but I think surely there are other priorities—

Mr. Ruston: They have wings of their own. They went down on a wing and a prayer.

Mr. Gaunt: —in terms of government spending rather than doing that.

I presume that restraint has hit the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as well and while I have mentioned the raspberry case a number of times in this House I am going to mention it again. It was my view that the raspberry buyers' free programme was being cut off as a vindictive measure on the part of the government simply because it lost a court case to the extent of having to pay something just over \$100,000 to a farmer who got the wrong plants from the ministry and who discovered some years later that he couldn't sell the wrong variety which he had been given.

That resulted in a court case in which he collected over \$100,000, and shortly after that was resolved the government decided that it would simply phase out the programme. I saw that as a vindictive act on the part of the government. I just thought it was a sore loser.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) tells me that is not the case but that there were other factors involved, and I am prepared to take his word on that. The only thing I draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this was a very important programme and one which served a very real need of the farmers who grow strawberry and raspberry plants in this province—indeed, in this country.

I draw to your attention also the fact that the Ontario Food and Vegetable Growers' annual meeting passed resolutions asking that since no source of virus indexed to raspberry plants in Ontario is available the government have the raspberry programme reinstated immediately, and that the strawberry certification programme be continued.

As I understand it, both are going to be phased out and there are some plants going to the organization which will distribute them to the farmers. I think that is a far cry from what was in effect previously and I hope the ministry reconsiders.

There has been a lot said about hospital closings and what effect they have had on the communities involved. I don't want to repeat that but I just want to make a few comments with respect to the Clinton Hospital by way of reinforcement of what has already been said.

The fact is Clinton was a very efficient hospital—perhaps the most efficient hospital in the county of Huron. It did more operating in its facility than any other single hospital in the county. Its x-ray equipment was the most modern and efficient, outside of the largest city hospital. It had heart machines; it had a dialysis unit; it was a good

operation, in short. That's the one the ministry decided it was going to close down.

I know that the per diem rate is not a true indicator of the cost of operating a hospital because of the way in which these things are financed on a global budget basis, but nonetheless I think there has to be some correlation between the establishment of the per diem rate and the actual operating cost of that hospital, given the fact that it's not really the bed that's the costly thing, it's the support services within that hospital that are the costly items.

Nonetheless, I draw to your attention and to the attention of the House, Mr. Speaker, that the average cost per patient stay in some of the larger hospitals—now this is an average of the 400 to 600 bed hospitals in the province—is \$1,220.59. In Wingham Hospital, which is a 100-bed hospital, the average cost of patient stay is \$780, but in Clinton it's \$547. In my view, any way one cuts that, it means that the average cost of treating a patient in Clinton Hospital is much less than the average—even the average of the smaller hospitals, not to mention the large hospitals.

It seems to me that there are other alternatives to what the ministry has proposed. I think people would accept the cutbacks. People accept the fact that restraint is necessary. Notwithstanding what I said at the beginning of my speech with respect to the waste the government was engaging in even in a period of restraint, which in my view destroys to a great extent the credibility of the government's restraint programme, I think most people could accept the fact that there have to be cutbacks—cutbacks in a number of areas including hospital beds. In short, cutbacks, yes, but closure never, and I think that pretty well sums up the feeling of people across the province who have been affected by hospital closings.

Let me move on to a matter having to do with the Workmen's Compensation Board. I spoke to the minister back in the fall about this matter and I want to put some of these comments on the record, in connection with the workmen's compensation appeal system, how it's working, what the problems are as I see them and what I think can be done to improve the situation. I won't take the time of the House to review all of the background leading up to the creation of the current appeal system other than to say that it did have a somewhat difficult birth, commencing with the select committee of the House which investigated the workings of the Workmen's Compensation Board three years ago.

The committee found there were certain deficiencies in the operation of the board but recommended that a consulting firm be hired to make specific recommendations as to how the operation could be improved. A consulting firm was engaged, namely P. S. Ross and Co., which interestingly enough seems to specialize in clearing up messes that the Tory government finds itself in from time to time. Needless to say, they have been gainfully employed for some while.

Diverting for a moment to the select committee of the House, it was acknowledged by all that one of the chief complaints of the injured workmen was that it took so long to get a final decision from the Workmen's Compensation Board. In those days, this was acknowledged as a problem which involved five or six or maybe even eight weeks from the time a file left the claims department until a decision of the board might be rendered for or against the workman. This wasn't good enough and consequently one of the main requirements of the task force and its experts, P. S. Ross and Co., was to devise a system whereby a workman could get a final answer on a much quicker basis.

Much research went into this vital problem. I believe the present chairman, Mr. Starr, travelled across Canada, examined jurisdictions in the United States and came back with many ideas. The upshot of all this was that a new appeal system was devised; in fact a very complicated system. One needs to be an expert in finding one's way through it. It's true the appeal structure has isolated itself from the administrative sections of the board by taking over the 21st floor of the Fidinam building that stands at Bloor and Yonge.

[3.15]

If I can be permitted a digression for a moment, that Fidinam building is something else again. If you want to get to the 21st floor you ride there on an express elevator. If a member of the staff is called up to give an explanation to a member of the adjudication division he must go by local elevator, and it is challenging for any person to try to travel between floors of the Workmen's Compensation Board system on the local elevators. If you stand on any administrative floor with a stopwatch and time yourself to see how long it takes you to get an elevator to go to another floor, one can readily understand why it takes an injured workman, or even a Member of Parliament, so long to get information on some of these files, because one must remember that the compensation board no longer occupies a mere five-floor building. It

now occupies every floor between the sixth and 21st floors in that famous building.

Mr. Ruston: No wonder they say they lose their files.

Mr. Nixon: What a fiasco that was from the word go.

Mr. Gaunt: This is not a criticism of the administrative staff. It is a criticism, however, of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Nixon: Sold out for 50 grand.

Mr. Ruston: For 50 grand and they've got a mess now.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The elevator works perfectly fine; you just haven't been there recently.

Mr. Gaunt: Yes, I have. That's where I got a lot of my information as a matter of fact.

Hon. B. Stephenson: This week?

Mr. Gaunt: Yes, this week.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Not from the administration, no way.

Mr. Ruston: They have a habit of losing files over there, too.

Mr. Nixon: You haven't got those people intimidated.

Mr. Gaunt: May I say to the minister that I have talked to some of the administrative people, I talked to one of them as late as this week—last week, this is Monday.

Mr. Wildman: They completely revitalized the whole thing over the weekend.

Mr. Gaunt: Yes, they must have.

Mr. Nixon: They have now, the minister spoke to them a couple of days ago.

Mr. Gaunt: The fact of the matter is that the building was never built for the purpose of the Workmen's Compensation Board; the board was made to fit into the building, rather than the other way around.

Mr. Wildman: That's not what Starr said.

Interjection.

Mr. Gaunt: No it's not hogwash, it's true.

Let me get down to cases. I want to describe to you, Mr. Speaker, the procedure in handling a file that one might follow on behalf of a constituent. This is the case of a man feeling he is entitled to additional benefits beyond those paid by the administrative de-

partment. Therefore, he gets in touch with the board by letter and he sits back and waits. I know that the letter will find its way to the file in the section and if the man has been fortunate enough to express himself fairly clearly the matter will be referred to the review branch. This takes an average of a week or 10 days.

The review branch sees the file, looks for any way in which it can be of assistance to the man and if not, as is the case in this particular matter, it simply writes a letter back to the man reviewing the case and closing off with the sentence that he has the right to further appeal through the appeal structure of the board. He is given instructions to file his appeal with the registrar of appeals, who then will see that the file is processed.

So far, approximately two to three weeks have passed since the man got in touch with the board with regard to possible future additional payments, or treatment, or rehabilitation, or any other benefit that might come under the Act.

It is then assigned to an official known as an appeals examiner. We have now reached the nub of the appeal system. The appeals examiner now holds a *viva voce* inquiry—which is a change. It used to be that an initial examination for the purposes of determining whether the matter was ready for a *viva voce* hearing was held, but this is now discarded and it goes immediately for a *viva voce* inquiry.

The appeals examiner has the authority, and rightly so, to direct that all additional administrative steps be taken in order that the full information might be made available on the file before the inquiry. A *viva voce* hearing is ordered, the file is returned by the examiner to the appeals secretary, who then sets up an appointment for a hearing.

On last checking, I found that there was approximately eight to 10 weeks' wait before a hearing could be held in Toronto on behalf of the workman, so we add another eight to 10 weeks to the schedule. This brings us up to a total of at least 11 to 13 weeks before the man gets a chance to say his piece in front of the examiner as to why he should have additional compensation.

I have been to these appeal inquiries. They are not courts. The appeals examiners are men who know their work. They know the statutes. They know what is required. They know what to look for, and instructions from the board are admirable. They are there to see what can be done, in any way within the

framework of the statute, to assist the workman. Consequently, there might be some delay.

After hearing the workman, the examiner may feel that further local investigation is required. He may feel that further evidence from witnesses is required. All of this, of course, brings about further delay. But even if there were no such delay, the examiner must weigh all the information he has, sit down and write it. What does he write? In fact, he writes a decision, but it is not a decision that goes out over his signature as an examiner. He simply gives the decision, which is then ghost written, and he has to come back and get it co-signed by a commissioner. That's in response to one of the recommendations that was suggested by the task force. Consequently, whatever findings are made by the examiner must, in fact, be co-signed or agreed with by another person who comes within the terms of the statute; that is, a commissioner.

I can never imagine that the 1974 amendments to this statute intended that the commissioner should have his decision ghost-written for him by someone else. There is provision in the statute for the office of appeals examiner, but the man who takes responsibility, the man who puts his signature on the order, which represents an order of a corporation set up under the statute of the Province of Ontario, and who in fact holds an appointment made by the cabinet itself, he must either accept the findings of the appeals examiner or go against the decision as written by the appeals examiner and say: "No, I don't agree with that. I want this matter brought back before a full panel of the board itself."

In actual practice, a commissioner very seldom disputes the decision of the examiner. Nevertheless, I think we can appreciate the iniquitous position in which both the appeals examiner and the commissioner find themselves. The appeals examiner is a man of many years' experience in the compensation system. He knows how to adjudicate. He knows the requirements of the statute. He has the ability to reach conclusions with respect to practically any problem under the statute, and yet he himself has no authority to implement those.

But let us get back to the time picture; that's really what I want to deal with here. From the time the appeals examiner dictates his decision it is approximately two weeks before this comes back to him in printed form. This is owing strictly to the volume of material which passes across the desks of

these eight men and their overworked secretaries. These files and the decisions are then handed, of course, to the commissioners. Here is another time lag. Depending on the availability of the persons concerned, it may well be another week to 10 days before the decision, approved without amendment perhaps, reaches the mail.

Some three weeks after the man has had his day before the appeals examiner, he receives an anonymous document—since no signatures appear at the bottom—setting out the findings. He also receives another little slip which tells him that if he doesn't like the findings, he can always appeal.

Once again, he thrusts himself into the mill—and this is where the real slowdown starts. In fact, he has reached the point where he is asking to appear before the board of commissioners. It doesn't matter that he has already been heard by an expert; it doesn't matter that his file has been raked over and combed to see if there is any other point in the man's favour which can help him. The government feels that the man should have the right to go before a board of appointed commissioners as opposed to appointed officials.

Therefore, to get an appointment to go to the board, he writes to the registrar of appeals. No questions are asked as to the merits of the appeal or as to the purpose of the appeal. He is automatically put on the list and the wheels of the mills start to grind. Files are prepared for the commissioners. And the commissioners for the most part, do not feel that they want to read the files, though perhaps some of them do; but in the wisdom of the system summaries of the entire files are prepared for the benefit of the commissioners, and this takes time.

The man had to wait 11 to 13 weeks to say his piece to the examiner. Now he has to wait another three to four weeks at least to get before the board of commissioners. After that has been heard, the commissioners don't write their decision but yet, in the words of the task force, reasons for decisions must be given. Therefore, there is a group of men sitting on the 21st floor whose job it is to translate the feelings of the commissioners into formalized language. A glance at their office and the offices of the girls who work for them will appal you—files on the floor, on top of the filing cabinets, stacked on the desks and the chairs; everywhere that's available. If one is fortunate and the decision is not too complicated, perhaps the thing will be written in about three weeks. Then it goes for typing. Then it goes to find

the three commissioners concerned, and if they are not there it waits for them. Finally, after everything is signed, after everything is typed, the man will get a board decision.

Let us review the time lag. We will assume the board sees fit to give the man an additional award. He has a period of time from the claims department to the review branch, usually about three weeks. From the review branch to the appeals examiner, another week to 10 days. For action by the appeals examiner in setting up a hearing and holding the hearing, 11 to 13 weeks. For processing after hearing from the appeals examiner, another two to three weeks. For filing with the board itself an application for another hearing, two months or eight weeks. For rendering of a decision by the board, anywhere from three weeks to two months—in fairness, let's say five to six weeks. For typing and signatures and mailing, another two to three weeks. And that, by common consent, is roughly 34 weeks.

Then all he has to do is wait for the claims department to go back and process the order as finally written by the board. This is the so-called speedup system. This is the so-called improved system. This is the so-called result of the expertise of P. S. Ross and Partners. These are the figures on the time taken, when there are no complications, for one man to get what the board ultimately says he is entitled to—and additional 34 weeks of waiting, better than half a year.

All right, let's look at ways in which the system can be improved. I am sure no one pictured the need for a workman to have to go through all this morass of red tape that has been created. Surely it should be possible to devise a system whereby the board can keep the files flowing as they did before. Why must the small band of commissioners be so overwhelmed with work that they must have a large staff to summarize the matters they should be reading in detail for themselves?

This is not a judicial system. Nevertheless, this House must bear in mind the fact that it was first brought into being to replace cumbersome procedures which were present prior to 1915. Replacing the cumbersome procedures, it still did not replace the principles of a natural justice which are the basis of all adjudication. It is my contention that the principle of natural justice is not present in a system that has been put in place by this government and is currently being administered by the Workmen's Compensation Board in this province. I think that is obvious when one sees that it entails a wait of some 34

weeks before the workman can finally have his appeal dealt with.

The remedy? I seriously suggest that the Minister of Labour and the government of the province consider scrapping the three level appeal system currently in operation and replace it with essentially a one level appeal system, with an ultimate appeal to the corporate board on matters of policy or where the decision of the commissioners is a split decision. Essentially, what I am saying is that all steps between the review committee and the board should be done away with and that the board should be enlarged to the extent that the flow of files can be adequately handled, that all matters should be heard in their final form by tribunals of three, that the members of such tribunals should be responsible for reading their own files and writing their own decisions. The members of such tribunals of three shall be commissioners within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, so that the decisions rendered by them shall be final decisions within the meaning of the statute.

[3:30]

I think there have to be other changes as well with respect to how commissioners are dealt with under the proposed system I suggest. I think it's important that these people should be given security of tenure because they have to be experts. They must learn how to study and read a compensation file. They must know where, in the administrative sections of the board, to go for answers they need when there is not sufficient material in those files. These people have to subscribe fully to the basic philosophy that the board is not an adversary system and their ultimate judgements have to be guided by the full rules of natural justice as understood and practised in the common law courts of the British Commonwealth.

For that reason I suggest that these commissioners have to be given security and protection on a long-term basis. Essentially, these commissioners would be appeal experts operating in a one-level appeal system which in my view would speed up the entire appeal process tremendously and at the same time wouldn't sacrifice any advantages of the three-level system which currently operates.

I hope the minister will study this proposal and that some effective alterations will be made to the appeal system at the board. I'm sure the minister would agree with me that a 34-week wait is not good enough in the operation of the board in dealing with injured workmen across this province.

I have one final matter I want to deal with and that's the matter of Essex Packers and the fact that the government has entered into an agreement with the DeJonge Group to operate the Guelph facility. I want to refer first of all to the statement given by the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) in the House on March 18, in which he said: "The advantages of allowing production to continue in this way are many." He outlined the fashion in which it was going to be done.

First, the unsecured creditors will receive some payment. I suggest that could have been achieved by other means, which I will suggest later.

Second, employment opportunities for some 200 to 300 former Essex Packers workers will be maintained. I say that I have the agreement here which was signed—at least the proposal which was put forward which formed the basis of the agreement—and there is absolutely no guarantee in the proposal, or, I understand the agreement, which would guarantee employment of the 200 to 300 former Essex Packer's employees to whom the minister made reference. That fact has been confirmed by the lawyer for the DeJonge Group. They made no such guarantee at all, yet that was one of the key points the minister used in moving to sign this agreement with the DeJonge Group.

Third, there will be a continuing market in the Hamilton and Guelph areas for pork and beef producers, including those who weren't paid when the Essex Packers went into receivership. I suggest that could have been achieved in another way as well.

Fourth, there will be no interruption in the ministry's successful rehabilitation programme. Here, again, I think that could have been taken care of with an agreement on the basis of negotiation with the two other bidders who submitted proposals.

On that point, I must say that from time to time it has been suggested there was really only one proposal which the ministry could entertain. I have before me a proposal which was submitted by Paletta Bros. Meat Products Ltd. to the ministry on Jan. 23, 1976. I understand another proposal was submitted to the ministry on Feb. 26, and yet they turned back both proposals in favour of the DeJonge Group proposal.

I want to go back to the origins of this deal with Essex Packers. There are a number of questions involved here. I think we can very justifiably ask why was Essex Packers chosen in the first place? They certainly

didn't have a particularly good financial record, as is indicated by their financial statement. In 1971, based on the industry average indicating that net profits should be roughly three per cent of sales, it shows they had a net profit of \$118,558 when, taking it on the basis of the three per cent statistic, it should have been \$1,008,000. The same trend runs through all of the annual reports right until March 29, 1975, in which they had a net profit of \$37,271 on total sales of \$49,608,897, which should have given them a profit of \$1,488,000. Obviously, this company was not strong financially and one has to ask why the government entered into an agreement with it in the first place when it was on rather shaky financial grounds.

The other thing I want to mention and pose in the form of a question is what happened to the unaccounted excess, which is the difference between the leasehold as set out in the lease and the \$1 million that was spent by the government on improvements in the Guelph plant, which I should say allowed for a 20 per cent increase over and above the terms of the leasehold? In other words, what I'm asking is what happened to the shortfall of \$534,000? It was agreed in the leasehold that a total of \$285,000 would be spent. If one takes another 20 per cent, that brings it up to the extent of one-fifth, but when one subtracts that figure from \$1 million, there is still a shortfall of \$534,000. I ask has the the government written that amount off, or what has happened to it?

As I understand it, when the government was entering into the proposal with Essex Packers, it actually advertised, and there were a number of companies which were interested. When it was all boiled down, Essex Packers appeared to be the only one which was keenly interested in pursuing the matter. One would have to ask at that point why was it never retendered when the interest waned? Obviously, when some of the successful packers in the business backed away from the proposal as outlined by the government in its tender, then something was wrong; certainly some lights should have gone on at that time with respect to that particular proposal and eventually the agreement which was signed with Essex Packers.

I want to deal for a moment or two with the claims that have been made as substantiation for what the government did in signing with the DeJonge Group to operate the Guelph facility. It has been said they never got any other proposals involving the total package. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that they still haven't got a total proposal. The

Hamilton deal doesn't mean a thing. What happened was that the DeJonge Group took a second charge debenture against the assets of Essex; that simply means that the receiver will operate the Hamilton plant for another six months at which time the assets will be sold, unless Essex can refinance, which is highly unlikely.

At that point, the DeJonge Group will call their second-charge debenture and will be paid off, after the bank. If the plants are sold as operating plants, which is certainly very likely to be the case, the employees will continue working as always; so the government didn't gain a thing on that score.

The other matter was the payment of 15 cents to the unsecured creditors. That was a clever coup on the part of the DeJonge Group. They decided to pay 15 cents immediately; it was very tempting, so a large percentage of the unsecured creditors decided to grab it.

Contrary to what the minister and others have said, the farmers voted against accepting that proposal unanimously, with the exception, I believe, of five who weren't able to attend the meeting because of weather conditions.

If the plants were sold today as operating plants, which they are, they could realize \$1.2 million, which would look after the bank loan and the preferred creditors and would allow for a surplus of \$361,000. That was as of this morning and it came from the receiver, so I presume it is accurate.

In my view, the deals should have been separated. The point is that this deal just delays the bankruptcy of Essex Packers for six months—nothing more, nothing less.

The other part of all this is that the government could have received a far better deal than it got if it had dealt separately with the Guelph plant. It points up the incompetence of this government.

One of the proposals agreed to pay the farmer 100 cents on the dollar but was rejected in favour of the present agreement, which indicates to me that the government really wasn't concerned with the farmers or that it had made up its mind before the other proposals were submitted—one dated Jan. 23, 1976, from Paletta Brothers, and the other from Bradley and Watson, dated Feb. 26. The latter met with the cabinet on Tuesday, March 9.

In my view, it is a shabby way to treat the farmers. It could have done and been perfectly legal contrary to what the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) has said. That is confirmed by one of the best

bankruptcy lawyers in Canada, Mr. David Baird, here in the city. That is also confirmed by the fact that the present agreement pays the creditors off at different levels. Therefore, the argument used by the minister, that he couldn't pay the farmers off at one level, 100 cents on the dollar, without paying everybody off at that level, is not so, and is not according to bankruptcy practice.

This agreement doesn't guarantee anything for the employees beyond what they would have got if Essex had gone bankrupt or if the receiver had continued to operate the plant, as he intends to do. The government didn't get the best deal it could have for the Guelph plant. The government sold the farmers down the river in negotiating 15 cents for the farmers when 100 cents on the dollar was offered. There were other advantages to the Bradley and Watson proposal, particularly as it relates to imports and the supplying of beef to the hotel trade in the province.

The government has an obligation to deal in the public interest. They have not done so in this case; far from it. They have been seriously negligent. No farmer in Ontario is going to sell directly to Better Beef for obvious and well-reported reasons. That means that Better Beef will only be able to buy cattle at public auctions or import beef for killing purposes.

In an Ontario government facility, Ontario beef should be killed in that plant; that is not going to be the case.

I plead with the government to reopen this matter and to separate the Hamilton and Guelph facilities. I think the government should tender for the Guelph plant in an endeavour to get the best deal possible and to restore public confidence in the government's handling of this particular affair.

Mr. Speaker, it is very much like the new Hydro building. Hydro fixed on Mr. Moog to build it, and it didn't matter what anyone else had to say or what they proposed; that was it. The government wants to retrieve its credibility in this situation. The only recourse, in my view, is to reopen the entire matter, and so I leave it at that, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you, sir, for your patience and the opportunity to participate in this way.

[3:45]

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to follow my hon. friend from Huron-Bruce. I was quite interested in his reference to our Canadian geese vacationing in Tennessee. This greatly concerned me, and I even offered my services to the ministry to travel to Tennessee and

guide these wayward birds home. However, they turned down my request. I must also agree with the hon. member that I too am concerned with the DeJonge purchase of Essex Packers, and I hope that the Ministry of Correctional Services monitors this operation very closely.

At this time, I want to congratulate the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) upon his election as the leader of the third party in this House. I know that in the coming days, weeks and years, assuming we survive the vote this evening, the new leader will take his rightful place in this legislative assembly and will make a positive and continuing contribution to the careful deliberations which characterize this Legislature. I trust that he takes solace and comfort in the presence of the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), and that his decisions will be guided and influenced by that member's long experience in this assembly.

I am certainly happy to see that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has not shirked from participating in his fullest capacity as a leading light of this assembly, and that's the end of the compliments to the Liberals.

I also want to congratulate the leader of the official opposition for his incisive and witty remarks in his reply to the Speech from the Throne. Having said that, however, I cannot accept fully either the intent or the substance of his remarks because I find them full of futile criticism and rather barren in specific and constructive alternatives.

The present economic and social conditions which confront all citizens of Ontario reminds me of one of the great books of English literature, a novel which I am certain a large number of my hon. colleagues in this House has read. Written by Charles Dickens, "A Tale of Two Cities," opened many worlds to all of us, worlds of which we were totally unaware. I think "A Tale of Two Cities" is very apt for the circumstances in which we find ourselves today.

I want to quote for a moment one of the great passages out of that novel:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.

I believe that Dickens' description of two of the great cities of the world has a specific application to our present situation. On the one hand, we have the government of this fine province attempting to put the brakes on

government spending, attempting to bring the public sector of Ontario under some reasonable degree of control, attempting to rearrange spending priorities without basically affecting the overall level of human services provided to the people of this province, but on the reverse side we face the leader of the official opposition who refuses absolutely to acknowledge our efforts at restraining government expenditures, who fails to understand the impact of inflation on every citizen in our society, who refuses to see the other side of reality; an opposition leader who would consistently say "yes" to every increase in government expenditure, and yet in the same breath accuse this government of fiscal mismanagement.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is a tale of two cities—a tale of two political parties whose political and social views, attitudes and philosophies toward the present set of circumstances are entirely different. In fact, I would go so far as to say those philosophies and attitudes are fundamental in division and basic in perception of the realities confronting all of us in Ontario today.

Together, let's examine a little more closely the tale of the New Democrats and let us just see where they have arrived since last September. Opposite us is a party riddled with contradictions and inconsistencies in its political philosophies—a party which is deeply divided within itself on the question of ideology, and yet it is not even aware of it.

Mr. Moffatt: Who are you talking about?

Mr. Davidson: What makes you aware of it?

Mr. Johnson: All we have to do is look at the new Leader of the Opposition, the new mask of the man who represents Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis), and what do we find, fellow colleagues? We find a leader who now projects the image of sweet reasonableness—a leader who constantly uses the word "reason" and the word "reasonable," a leader who believes in reasonable solutions from intelligent thinking citizens.

Mr. Moffatt: Are you not in favour of reasonable solutions?

Mr. Johnson: That is the new image of the official Leader of the Opposition, the new image of the New Democrats. I find the transition incredibly Jekyll and Hyde in its thrust, incredibly intriguing in terms of the tensions and contradictions created by this character.

Mr. Davidson: He took lessons from the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Mr. Moffatt: Do you agree then?

Mr. Johnson: While the Leader of the Opposition projects a reasonable image, the large majority of his followers have not abandoned, as he has, their bedrock socialism, their deep commitment to the internal expansion of government within the public sector.

Mr. Bain: We still believe in people.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: That is the central nature of their contradiction, that is the central nature of their tensions. How do you reconcile reason with socialism, a party of free enterprise with a party of socialist dogma? To use a favourite phrase of the New Democratic Party, let's document this contradiction. Recently, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) explained that his party is becoming the party of free enterprise, and on what grounds does he make such a claim? On the grounds of protecting the small businessmen, particularly the individual operating a self-serve gas bar.

Mr. Moffatt: Good for him.

Mr. Johnson: He would seek to do this by setting one wholesale price for gasoline and preventing major oil companies from directly operating self-serve gas bars. In other words, through intervention of the state the New Democrats suddenly become free enterprisers. What a ridiculous claim!

What does such a claim indicate as to the philosophical directions of the New Democrats? What does such a claim tell the voting public about the internal contradictions of the political party opposite? What it does show is that the New Democrats understand the only way they will ever gain power in Ontario is to project an aura of sweet reasonableness, to portray themselves as the champions of the ordinary citizen, as champions to the downtrodden and the disadvantaged, as protectors of the small business community.

Mr. MacDonald: You are trampling them down. We are protecting them.

Mr. Johnson: In doing so, it means their complete abandonment of bedrock socialism. It speaks to their abandonment of their deepest socialist principles—

Mr. MacDonald: Nonsense!

Mr. Johnson: —namely, the nationalization of the resource industries in Ontario, the enslavement of all our people and an increasingly complicated web of complex regulations and directives.

Mr. Bain: We can't make regulations any more complicated than they are already.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: Instead of weaving a tale of deception and disguise, it's time for the NDP really to tell the voters of this province where they stand on all the major issues of this day. The casual observer doesn't have to look far for evidence of the kind of government which New Democrats would provide for Ontario citizens. Take a look at labour relations for a moment. Instead of attempting to reduce the number of labour disputes in this province, the NDP would intensify them by expanding the right of public servants to strike.

Mr. MacDonald: As you gave the teachers.

Mr. Johnson: We would end up with more labour disputes and more labour interruptions than we have already experienced; and heaven knows we have had enough of those now.

Mr. Moffatt: You are not in favour of strikes?

Mr. Davidson: In your view one strike would be too many.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, the NDP version of free enterprise is almost laughable. Take a look at the record of the British Columbia New Democratic government before its defeat last December.

Mr. Moffatt: But look at the record since then.

Mr. Johnson: Incidentally, that was the record of which the New Democrats opposite used to be terribly proud and they used the slogan, "Strike it rich in NDP provinces." Now we hardly ever hear of the former BC Barrett government. Why?

Mr. Moffatt: Because the papers are full of Bennett's latest manoeuvres.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look at the NDP record in British Columbia and you will be startled by certain trends. For example, government capital investment in 1972, before the New Democrats gained power, was 33 per cent of total

capital investment in that province. By 1974, total government capital investment had risen to 40 per cent of total capital investment in British Columbia. When the New Democrats speak of free enterprise, what they really mean is state capitalism in its full glory.

When the NDP speak of attaining their balanced mix of taxation in Ontario, that really translates as higher corporation taxes, especially on the resource industries in Ontario. Again, if we examine the NDP record in British Columbia, we will find the following: First, the mining royalties went from \$15 million to \$9 million during the past fiscal year.

Mr. Moffatt: That was great.

Mr. Johnson: Second, forestry stumpage went from \$220 million to \$135 million, because of high rates of corporate taxes—rates that amount of outright confiscation.

Mr. Moffatt: That is what Darcy is going to do tomorrow night.

Mr. Johnson: From these examples can be seen the sorry state of declining capital investment in British Columbia. It's a tale of increasing taxation, not only in the corporate sector but, in the long run, on the ordinary citizen. It's a tale of government expansion at the expense of the private sector; at the expense of individual initiative; at the destruction of risk-taking.

For all of these reasons, the tale of the New Democrats is a woeful one. It's a tale of contradiction, of socialist betrayal, of upside-down social priorities and of economic unreality. It is my fervent hope that the official opposition will return to its principle of bedrock socialism.

Mr. MacDonald: That's what you hope.

Mr. Johnson: At least then the voting public will know what it is getting when it votes New Democrat, or old socialist. Compare the tale of the New Democrats with the tale of responsible government, of the Ontario government grappling with economic restraints and succeeding at a very uneasy assignment. I say that without any qualification, knowing that the official opposition is in favour of talking about restraint but never really putting it into effect.

In fact, I am beginning to believe very deeply that the New Democrats fail utterly to understand the real problems facing all of us in Ontario today—that of double-digit inflation—inflation which is enduring and sustaining; inflation which requires restraint.

The budgetary deficit which we have today stems in good part from the increasing demand for public services during the prosperous and growing 1960s. That deficit in part stems from this government's response to the social and economic needs of all its citizens—

Mr. Davidson: Did they get a stadium for it?

Mr. Johnson: —in recognizing the necessity of managing the consequences of economic growth, in realizing the development of larger towns and cities, and in the expansion of people services. Back in those years the New Democrats never accused this government of fiscal mismanagement, but they criticized it for not providing sufficient funds for all the types of public services, and those aren't just empty words. All you have to do, Mr. Speaker, is look at the public record.

[4:00]

The basic facts must be faced. Provincial expenditures in social security have amounted to an increase of 221 per cent from 1970-1971 to the current fiscal year. Now the same party which criticizes the government for putting a 5.5 per cent limit on the growth of social service expenditures is criticizing it for cutting those expenditures back.

I ask the members: When did an increase of 5.5 per cent suddenly become a cutback? Do my colleagues opposite really understand the nature of the economic problems facing us? Do they realize that in the Province of Quebec government expenditures increased 21 per cent in the present fiscal year and that happened under a Liberal government? Do they also recognize that for the coming fiscal year that same Quebec government will limit overall expenditures in the government sector to an eight per cent increase—two per cent less than here in Ontario?

I sometimes wonder whether the New Democrats wear coloured blinders in looking at the world. Listening to their criticisms, they often appear to regard the restraint programme being carried out by this government as a programme of welfare bashing; as a co-ordinated comprehensive attempt to undermine social services in this province; as a determined method to hurt those less fortunate than ourselves. If so, that is an unjustified and unwarranted interpretation of what the government is trying to do for the coming fiscal year.

Ontario does not live in an isolated, closed economic environment. Our large manufacturing industry in this province depends on a

healthy export market and on a healthy international trading economy. In turn, government expenditures are directly related to the real economic growth of this province.

It is not just Ontario which is facing severe unemployment and high rates of inflation. All of Canada and most of the industrialized western world are suffering the same problems. It is in that context that the provincial government has consistently supported the need for economic controls to fight inflation, inflation eroding the savings of every citizen in this country.

That explains why this government placed the public sector of Ontario under the leadership of the Anti-Inflation Board at the federal level. Inflation is just not restricted to the borders of Ontario as suggested by the two opposition parties in the House in their proposal to have a provincial anti-inflation board. It simply defies economic reasoning, the very reasoning which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) has so often appealed to in the past few months.

People at every level in Ontario's society are already making hard choices about their personal budgets. Those same people expect the same type of practice and approach in public spending by their government. The government is subject to some fiscal imperfections but at least we were one of the first provinces in Canada to recognize that government spending in itself is the principal cause of inflation.

That is why I am happy to support this Speech from the Throne brought down in this session. The citizens of this fine province want strong and positive economic leadership in containing inflation and in having the capacity to carry out some hard decisions to provide for a more stable and secure future, economically and socially.

When people read back on this area of Ontario history, they will want to read about a tale of optimism; a tale of considering the long-range rather than the short term; a tale of hope and not one of despair.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I intend to devote my remarks exclusively this afternoon to the topic of agricultural land use and the vital need for preserving our food lands in this province.

Over the last three or four years, the provincial Treasurers—first Darcy McKeough, then John White and now Darcy McKeough again—have been teasing us with the prospect that the government of the Province of Ontario was going to unveil a land-use plan for the Province of Ontario. The news indicates

to us that sometime later this week—if not then, next week—we are going to have such an unveiling and, in the context of that unveiling, presumably the government is going to grapple with what has emerged as the most important issue in that whole land-use question, namely, the need for preserving our foodland.

Just so that the government won't feel that it is slipping behind, I have a document that the leader of this party and I have just released to the press, which came to us in a brown paper envelope. It's a very interesting document.

Mr. Bain: Somebody's shredder is not working.

Mr. MacDonald: Apparently in the process of trying to make up its mind what the government policy was going to be on preserving foodland—we have had a lot of rhetoric but we've had no policy and there was nothing in the Throne Speech to clarify it—some one or two statements were prepared and my information is that they were turned down by the cabinet.

Mr. Davidson: Check those shredding machines over there.

Mr. MacDonald: Then the government went out to one of its regular consultants on agriculture issues and other issues over the last 10 or 15 years, namely Hedlin Menzies, and Roger Schwass of that firm produced a document, a copy of which I have in my hand, which reads like the first draft of a speech which is going to spell out, not too clearly, but spell out somewhat, the government's programme for preserving agricultural land.

Mr. Kennedy: What's the date on it? That's last year's brown envelope.

Mr. MacDonald: There is no date on it. It's the date that is going to be when you announce it this Thursday or next week.

Mr. Kennedy: That's last year's brown envelope.

Mr. Lewis: Thursday night last it was approved by you people.

Mr. MacDonald: Thursday night last, as a matter of fact, it was considered by a cabinet committee, perhaps chaired by the gentleman into whose charming blue eyes I am now gazing.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: It was approved and, therefore, at least in terms of its substance it reflects something of what the government had in mind. I want to come back to some of that substance, because it is rather fascinating that nothing from the ministry was satisfactory and that a politically acceptable document was produced by one of the faithful consultants who have worked for the government over the last 10 or 15 years.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: What date is on your copy?

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, let me make this point first, it is difficult for any government to move with a new policy if there isn't a consensus in society with regard to that policy. Conversely, if there is a consensus then there is no excuse for not moving, particularly if that issue happens to be a vitally important issue, such as the preserving of foodland. I just want to remind the House of how remarkable is the consensus that has emerged in Ontario in the last year or so with regard to the preserving of foodland. For example, as my leader put on the record during his contribution to the Throne debate, we have this document from the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, which includes in its number the Minister of Agriculture—I only wish he believed what was in the document—and it was also interesting to note that the land use committee which prepared this document includes people like D. W. Middleton, of the Land Compensation Board, Dr. R. Frank, of the provincial pesticide residue testing laboratory, Lyall MacLachlan, of the food systems branch of Agriculture Canada, and V. I. D. Spence, the director of the food land development branch. All of these people presumably had an input onto it. And what does it say? Its key recommendation:

That the government of Ontario, within the next year [Let me pause, this came out in November, so that means within the year 1976] pass legislation designating class 1, 2, 3, and special crop lands as foodland or land for agricultural production and reserving such land for present or future production of food. The institute recognizes some occasions may arise when use of some foodland for other purposes can be justified. However, it recommends that other potential users be required to prove their need cannot be met by use of other land, and further, that where at all feasible they be required to use the poorer classes of food land.

That is a clear-cut request of this government to pass legislation. That's one.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: We met with them the same day.

Mr. MacDonald: Sure you did. You obviously didn't listen to them or hear what they said. I have here a copy of a brief, "A Report on Planning in Rural Ontario," prepared by the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities. I don't need to remind members that the Association of Rural Municipalities is made up of those elected rural representatives who have been grappling with the problem of rural land use. They've been facing the fact that agricultural land, without a policy from the top, has been disappearing quickly. What do they say? I quote from page 5:

When legislation that restricts the uses of the designated agricultural land is enacted [in other words, they anticipate it; they assume it; it's basic] and the authority having jurisdiction receives a proposal to change the designation, such change in use shall only be allowed when consent has been granted by the planning authority of the jurisdiction in the area; the local council in which the lands are situated; the county or regional council in which the local authorities are situated; and the provincial planning authority including the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

If unanimous consent is not received from the above bodies the parties requesting such change shall have recourse to have their case presented before a land tribunal, empowered and informed to make a binding decision on the question.

In short, they are calling for the establishment of a land commission like that in BC—dare I, in the presence of my friend who has just sat down, shock him?—like the land commission in BC, a land tribunal they call it, which will examine any application for exemption of foodlands which, generally speaking, should be kept for agricultural production, food production.

Mr. Lewis: By statute.

Mr. MacDonald: By statute, by legislation.

Let me go to another document and this is very fascinating. Here is the COLUC report and in case members of the House have forgotten, the COLUC report was the product of six ministries of this government—namely, Agriculture and Food; Environment; Housing; Natural Resources; Transportation and Communications, Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs—along with the five or six regional governments in the "golden horseshoe" area.

What do they say?

A firm, positive, long-term agricultural strategy is required for lands of mainly prime agricultural quality lying beyond the urban places examined in the COLUC mature state preferences. [A little later:] Clearly, the government's first step in ensuring a viable agricultural industry is the designation of these lands as areas of agricultural priority for the foreseeable future.

The minister can't designate it without the statute which legislates that that's going to be the case.

Hon. W. Newman: You would take all the authority away from the municipalities. That's what you are saying.

Mr. MacDonald: Go away, that's simply confusing the issue.

Mr. Lewis: This is a consensus from everyone.

Mr. MacDonald: This happens to be the agrologists. This happens to be the Association of Rural Municipalities who are the people elected and who are now running those municipalities. Don't deny them when they've asked it.

Hon. W. Newman: And you would take all the authority away.

Mr. MacDonald: Just be quiet and don't deny they have requested it—the people whom you say we're trying to take the authority away from. I'll tell you why they want that authority in a moment if you'd just let me conclude. "Designation will have to be reinforced [and this is good for my friend from Wellington-Dufferin-Peel] by either a declaration of reserve [parenthetically they add] perhaps following the example of the British Columbia Land Commission—"

Mr. Lewis: Right.

Mr. MacDonald: To continue: —"or a system of development controls or similar measures." That, again, came from a document which was produced by six ministries—six key ministries—within this government.

We have listened to the minister. For example, when the leader of this party was spelling out this he interjected with sort of, "Do you want to freeze everything?" It is time for the minister to quit playing games. If the minister is going to indulge in the rhetoric of telling the people of the Province of Ontario that this government not only wants to but intends to preserve agricultural land, he can't have it both ways.

If he is going to preserve agricultural land he must say now that agricultural land ceases to be a commodity in the marketplace which can be bought and sold by anybody for any purpose when and if he sees fit. Agricultural land henceforth is going to be regarded as a precious natural resource and the only way the minister is going to be able to protect it as a precious natural resource is if he does as the agrologists ask.

[4:15]

The government does as the leaders of the the local municipalities and the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities have asked for, it does as its own COLUC report involving six of its key ministries asked for, it passes legislation to designate that land as food land from this point forward with the necessary machinery for considering exemptions where they're justified. Don't interject with this sort of cheap business about "we want a freeze."

Hon. W. Newman: The member doesn't know what we are doing in the ministry. He has no idea.

Mr. MacDonald: If the government wants to do it, let it do it.

Mr. Lewis: We have the minister's speech.

Mr. MacDonald: We have his speech, and we listened to him in the interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Which speech?

Mr. MacDonald: Now what has been done, Mr. Speaker? I want to acknowledge that something has been done by this government, and potentially it might even be effective, but not with what's in the wind in this brown paper envelope that we received just a few days ago.

Within the past year, this government has established within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food a branch called the food development branch. That food development branch came into being on April 1, 1975, at least in terms of its first budget. Throughout the first six months or so of its operations, it was passing judgement on official plans; it was passing judgement on subdivision requests that had come in, on severances, and all these various matters that had come into one or other ministry, particularly the Ministry of Housing, and these judgements were passed around for comment. It was pointed out by many people in the press last spring and summer that sometimes it was heeded when they commented in the hope of protecting

agricultural land, but most often it wasn't heeded.

Last September something happened in this province. What happened in this province was, in addition to all of these experts who have produced documents now, the people of this province spoke. It was very clear in the people of this province speaking and the reduced majority of the government that one of the main issues was the government's failure to grapple with this preservation of foodland, not only in rural areas, but also in the city areas. Since then, it is said that some messages come down that the efforts or the comments of the foodland development branch with regard to the use of agricultural land should be heeded more than had been the case in the past.

The point I want to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is that it's a typical piecemeal reluctant kind of approach. The foodland development branch has no statutory power. While they were sitting there protecting agricultural land, 60 per cent of the land that went into OHAP in Peel was class 1 and class 2 agricultural land. I have talked with the people in this branch, because I was very interested indeed and I think they are well-intentioned and, if they were given the power, they might do something, but they are not being given the power.

Do you know what it reminds me of, Mr. Speaker? It's a delightful summary or estimate of how this government operates. I have here in my hands a copy of Jonathan Manthorpe's book on "The Power and the Tories." He has a quote on page 8, which is so magnificently appropriate here.

To a large extent the Conservatives have not led the province; rather, they have been dragged along by the needs and demands of its people. Changes in policy directions have generally been taken, not to anticipate a need, but when the need had become a problem and the clamour for change had become so great that the political penalty for inactivity has outweighed the penalty for acting. "Do nothing until you have to and then only as little as you can get away with," might well have been the catch phrase of the government.

That is a magnificent description of this government's philosophy and approach, and never was it more apt than in its whole approach to the preservation of food lands.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you say whether you believe in freezing series 1, 2,

3 and 4 agricultural land? Is that your policy or not?

Mr. MacDonald: I just said that the agrologists, an organization of which the minister is a member, have asked for just that.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: I have just said that the rural municipalities have asked for just that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: I have just pointed out that six of the ministries in the government have asked for just that and, therefore, I am in favour—are your listening?—

Hon. W. Newman: Yes.

Mr. MacDonald: —of legislation to preserve food lands.

Hon. W. Newman: Freezing it?

Mr. Lewis: The member just said, "legislation to preserve food lands."

Mr. MacDonald: Legislation to preserve food lands. You can call it freeze; you can call it what you want, but don't try to kid the public that you want to preserve it when you're not willing to pass the legislation.

Hon. W. Newman: We have been preserving it all over this province.

Mr. Lewis: You don't have to pass legislation. You can establish the land and provide exemptions to it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South has the floor.

Mr. MacDonald: We had a policy before that brown envelope arrived. That's just the icing on the cake of my speech this afternoon. I had my speech prepared for last week.

The foodland development branch potentially is a land commission like the one they have in British Columbia. In other words, anybody who wants to make an exception and use food land for something other than that has to come before the foodland development branch and they make some comment. The problem with the foodland development branch is that it has no power. The government has given it no power, because the government is not willing to do that. It is just indulging in rhetoric; there's no real action to make certain that it happens.

Let me go one step further. My friend across the way asks what we are going to do about it. Well, I am fascinated. Back in 1973, this government entered into a partnership with the county of Huron to make a study of how agricultural lands could be preserved and how to cope with the problems of urban development out into the rural areas. They spent \$110,000 or \$120,000, and 80 per cent of it came out of this government. They produced a report, the final version of which has been available since last July.

I haven't heard a single spokesman for this government refer to this report. I have yet to hear the minister even allude to it. It is a report that spells out the policies for Huron county; but, even more important, it is a report that spells out a methodology that could be applied all across the Province of Ontario as a means of preserving agricultural land. Indeed, one of the recommendations of the report was that the government should test that methodology in some five or six other places; but, because of the restraint programme, that is just another potentially good thing that has gone down the drain. Perhaps it is being used anyway in Northumberland, in Simcoe and in Lambton, those three areas for which the government has new reports, which the brown-paper-envelope speech refers to as coming down some time shortly.

But when is the government going to spell out its policy? That brown-envelope speech, for example, refers to the fact that the foodland development branch is supposed to be producing guidelines. Just let me quote one interesting comment here:

The branch is charged with developing food land guidelines for developing plans for urban growth and inter-agricultural use in fringe areas, for developing policies to divert pressures from rural, residential and industrial areas away from the food lands and into more suitable areas.

Where are those guidelines? Are they going to be part—

Hon. W. Newman: You haven't even seen them.

Mr. MacDonald: Are they going to be part of the great unveiling, the Cecil B. deMille extravaganza? Another design for Ontario that we are going to get on Thursday of this week or some time next week?

Mr. Lewis: No. 17.

Mr. MacDonald: I hope we will get them some time, because what this report does—and I am not going to have the time this

afternoon to go into it, as I would like to for an hour or two or three; it would be useful to do so, because obviously the government doesn't know about it, because it's not speaking about it. What this report suggests is that we should have guidelines in a context of overall provincial strategy, spelled out at the provincial level; then at the county level and at the regional government level we should designate what they describe as perspectives or areas of priority in which either agriculture, urban development, recreation development, forest development or mineral development might take place.

Mr. Kennedy: Now you don't want it frozen.

Mr. MacDonald: There should be five different perspectives. Then, within the framework of those perspectives or priorities, the local municipalities—right down at the grass-roots level—will then work out the details for implementing it. That can be done if this is what the government has in mind, and why the gestation period has taken so long, heaven only knows. That can be done only if the government spells out the overall strategy—provides them with the guidelines. But it must be done in the context of what they have all asked for—legislation to preserve food lands so that we will reverse the traditional approach that food lands are there to be used when and if anybody wants them for any other purpose. If the government doesn't do that, the whole process is going to be another piecemeal, ineffective kind of approach.

Hon. W. Newman: You are contradicting yourself.

Mr. MacDonald: I am not contradicting myself. Let me just show members once again the contradictions between the reality of this report and their study and what's in the brown-paper-envelope speech that the minister perhaps is going to give after the revisions have been made from this afternoon's entry into this. On page 8 of the "Country-side Planning"—

Mr. Lewis: The report that Roger Schwass of Hedlin Menzies wrote for you.

Mr. MacDonald: Right.

Mr. Lewis: Just relax.

Mr. MacDonald: I quote:

In the absence of government policies and planning controls [we had none] the use of land resources is decided by the free market economy. Whoever can buy it,

gets it. He uses it as he pleases and our food lands go down the drain.

What does this speech say? This speech, the brown-paper-envelope speech, uses the minister's phrase—obviously they are writing a speech to meet the minister's prejudices—"We don't want freezes. Freezes are bad."

What do they want? In the middle of page 13, "Instead, we believe that the marketplace should be left to operate as far as possible."

Mr. Speaker, if the marketplace operates as far as possible and that's what's happened in the past, don't let the minister try to kid the people of the Province of Ontario that he is going to preserve food land. It will not happen.

Interjection.

Mr. MacDonald: The interesting question is, does the minister know what he is doing?

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, we do.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

An hon. member: We know what you are doing. Look at North Pickering development.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I want to have two footnotes to this and then I shall leave the matter now because I don't have the time in the time constraints of this afternoon.

One footnote is that if the government is seriously going to move, it has to have a Canada land inventory which is up to date instead of the one everybody has been operating with until now and which was produced in the late 1920s and the 1930s. I know the minister, along with Canada Agriculture in Ottawa and this soil research branch—is that what it's called?

Mr. Lewis: Soil resource centre.

Mr. MacDonald: —soil resource centre in Guelph has people who are engaged in the upgrading of the CLI so that we will have some more sound and reliable information in judging what are the categories of land we are working with.

One of the fascinating ways in which the government has operated, however, is that, faced with the prospect of all that agricultural land going out of production and out of use around Haldimand-Norfolk, it got in and upgraded it in Haldimand-Norfolk to discover that it was painfully in error.

For example, at the site of the town that is being built, as was pointed out by my

leader in his Throne Speech debate contribution—the Townsend site down there—in 1928 CLI had only seven per cent of the land in class 1. In upgrading it we now find that 37 per cent of it is class 1 so there are tens of thousands of acres of agricultural land going out of use because the basic information we have is out of date. What is this government doing to get that information up to date so that it can move intelligently? In the Province of Ontario we have a professional soil surveyor—pedologists—three, the same as the Province of Newfoundland. When is the minister going to get at this because this is a basic requirement so that he can operate intelligently, authoritatively? The second and final thing that I want to draw to the attention of the minister is, is it considered policy which he finally enunciated—I must point out for his consideration another recommendation of the COLUC report to be found on page 38:

For the semi-idle land the government might consider selective purchase and sale back or lease back, possibly involving a government land sponsored assembly programme. It might also consider tax devices to coax idle land back into agriculture; e.g., an additional tax on speculative profits from idle land, shifting of the tax burden from farmers to owners of idle land; pegging farm tax to capability in agricultural use.

In other words, without going into the detail of it, we have to have a farm income stabilization programme to assure farmers that they will have an income to meet their needs. At the other end we have to reduce their costs, perhaps by even more tax concessions than we have now, perhaps that's in the wind in the next two or three days.

[4:30]

I hear little birdies whisper that perhaps that's under consideration by way of trying to refurbish the government's image out in rural Ontario. We will support it. We will support it as a means of strengthening the viability of agriculture. But if the government is going to bring back into the pool of that foodland something of the two million acres that are going to be required by the year 2000 in addition to the 10 million acres we now have, it has to have some sort of a mechanism for buying up the land, for assembling the land, leasing it to people who want to use it for food land purposes.

Hon. W. Newman: Do you know how many acres of land are being farmed in this province?

Mr. MacDonald: The government has an ARDA programme which is doing that. In other words, it is not so radical that it's beyond the prospect of the government considering it.

Ninety per cent of the land in the Province of Ontario at the present time is Crown land—a shattering thought—owned by the government. A shattering thought. If the government added another half or one per cent by accumulating it, in order that we protect it and preserve it, in a land bank, that I suggest is a mechanism that the minister might consider when he polishes up that speech in the brown-paper envelope that Roger Schwass wrote for him and gives us his final version through which he has sweated so endlessly over the last two weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: It won't be ready for Thursday, I tell you. It will be next week now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for York Centre now, thank you.

Mr. Lewis: It will be next week now when you rewrite it again.

Mr. MacDonald: I'll make the minister an offer. I'll write the speech for him. Furthermore, it would conform with all these proposals, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address this House on a matter that was conspicuous more by its absence from than its inclusion in the Throne Speech, and that topic is our present attitude toward education.

Even as recently as last week, the Premier (Mr. Davis), while addressing students at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, alluded to the fact that the weaknesses we are experiencing in our educational system may be grounded in the circumstances which exist outside that system. The work of this House has been involved with, among other things, two very significant matters since the adjournment before Christmas—two matters which represent seriously escalating problems and which reflect the quality of life in our province. The two matters were the teachers' strikes in Metropolitan Toronto and Kirkland Lake.

These strikes were significant, not only because the Legislature interfered by legislation with the inherent right to bargain collectively and ultimately strike, which had only one year previously been embodied in Bill 100, but also because legislating the teachers back to work has even more significance in

that the situation underlines the fact that society has abrogated its own responsibility and relegated it to the teachers. Despite the legislation which this House has passed, the situation continues to grow and it exists even today in Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie.

Confrontation politics has finally struck the fibres from which society draws its strength. The teachers' strike is apparently reduced to no more but no less than confrontation between teachers and parents. Teachers who on the one hand seek compensation for the extra demands made of them, and parents on the other who have transferred to the teacher much of their responsibility but who are, at the same time, unwilling to face the fact that they have done so.

When faced with the problem of a strike by the teachers in both Kirkland Lake and Metropolitan Toronto, this House directed its attention to a short-term solution and that was passing immediate back-to-work legislation. But before it is too late, this House must consider a long-term solution which is to embark upon a massive and immediate programme of educating and attuning the public to the changing role of the teacher so that teachers and boards of education may come to a more equitable settlement quickly and efficiently, and without acrimony.

In considering the long-term solution we must first direct our minds to what has motivated the teacher to enter the profession of teaching in the past. Formerly, the salary paid to the teaching profession was adequate and the position of a teacher carried with it the prestige and recognition of such an honourable and demanding occupation.

Mr. Moffatt: Well said.

Mr. Stong: Teachers had been offered a suitable and complete pension plan and were motivated by an ambition to improve society in general. Past conditions and discipline in the teaching profession recognize that the teachers' federation was not a collective bargaining force, like a union negotiating early contracts; its primary interest was the improvement of internal education and the guaranteeing of job security.

In the past, teachers had been held in high regard by society, not only because they demonstrated their professional skills and personal satisfaction in educating our most precious possession, but they were recognized for their role. They had, and still do have, the greatest impact on our children, because they work with them throughout their formative years.

Teachers have always had tremendous contact with children, but as mothers and fathers assume a greater role in the labour market teachers have an even greater role to play with the formation of our children. Twenty years ago, day care was virtually unknown to our society but today parents take it for granted.

Let's examine the basic historic values which no longer prevail in the year 1976. The salary of the teaching profession is no longer adequate compared to organized labour. The teachers' pension plan no longer binds the teacher into an effective programme; first because inflation is eating away the value of the pension; second, pension plans are becoming more universal and organized labour has moved relentlessly to attain larger and better plans; and third, drastic reduction in family size means less population and thus fewer teachers, therefore a surplus of teachers is a very imminent danger.

In today's society teachers have been forced to assume increased responsibilities. As service industry is growing by leaps and bounds and industrial production is expanding rapidly, more and more people in our society than ever before require vocational training. Also, as the mass media influences our way of life, our youth are lured into the field of sport as a lifetime occupation. The increasing availability of leisure time assists to make all this possible, and the teaching profession is expected to assume the responsibility of the formation of our athletic super stars.

As more parents are leaving the home to engage in the labour market, teachers are expected to assume a greater role in social education, particularly in the area of sex education, as well as in drugs and alcohol and the communication problems of our youth. This increased responsibility for teachers is created by an ever-changing society, where both parents work and the grandparents, if alive, are separated from the family, are living in nursing homes or senior citizens' homes; or are holidaying out of the province or working to maintain themselves.

As these changes influence the family structure, more and more of our children are affected. Today's teacher must, by necessity, have a greater impact on the child of this generation. Our changing society demands not less of our teachers but more, and will continue to do so.

As this shifting of responsibility continues, the growing confrontation between government, school board and teacher will rapidly shift to confrontation between parent and teacher if it has not already done so. Parents

have unconsciously shifted their responsibility for their children's development to the teaching profession without a compensating concern for the added burden which has been placed on the shoulders of those teachers.

Twenty years ago sociologists proved, and people accepted, the basic truth that children with inadequate diet could not truly benefit from the educational system. Therefore, warm meals became part of the school programme in some underprivileged areas. Today in the USA this is a federal programme, but we have not progressed beyond this simple dietary problem.

If confrontations continue and become more severe, by 1981 there will be little prestige in this honourable and increasingly demanding profession. Historically, teachers have not enjoyed a high level of wealth, which perhaps has been compensated by personal achievement. If we accept this historic fact of life, then we can understand why the major goal of the teachers' federation has been improvement of educational structures, with a lesser emphasis on collective bargaining.

As the provincial representative for York Centre, I have received great criticism from parents who, because of the location of York Centre, are greatly influenced by the Toronto mass media. In 1974, high school teachers in the regional municipality of York struck. In 1975, teachers of Metropolitan Toronto struck, and even now we have ever-increasing threats of strikes by teachers in other parts of Ontario.

Parents complain that children are finishing high school but can neither read nor write. They have expressed the view that our educational system is inadequate and does not reflect the increased realty taxes which they pay each year. They complain about school discipline in the academic subjects.

We have indeed run out of time as our children's future is at stake and the teaching profession seems to be in jeopardy. But I remind my friends to the right, the official opposition, that no politician will serve this province who exploits this situation for political gain. We must strive together in a sincere attempt to end this critical situation in Ontario. It would be easy to hurl darts at the party in power for its imposition of spending ceiling which restricted wage settlements by school boards over the past five or six years, but this is a partisan political approach.

We must strive to ease confrontation, perhaps by permitting salary negotiations to be conducted by a provincial agency on a province-wide basis. Perhaps we will have to re-

move the right to strike from teachers, but we must make it quite clear to parents who want more and more attention paid to their children and who, at the same time, relate only to a dollar evaluation of education, that their changing demands on the teaching profession must generate compensation for that same profession.

Bill 100 created a body known as the Education Relations Commission whose main function is in the area of negotiations between teacher and school board. If indeed, the present confrontation between teacher and school board has developed into a confrontation between teacher and parent, then we must consider immediately extending the terms of reference of this commission to allow it, as an independent body, to embark upon a programme to educate the public in general with respect to changing attitudes in society with a corresponding change in responsibility being placed on the teaching profession.

This commission must have reasonable support and membership from teachers, school boards, the Ministry of Education and members of the public in order to inform the public of the problems that exist. It is only in this way that we are going to meet the demands of the future and avoid the situation which has presently developed, that is, legislating teachers back into the classroom, with the result that there is less than complete accord with the spirit of the legislation and the spirit that we have grown to accept from the profession itself, namely, 100 per cent effort in the development of our children.

As I indicated at the outset, this confrontation between teachers and school boards seems really to represent confrontation between parents and teachers and, as leaders of our community, we must immediately employ the tools at our disposal to prevent the continuing escalation of this problem and, by educating our constituents to the changing responsibilities on all sides, we may thereby improve the quality of life in our province.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this Throne Speech debate and I would like again to congratulate you and your Deputy Speaker on the very fine job you and he continue to do in this House for the members sometimes, I'm sure, under very trying circumstances.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) and his predecessor for the assistance they have given in my attempts to get sufficient rent-geared-to-income housing for the senior citizens in the great riding of Algoma-Mani-

toulin. We in this province owe a great deal to our senior citizens. They are largely responsible for the high quality of life we now enjoy. One of my greatest concerns is that we provide well for these people in the sunset years of their lives, and I think the place to start is to guarantee the availability of proper housing for them.

I also thank the Minister of Housing for his concern and assistance in providing funding to acquire and develop land for housing purposes in Elliot Lake. After many years of uncertainty, Elliot Lake is now fast becoming a very stable, fast-growing town and, of course, it is becoming a problem for housing to keep pace with the development of the mines, and we are working there with some success in expanding the secondary industries that are already there.

[4:45]

Elliot Lake, like other areas in my riding, is trying to attract new industry. One industry I think that could locate there and be well founded is Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. This industry could be located in Spanish or Blind River; it would greatly enhance the economy of this area and, if it was properly built and operated, I think it shouldn't cause any health problems.

I have also got another secondary industry interested now in locating in my riding. It is too early at this time to elaborate on this particular industry but if it goes ahead, I will be in touch with several municipalities that could accommodate it. In the past, I think we have done too much talking about secondary industries and not done enough real work on it. It is my hope that we can accomplish more and maybe do less talking about it in the future.

Much has been said regarding restraints on spending, and I think that we all agree that something must be done if we are going to get rid of the dreaded disease known as inflation. Our only disagreement, it seems, is how best to do the job. Many people agree that restraints are good, but as soon as it touches our communities, the fat is in the fire and we members receive letters, telegrams and telephone calls advising us to do this or not to do that. There is no doubt in my mind that there will be some disagreement, as time goes on, as to how this job should be done. I think the main thing is that we get the job done.

I have been concerned in recent weeks by the amount of criticism and abuse that our Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) has taken from the opposition parties in the

House and the public. While I do not altogether agree with the method being used to control the spending in the ministry—in my opinion there are other methods that could have been used to save money without impairing our health service—

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you vote against him tonight for the way he has abused the health system?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. Lane: I do want to say that the hon. member for Muskoka is, without a doubt, one of the best Ministers of Health this province has ever had.

Mr. Cassidy: The competition wasn't that great.

Mr. Lane: And while he may not always be right—who is?—one thing for sure is that he puts his job before himself, and he has the guts to stand up and say and do what he feels must be done. This is a quality that is sadly lacking in many people in public office today. I am sure all of the members of this House wish the hon. minister a quick and complete return to good health and that we will soon see his smiling face and hear his quick wit and sense of humour, which we have come to enjoy so much in this House.

Much has been said in recent weeks by members of the opposition about the people of this province wanting an election. As far as I can see all the people of this province want is good government.

Mr. Bain: They are not getting it.

Mr. Davison: That is why we want an election.

Mr. Lane: Those who want an election are those who have discovered that they elected the wrong person last September and would like to have an opportunity to undo this.

Mr. Bain: How about the constituents of your riding?

Mr. Lane: They are quite satisfied.

Mr. Cassidy: That's not what they tell us.

Mr. Kennedy: They have got very good service; he's a fine member.

Mr. Lane: Our people are entitled to a good government, and in a minority situation that responsibility rests on all parties.

I am very concerned about the increased costs of basic commodities in the north as compared to the south. An obvious commodity is gasoline. I had hoped to get a hearing of the royal commission in Espanola, but I understand the commission went to Kenora and Kapuskasing; in so doing they felt they had the feeling of the problem in the north, and they very well may have. In any event, on April 21 final arguments will be heard and anyone wishing to put forth an argument can be heard, starting at 10 a.m., at 151 Bloor Street West, here in Toronto.

The equalization of the prices of gasoline and other basic commodities in the north is just one of the inequalities which bother me about service to the north.

In my riding, there are eight Indian reserves. I feel I work hard to try to improve the lot of our native people. We are working together with them. We have improved the quality of life to quite a degree, I think. Yet, in spite of this, seven young people on the Wikwemikong reserve took their own lives last year. One of the problems is that white people do not understand the lifestyle of the native people, and they should have more direct input themselves.

These and other problems peculiar to the north have prompted me to propose a Ministry of Northern Ontario. This is not an administrative type of ministry but a co-ordinating type of ministry which would work together with every ministry in the government to take the government to the people in the north—to research, investigate, develop it and assist the vast areas of the north without local councils to receive help or attention.

Or course, we would allow our native people to have a direct pipeline into the Ministry of Northern Ontario. Perhaps then we can better understand the desired lifestyle of our native people and not try to force on them a lifestyle that is frustrating and non-productive.

I am pleased to say that my proposal has received a great deal of support in the north. I quote from the Jan. 29 editorial in the Sudbury Star which reads:

The idea is sound. It was a mistake in 1972 to merge the fledgling Department of Northern Affairs with the super Ministry of Natural Resources. In the two-year life of the Northern Affairs, it was a highly visible ministry. True, it shared its bed with the Department of Mines (full title was the Department of Mines and Northern Affairs) but it was a clearer link than now

exists. Mr. Lane therefore will find no lack of northern support for the principle of a separate ministry. Indeed, his suggestion goes even a step ahead of the old concept since he would have one independent of any other branch.

[They conclude by saying:]—

Keep it up, Mr. Lane. It makes sense.

The Jan. 8, 1976, editorial in the Elliot Lake Standard reads, "John Lane, MPP, is on our new year's honour list. He deserves a bouquet for his recent proposal concerning a Ministry of Northern Ontario."

The editorial feature page of the Espanola Standard Feb. 5, 1976, says, "The proposed Ministry of Northern Ontario which is being strongly pressed by John Lane, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin, is being well received."

I could go on at great length reading from editorials from northern weeklies. However, I will not take the time of the House. I just want to get the message across that the idea is sound and would be welcomed by the people of the north.

Mr. Lewis: But you know that the government has rejected it. Tried it and rejected it.

Mr. Lane: Members can imagine my surprise when I picked up the local newspaper a few weeks ago and read the headline, "Lewis Raps Lane." The article goes on to say that Mr. Lewis disagrees with me for various reasons.

Another article, written by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), states that the proposal would cost \$1 million and makes no sense.

It amazes me that in the House here last year, we were hearing about the great government auto insurance plan in BC. We know how that turned out; it was a real failure, of course. We also heard the opposition members talk about the BC cow-calf stabilization programme and how good it was. Yet our government provided a more useful programme for our farmers.

Mr. Bain: You didn't say a better programme, though, did you?

Mr. Lane: Since that time, of course, Mr. Barrett and company has been taken to the cleaners so we don't hear any more about that.

Mr. Cassidy: They are giving away calves in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin has the floor.

Mr. Warner: You should have made this speech in Victoria.

Mr. Lane: What I can't understand is why we haven't heard more about the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. This ministry evolved under an NDP government.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, but it has a million people involved.

Mr. Lane: I have a report, the 1974-1975 report, on my desk. As a matter of fact, I have it in my hand.

Mr. Bain: So you admit your ideas are based on NDP philosophy.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Bowerman, the minister, says it is doing a tremendous job in northern Saskatchewan. As a matter of fact, just a very small quote out of the report says, "Many new innovative programmes have been implemented . . . improvements have been made to existing ones . . . advancement is far beyond any level previously contemplated in the north."

Mr. Lewis: That's because it's an NDP government. It wouldn't happen here.

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, this is the very thing that I am proposing for northern Ontario.

Mr. Bain: An NDP government.

Mr. Lane: Yes we have the NDP members knocking the very thing that worked under their government in northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Lewis: You weren't here when Allan Lawrence was Minister of Northern Affairs. It was a disaster. They took a Toronto member and made him Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Lane: The trouble with you people is you don't want the problem to go away.

Mr. Lewis: It flopped.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lane: You want to keep on making votes on it but you don't want the problem to go away. You are always negative, never positive.

Mr. Lewis: Just take your ministries and get them to do a job. You don't need a separate one.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. Lane: As I see it, the only reason the NDP members are against any proposal is they are afraid it will work.

An hon. member: What about your own government?

Mr. Lane: And the people of the north will appreciate the improved service.

Mr. Lewis: Come on. Your own government rejected it. They said it was a ridiculous idea.

Mr. Lane: I say to the members of the opposition party that if given an opportunity this proposal will work.

Mr. Bain: Does your government support it?

Mr. Lane: If, by chance, sometime in the future the people of this province make the mistake of electing an NDP government—heaven forbid that—

Mr. Lewis: They might. You never know.

Mr. Lane: —but if they did, it will work just as well for you people as it will for us—just as well. As a matter of fact, you'd probably bring it in, because you did in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Shore: Give it to them.

Mr. Bain: Elect us and find out.

An hon. member: That would be a disaster.

Mr. Lane: I say that this new ministry I'm proposing will work for any government of the day. I say to the members of the opposition, let us forget political advantages and disadvantages as politicians—

Mr. Shore: That's right.

Mr. Warner: We'll bring it in—

Mr. Lane: Let's work together to —

Mr. Cassidy: No, neither were you. It is amazing how you guys get above party when your party is slipping badly.

Mr. Lane: Let's work together as members for the north to improve government services and the quality of life for the people we represent. Surely this should be the first priority of us people who are elected to serve the north.

Mr. Lewis: You are on the government side. Do something about it.

Mr. Lane: That's what I'm trying to do.

Mr. Lewis: Speak to your cabinet minister.

Mr. Lane: You people are official opposition. You should be helping me, not hindering me.

Mr. Lewis: We have.

Interjections.

Mr. Lane: You are going across this country—

Mr. Lewis: We have helped the north.

Mr. Lane: The member—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Algoma-Manitoulin will please continue his speech and the others will refrain from interjections. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, please.

Mr. Lewis: We have helped the north.

Mr. Lane: You made great marks in the north because you—

Mr. Lewis: We have nine northern members now; that's why.

Mr. Lane: You talk about the problems but you don't do anything about them.

Mr. Speaker: We're wasting valuable time.

Mr. Bain: What about the government?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Lane: Again, I want to say the NDP does not want the problem to go away. They want it to be there to make marks on the next time around, I want them to go away now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: If you go away we'll consider it.

Mr. Lane: I won't go away.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to participate in this debate after the comments of my colleague from Algoma-Manitoulin regarding his proposal that we institute—or that the government institute—a ministry for northern Ontario.

Mr. Warner: Here comes the truth.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You wouldn't recognize it if you met it.

Mr. Wildman: I think that probably the reason he's suggesting this is simply that the other ministries which are now already in existence haven't done anything for northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: I must agree with him in that feeling, really, because the north has been neglected for a long time by this government. That is why there are nine NDP members from the north and so few Conservative members.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. Lewis: It's a disgrace.

Mr. Wildman: I think his proposal for a ministry for the north, however, is a rather facile solution, when really what he should be doing is going after the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and all of the other ministries which are especially involved in the north to do the job they're supposed to be doing. What is he going to do if he sets up a ministry for northern Ontario?

Mr. Lane: We are going to package up the the problem and drop it on the minister's desk to show him what can be done.

Mr. Lewis: Do it now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: I suppose he is suggesting that because he and the other back-benchers have such a difficult time telling their ministers what should be done in the north. If they would only listen to the suggestions made over on this side of the House, perhaps they wouldn't have that same problem.

Mr. Lane: We don't have any problem getting to the minister. Look at my record in this House.

Mr. Wildman: I'm participating in this debate in support of both amendments—that of the Liberal Party and of the official opposition—to the Speech from the Throne—

Mr. Bain: Are the Liberals supporting the Liberal amendment?

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: —even at the risk of being described as a criminal because the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) recently made a statement in which he said it would be criminal to oppose the restraint programme of this government.

Mr. Shore: The minister wouldn't say that, would he?

Mr. Wildman: Even taking into account that he had said that, I'm going to vote against the government. It's interesting that a colleague of his a few weeks ago made the comment that criticism of the government was subversive and then apologized to the House. Now the Minister of Housing not too long ago, made a statement that criticism of the restraint programme is criminal. I suppose, as a subversive and a criminal, I am voting against the government.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't say criminal, did you?

Mr. Maeck: Who called him a criminal?

Mr. Wildman: I didn't say I was one, now, of course.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: In good conscience, however, I just cannot support the dismantling—

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: He didn't call me a criminal. He said disagreement with the restraint programme would be criminal; and I really must disagree.

[5:00]

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: In good conscience Mr. Speaker, I just can't support the dismantling of our health and social service delivery system that this government has embarked upon between sessions.

In my riding the Ministry of Health ordered St. Joseph's General Hospital in Blind River to close 15 active-treatment beds. They have moderated that stance to allow 10 of those beds to be shifted to chronic care and this will make it possible for the people who would have been laid off to remain in their jobs. But they have not done anything about the rather minuscule request of the Mental Health Association of Blind River for grants such as \$45 and \$60. These

things have been effectively rejected by the ministry because the ministry has said that these kinds of things must be ruled on by community health councils; and in that area, of course, there isn't a community health council, it doesn't exist.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) has also made claims that the 5.5 per cent ceiling on increases for social service spending will not hurt essential programmes and that it will not increase municipal taxation. I just wonder how the government relates that to the statement just recently by Mr. Flesher, the head of welfare services in Sault Ste. Marie, that there they are \$95,000 short because of the government ceiling and that it is going to mean a great deal of money to Sault Ste. Marie taxpayers.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Wait until he sees the Soo mill rate.

Mr. Wildman: I am also opposing the government because in the Throne Speech there is basically nothing that deals with the issues that were major issues in my riding in the last campaign.

If anyone travels throughout Algoma they will notice the tremendous natural wealth we have and the tremendous responsibility we have to develop this wisely and to conserve it for future generations. However, when I see the actions of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the allocation of timber limits without insuring adequate returns to the people of this province, or the ministry's failure to enforce regulations to protect workers in the mines and mills from accident and disease, I question the minister's responsibility. For that matter, when he admits he has taken friends fishing in a fish sanctuary lake, I think it indicates his dedication to conservation and the enforcement of the laws and regulations that his ministry is supposed to administer.

There are many examples in my riding of the need for government activity. For instance, the need to produce jobs along the north shore of Lake Huron. That area suffers from an unemployment rate which approaches 22 per cent. There is absolutely nothing in the Throne Speech which is going to do anything about that. The suggestion that there be further concessions to the mining companies to help bring about more exploration does absolutely nothing to help those people who need jobs. It doesn't even guarantee that there is necessarily going to be more exploration.

In other areas in my riding, of course, as in the town of Wawa which is more affluent than the north shore, there is a tremendous housing shortage. The government over the last few years has spent large amounts of money in loans and grants to commercial activity in Wawa—tourist activity—which is needed, I suppose, to help the economy of the area, but it seems an awful shame to see tremendous amounts of money spent on motels when people can't find a place to stay or when they have to live in basements or second-floor apartments in what normally would be single-family dwellings.

Another issue which is of importance to my riding is agriculture. The government has again promised in the Throne Speech something to stabilize farm incomes. This year, of course, the bottom fell out of beef prices and as a result the farmers in my area have suffered. In some cases incomes are being cut in half. The government has brought in a rather inadequate, so-called stabilization plan and they have had to pay out twice as much as they first expected. Now they have ag reps going around talking to the farmers suggesting that perhaps the premium might be doubled and the poundage might be lowered, yet not even telling the farmers they are going to get the 50 cents they got this year. They are not even talking about raising it. They won't even guarantee what they got this year.

So basically, although I risk being accused of being a criminal, I have to rise in opposition to the motion for the acceptance of Her Honour's address and in support of the amendments. I will be voting against the government.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I sort of looked forward to—

Mr. Cassidy: Enjoy it while it lasts.

Mr. Roy: That's better.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the hon. member embarks upon his address, I am just checking the time. By agreement, which is not a law of course, it looks as if there will be about six minutes left for the member for the Liberal Party and about 19 minutes for the PC party. For the NDP, there are about 15 minutes left.

Mr. Roy: Oh, no, no.

Mr. Speaker: That is if the arrangement is stuck to hard and fast. There can be some flexibility, I presume.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, by your calculation, we will never get to 6 o'clock, and I certainly want to make a contribution in winding that clock down. I will try to be brief in any event.

Mr. Cassidy: Never mind, the member on the government side isn't ready to talk yet.

Mr. Roy: I want to say that I have been looking forward to participating in this debate. For the first time since 1971, I have enjoyed the contributions made by certain cabinet ministers. In fact, I am overwhelmed by the attendance of government members here today, including a few cabinet ministers. I feel very privileged to be speaking in the presence of such honourable gentlemen.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your colleagues don't like you.

Mr. Lewis: They don't know a compliment when they hear one.

Mr. Roy: I do want to express my personal congratulations to you in your functions as Speaker in this House and to say to you that if you thought things were tough in the past, I would suggest they will probably be getting tougher in the future. But I am convinced that with the co-operation of all members you have the capability. Your associate, the hon. member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is doing a very credible task as well. He also deserves our support and congratulations. I would just issue one word of warning in this whole process, Mr. Speaker, namely, that even though we in the Liberal Party are some distance from you, please do not forget us. We are here, we are alive and we are well.

I want to say to you that in the process of enforcing the rules of the House the tendency in the past, and I don't blame you for this at all, is that there's been more enthusiasm, usually, on the part of the Speaker, to cut supplementaries or to cut any editorial comment in the question but not so much in the answers. I say to you that the great Speakers we have had, the succession of Speakers we have had at the federal level, have earned their reputation by being especially hard on the government. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, you will get support from the opposition if, once in a while when we get too much editorial comment in the answers from the ministers, there are some cutbacks made there as well.

Mr. Shore: We need restraint.

Mr. Roy: I would want to take advantage, as well, on the opportunity of speaking in this august assembly to thank the people of Ottawa East, the people who have given me the privilege to serve here again and have given me the privilege in an overwhelming fashion.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, some time back there was some attempt—and I don't say it was on the part of the government at all—there was some suggestion by the new boundaries commission to wipe out the riding of Ottawa East. You will recall that we put up certain objections to this, and in fairness to the commission—and I want to thank the people on the commission for this—they saw fit to change this.

I am told I have 13 minutes instead of six, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to thank the members of the commission who saw the light. In fact I felt the original decision of the commission seemed to have been based on rulers and on lead pencils and not on facts existing in the ridings, and too often communities were being cut up without any emphasis as to the history of the community or the composition of the community. It would have been sad indeed if the only urban riding in the province with a French-speaking majority would have not had a voice in this House, if it would have been cut up three ways, as originally proposed. So I do want to thank the members of the commission. Some people have said that we were able to save the riding for the Liberal Party, but we wouldn't say that because our approach was subjective.

Mr. Cassidy: That's true.

Mr. Ruston: We won't say that.

Mr. Cassidy: It would have been an NDP riding if the original boundaries were stuck to.

Mr. Roy: I do want to emphasize again that I'm very grateful to the voters of Ottawa East for the overwhelming support I received in the election in 1975. I do want to thank as well the people—

Mr. Lewis: Wasn't it nip and tuck?

Mr. Roy: It was tough. It was tough all the way. In fact, while I'm on the subject of Ottawa East, I should continue to say that I would hazard a guess, when I look at the money we spent in this election and the majority we obtained, that this was possibly one of the better investments, that the people who are going to get their tax credit made

a wise investment in the riding of Ottawa East.

Mr. Cassidy: What about the \$60,000 man?

Mr. Roy: We spent something like \$13,000 in this riding—\$13,104—and we obtained a majority of close to 10,000. I would think that if we were to compare this across the province this is moderation and the results are, in fact, overwhelming.

Mr. Cassidy: What about the \$60,000 man?

Mr. Roy: In fact, when I look at some of the investments made across the province, I can't say as much. I wish my colleague from Carleton, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), was here, because what a dirty trick he played on the Conservative candidate for Carleton East. The first thing he did, in an attempt to win that riding back for the Tories, was he sent down his campaign manager. That was the campaign manager who had run things down in the riding—he'd run the election for Baker down there and he had run Syd Handleman's campaign. Not only did this fellow cost the riding \$9,000 to pay him during the election, but he spent \$60,000 and he came third, a bad third. So I would say that was very unfair of the member for Carleton to send this individual down to Carleton East.

Mr. Ruston: Something like the NDP in my riding.

Mr. Cassidy: The NDP were in third place with \$86.

Mr. Roy: I would think that was not fair at all to spend that kind of money. I want to tell you, the figures really bear out what we were able to observe.

I notice the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes) is here.

In view of the plush headquarters this individual who worked for the Conservatives was operating out of, and the advertisements on television, money was no object. I can't quite understand how this individual was really worth \$9,000 for a short campaign period like we had provincially. There's got to be a mistake. He certainly isn't worth that kind of money.

I do want to say that the Tories basically spent some considerable amount of money in all the ridings in the Ottawa area. Claude Bennett, the Minister of Industry and Tourism and member for Ottawa South, he spent \$48,996—

Mr. Cassidy: He's not worth it.

Mr. Roy: —and in the process was able to reduce his majority from about 12,000 to 2,000. The investment there, again, was questionable.

Then we look at the riding of Ottawa Centre, where Gale Kerwin spent some \$30,000, and again was some distance from being successful in that riding. Don Morrow spent, in the riding of Ottawa West—and, Don, I'll be kind.

Mr. Morrow: Look at the excellent majority, though.

Mr. Roy: I say to the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow), I'll be kind with him, because I won't read the ad he had in the paper during that election, on bilingualism and the Trudeau socialists—

[5:15]

Mr. Cassidy: God save the Queen.

Mr. Samis: Rule Britannia.

Mr. Morrow: That's all right.

Mr. Roy: —and the Quebeckers who were involved in Ontario politicking. But anyway—

Mr. Morrow: The hon. member knows I didn't put in the ad.

Mr. Roy: I know. You had nothing to do with the ad. Your people got turned away, I know. And you got carried away in spending as well. Again, the member spent some \$41,000, quite a hefty investment.

Mr. Kerrio: There was no restraint in the Tory campaign.

Mr. Morrow: Look at the excellent majority though.

Interjection.

Mr. Roy: And then the minister—

Mr. Morrow: Not bad for 65,000 voters.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: How much did you spend?

Mr. Roy: How much did I spend? I will repeat it for you: \$13,104.

Mr. Morrow: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

Mr. Morrow: The hon. member for Ottawa East must remember that Ottawa West has twice as many voters on the voters' list as Ottawa East.

Mr. Roy: You wouldn't know that.

Mr. Morrow: You have to take that into consideration, as well as the majority.

Mr. Lewis: That's a racist comment.

Mr. Roy: I want to say to the member for Ottawa West that the only time he would know there were twice as many voters would be election time, not between the elections.

Mr. Morrow: That's all I need.

Mr. Roy: In any event, then we go to the member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman).

Mr. Lewis: I hope you are running again because this time we are taking you on, my friend, in no uncertain terms.

Mr. Roy: The member for Carleton spent \$42,094 in that riding and in the process that member was able to reduce his majority from 7,000 to 600.

Mr. Morrow: It's just a myth with you people.

Mr. Roy: That was again some investment. I would point out that when I—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your constituents thought you were going to be leader; they really did. They believed you. They thought you were going to be leader. Wait until next time.

Mr. Roy: What is that?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your constituents thought you were going to be leader.

Mr. Roy: They thought I was going to be—? There was no question of leader at that time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, there was.

Mr. Roy: Now that they know I've got leadership potential, watch the majority.

Mr. Samis: You said that before.

Mr. Lewis: Never mind potential; you would be better off if you were leader today.

Mr. Roy: No, don't be harsh.

I would point out as well—I can see I am not going to get very far in this speech at all in 13 minutes. I am not going to be able to say at all what I want to say. This is interesting because the member for Carleton—I could see why he could afford to spend \$42,000 because he had a number of—

Mr. Kennedy: He had money.

Interjection.

Mr. Samis: All the distilleries and wineries in Canada.

Mr. Roy:—wine companies and liquor companies which for some reason were supporting him. I am free enterprise but none of us was able to get that sort of contribution. I wonder why that is?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Have you told Trudeau?

Mr. Roy: I just wonder why that is.
Of course I have named all the ridings—

Interjection.

Mr. Roy:—and the final one is the riding of Carleton East where this young intelligent man, who had the ins with the Premier had spent some time in the office.

Mr. Cassidy: He is the \$60,000 man.

Mr. Roy: That's right. He was going to come in and here he is, the \$60,000 man, coming third. I really think—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Finishing third isn't all that bad.

Mr. Roy:—that here we have evidence that not only have the Tories wasted money as a government—taxpayers' money—they have wasted money during the election.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Some of my best friends finished third.

Mr. Roy: They have operated their elections in the same way they run this government. It's a bad investment all the way through.

Mr. Cunningham: Just like in Hamilton Centre.

Mr. Roy: The final thing I would point out is that in the riding of Ottawa East, I would love to tell members how much the candidate who ran against me spent but as a lawyer I guess he didn't know the law and he didn't file his return. He hasn't filed his return yet. I am told that some people have called him up and he has admitted spending some \$20,000. He says: "I am sorry. I am only ten days late in filing a return. I will probably be charged." I say to that he will have no problems, he will defend himself, because after the election he was given his QC. Yes, he was. I was wondering what he was doing running in the—

Mr. Samis: It makes you wonder about lawyers, doesn't it?

Mr. Roy:—riding of Ottawa East. He seems like a reasonable individual yet there he is running for the Tories in Ottawa East. I thought he is either after a QC or a judgeship; either one.

Mr. Cassidy: Or both.

Mr. Roy: He got his QC and I suppose if he ran again there would be something else they would unlock. I want to thank him for the effort he made. Hopefully, the QC will help him in his defence. I expected that after the Election Commission had sent out notices to all candidates across the province saying the deadline is coming forward, he would have filed his return. He, as a lawyer who has a QC now, should have known enough to file his return in time. He did not.

Mr. Shore: Defend them.

Mr. Roy: The poor individual. Either he is going to have to be charged or prohibited from running again. I say it's unfortunate that all this money was spent—

Mr. Samis: Too bad we don't have a senate in Ontario.

Mr. Roy:—and the returns on the investments were so poor.

Interjection.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I had many more things to say that I thought were of some interest to the members of the House, but I want to abide by whatever gentlemen's agreement has been arrived at here. I do want to comment briefly, though, on the efforts on the other side: I've never quite seen such a succession of ministers getting up and making a contribution to the Throne Speech debate. This is something we have never seen before.

Mr. Cassidy: We've never had anything but ministers.

Mr. Roy: Maybe I'm naive, but I sometimes think it must be Eddie Goodman who has talked to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and said, "Look, you've got to get some of your dummies out there. You've got to get them up front to take some of the flak." They got a brown envelope from that ministry and from other ministries.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: From Elie Martell

Mr. Roy: It's a process that I thoroughly enjoyed, listening to the ministers trying to justify their positions and telling the members here what a great job their ministry was doing. Some of them were precious. The other night I spent all evening here listening to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen); I think it is sad that I should only have 13 minutes when I sat here for about half an hour listening to the Minister of Revenue—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Don't talk. That leaping leprechaun from Renfrew spent 2½ hours.

Mr. Roy: —telling us how well the flow charts were working and how well the computers were operating. That was about as interesting as telling us how he put his pants on in the morning.

Mr. Lewis: Actually, when you think of Arthur Meen, that would be interesting.

Mr. Roy: I'm not sure whether it would be more interesting than the computers.

Mr. Lewis: He might have difficulty about which end to start at.

Mr. Roy: Anyway, we've had a succession of ministers talking about this—and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that forced to close when I'm in full flight; I would really like to get wound up in this process—

Mr. Shore: Keep going.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Liberal Party in Ontario, my colleagues and I, are alive and well. We have had a few problems in the last week, we're going to correct the situation—

Mr. Martel: That is the understatement of the year.

Mr. Roy: —and we're going to operate on an even keel. Mr. Speaker, I can say this: When this was going on, I was away on a holiday, so I can't take any of the credit for it. But as bad as I might feel, all I have to do is come back in the House, look across the way and I feel much better. I really do. And I want to say that we're alive and well. Unfortunately, we're going to have to keep the Tories in power for some time longer—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are decisive.

Mr. Roy: —because we feel that now is not a good time, and the voters want to see minority government work, so we'll support the government for a while.

Mr. Cassidy: That is a flip-flop.

Mr. Moffatt: We heard these excuses before.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Roy: I say to my colleagues to the right, if they were so keen in supporting a non-confidence motion, why didn't they support us in the fall.

Mr. Moffatt: That is extremely weak.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, we will continue making a contribution here, and I'm very pleased to have participated. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Mississauga South.

Mr. Ruston: The NDP aren't going to vote tonight.

Mr. Martel: We will be here—every one of us.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Mississauga South. Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: If we had supported you in the fall, you would have withdrawn the amendment.

Mr. Roy: Oh no, no, no.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, yes, yes, yes. We didn't want to embarrass you.

Mr. Speaker: We are wasting valuable time.

Mr. Roy: Not at all, we were very serious. We stuck to it.

Mr. Moffatt: And now you are stuck with it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's speech is over. Thank you.

Mr. Kennedy: I am pleased that the hon. members opposite reminded us four times that the Liberal Party is alive and well, because we need to be told almost repeatedly; we would never guess.

Mr. Ruston: You are pretty dull over there, Doug.

Mr. Kennedy: First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend you and your deputy on your election to office, and on the excellent job you are doing in what is a most difficult job; it just doesn't occur at one point over

the course of a session, but day by day. I pay tribute to you and your assistants who have done so well.

I am delighted with the opportunity to participate in the Throne Speech debate—

Mr. Martel: The giveaway programme all those years.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, in my view, the people of Ontario realize that we face some critical economic and social choices in the coming years—

Mr. Martel: As a result of 30 years of Tory government.

Mr. Kennedy: Settle down and listen.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Shore: Elie, be nice and quiet.

Mr. Kennedy: In my view, the people of Ontario realize that we face some critical economic and social choices in the coming years. As the Throne Speech outlines, we have already initiated that process. We have already started down that road through the various types of commitments which we have made in our restraint programme. Hon. members opposite claim a lack of substance, a lack of perspective, in this most important document. I would suggest they take another look, a closer examination of what the Throne Speech is about. While the major emphasis centres upon the need to restrain government expenditures, to interject a reasonable sense of control and direction over the growth of the public sector, the government's Throne Speech doubly emphasizes that our restraint programme will be carried out in a sophisticated and responsible manner.

That means the programme cannot be undertaken in a willy-nilly unplanned approach.

Mr. McClellan: Tell that to Taylor.

Mr. Kennedy: It means financial and budgetary limits must be applied equitably—

Mr. McClellan: Tell that to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Kennedy: —in the areas of social services, health care and education.

Mr. Martel: Thirty years of mismanagement.

Mr. Kennedy: Which means that restraints must be applied carefully, so as not to under-

mine or alter drastically the essential services provided in these three significant policy areas.

Mr. Ferrier: What about mental health in Ontario?

Mr. Kennedy: It is not an easy task. However—

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: —it is important to realize the restraint programme must be completely carried out. Otherwise we will lose sight of the real object of the exercise—

Mr. Martel: Shouldn't have given away so much last year in election year.

Mr. Kennedy: —which is the beating back of inflation.

Interjections.

Mr. Kennedy: I must say that hon. members opposite are completely missing the real point of the restraint programme.

Interjections.

Mr. Kennedy: Every day since the federal government on Thanksgiving brought forth its new economic controls programme, the opposition parties in this Legislature have failed to see or understand that inflation, which is a continual and constant erosion of people's personal savings and consequently the weakening of the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar, have meant truly harsh and real sacrifices to those people most affected by inflation.

Mr. Young: Why didn't you think of that four years ago?

Mr. Kennedy: You are not thinking of it yet. Both the New Democratic and Liberal parties demonstrate their absence of understanding by insisting that this province establish its own provincial anti-inflation board.

Mr. Martel: Remember you tried to buy the province.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we have fewer interjections? Thank you.

Mr. Martel: He is misleading the House.

Mr. Kennedy: By stressing the unconstitutionality of the legislation, they miss the real point, not appreciating the concerns of ordinary Canadians or for that matter the citizens of this province. As far as the question of constitutionality is concerned, the

federal government decided to legislate the price and income controls on the basis of the peace, order and good government provisions of the BNA Act. While the federal government can be criticized for moving at the 11th hour on these economic problems, at least it had the good sense to take hold and try to stop the general drift in our economic affairs, belated though it is.

Certainly the public record shows that the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) urged as early as April, 1974, that a federal-provincial conference on the number one priority of inflation be held in this country. He repeated that at the Prince Edward Island conference, if memory serves me right, in July of the same year.

Mr. Warner: He always talks a good fight.

Mr. Kennedy: Before developing my remarks for this Throne Speech debate I went over some of the arguments used by the official opposition in its justification for wanting a provincial anti-inflation board. From their presentations, members of the NDP appear to be arguing for a regional approach in solving the problem of inflation.

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: Yes, you did. They appear to be rejecting the national dimensions of inflationary pressures—

Mr. Wildman: You are talking about the Liberals.

Mr. Kennedy: —telling the voting public that the real origins of problem-solving on the inflationary front, the real levers of power for controlling inflation, lie in the capacity of the provincial government, and specifically Ontario.

[5:30]

Mr. Swart: You should do something about auto insurance.

Mr. Kennedy: Quite frankly, I find this approach most disturbing and thoughtless, and I say this because all the members have to do is look beyond the borders of Ontario. Recently I had the opportunity to attend the one-day conference of the Ontario Economic Council. We listened to an eminent American economist, Dr. Paul McCracken, Dr. McCracken played a leading role, both as an official and as an academic, in the development of the recent economic policy in the United States.

He spoke to the gathering on the topic of government expenditures on a renaissance of discipline. The essence of his address focused on the rising public concern about the impact and the usefulness of government expenditures.

He pointed out that this concern transcends national boundaries. He questioned the rapid expansion of the public sector in the majority of industrialized western democracies. He alluded to Canada's debt ratio going from approximately 26 per cent to over 43 per cent in the past 20 years. That is a phenomenal rate of growth that, in effect, has produced unfulfilled expectations in the minds of many people, regardless of their political affiliation.

Mr. Warner: You are guilty—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: In Ontario, we've been a part of that historical development. Changing and growing populations and rising standards of living have placed greater attention and stress on the provision of human needs. Thus, in turn, it became necessary to expand both the social and economic structure of this province. Our attitudes to these economic and social trends were generally acceptable. They were characterized by the general feeling that these massive expenditures of public funds were required for the well-being of our province. But those attitudes are now changing dramatically. This abrupt shift in public concern from one of acceptance of greater government involvement in our lives to one of questioning that very involvement, is very similar to our attitudes towards the use of energy.

The majority of members of this Legislature accepted the premise that Canada was not wanting for natural gas or oil during the Fifties and Sixties of this century. In fact, we believed that our energy reserves were in abundance so much so we could export millions of cubic feet of gas and hundred of thousands of gallons of crude oil to the American market without affecting our future industrial strategy for this country. But that now has changed. The watershed year was 1973 when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, determined that the world price for crude oil was completely insufficient. They created the energy cartel and tripled the price of crude in the short period of only 18 months.

We can all dispute the benefits or disadvantages of these developments. To my mind, it is a time-wasting effort. It is water

under the bridge; it has happened. Now we're being asked to revise expectations, reassess our attitudes and reorder our priorities.

What is most important in our own lives is the shift which has gone undetected by members opposite. The nature of that change is so radical that it's particularly hard for my friends over there to grasp. Instead of reacting to the specific interest of special groups, the NDP should take a leaf out of the book of their fellow socialists in Great Britain. When their country was racked by high rates of inflation with hundreds of thousands of people out of work, the Labour government—

Mr. Deans: If you raise the volume, you will drive the last Liberal out of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: —of Prime Minister Wilson put into effect a prices and income policy last summer.

Mr. Deans: Now you have done it, there is not a single Liberal in his seat.

Mr. Kennedy: They know what's coming, so they've vacated. Before the policy was implemented, the British were suffering inflation at the rate of no less than 25 per cent.

Mr. Martel: They got rid of the Tories.

Mr. Wildman: The Tories were in power.

Mr. Ferrier: It was the Tories who caused the problems for Great Britain.

Mr. Kennedy: Now some six or eight months later, the very economic controls to which the trade union movement in Great Britain was so adamantly opposed at the outset have helped to bring that crushing rate of inflation down to about 15 per cent. So said a CBC documentary two or three weeks ago.

Mr. Martel: It was the Tories who got them in trouble, though.

Mr. Kennedy: Their socialist colleagues in Great Britain have grasped the lessons to be learned from the impact of inflation.

Mr. Martel: It was the Tories who got them in trouble—they were in power.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Kennedy: The other day, Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary — he's in the socialist wing—

Mr. Cassidy: Good man, too.

Mr. Angus: It was the Tories who screwed it up, though.

Mr. Kennedy: —made an interesting observation. He said, "There's no future—"

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: If you will listen for a minute, you'll learn something and maybe it'll change the attitude you have toward the people of Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: We have been listening for four years and never learned a thing from you guys.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Jenkins said, "There is no future in believing that we can let public expenditure, as a proportion of the national income, rise significantly further. Either the taxation or the inflationary consequences will be unacceptable."

So said Mr. Jenkins.

Put in simpler terms, Mr. Jenkins is just reiterating a basic fact of life for all governments: Namely, that ever-larger government, mushrooming bureaucracy and massive tax-gobbling programmes simply will not do to meet our present challenges.

Mr. Ferrier: You are trying to pass off the mushrooming of government bureaucracy the Tories have created, are you?

Mr. Kennedy: The answer lies not in the greater expansion of government services but rather in limiting that growth and in starting to evolve the more efficient use of existing resources. That is the dilemma which I see faces my friends in the NDP. They have a sincere commitment and belief that the public sector has the capacity to provide the answers for all those people in society who are less fortunate from the standpoint of material things.

Mr. Swart: Your system isn't working that well, then.

Mr. Kennedy: The PC government of this province has acted in good conscience by using government resources to help those who are disadvantaged—the disabled, the blind and those who require a second chance to get back on their feet and contribute to our society.

Mr. Warner: Sure. Tell the Children's Aid Societies that this year.

Mr. Kennedy: A secondary dilemma facing the NDP—perhaps in the long term it will become the most important dilemma to be resolved—is that by advocating the expansion of government, by spending more money than it is taking in, government becomes the very agency which destroys any real hope for the very ones the government is supposed to be helping. That's a paradox, a real irony.

Argentina is an outstanding example of the harsh reality of inflation. Faced with inflation rates of over 330 per cent for the past year, the armed forces overthrew the Peronist government.

Mr. Wildman: Are you suggesting that here?

Mr. Kennedy: What motivated them to do that, when the government was ushered in on a great wave of popularity about three years earlier? The military does grasp for power; we won't deny that that's a factor but an even stronger strategic consideration is to centre on what would happen if there had been no intervention. Possibly another one of the NDP's respected socialist colleagues in Great Britain, Michael Foot, who ran as a candidate, put it more succinctly. In a recent paper, Mr. Foot said that not bringing the economy under control in the United Kingdom would mean, in the long run, the loss of individual freedom and the eventual collapse of Parliamentary government—

Mr. Wildman: He was talking about controlling industry, though.

Mr. Kennedy: —as it has been mothered and fostered in that country and spread throughout the world. If you fellows would follow that example, your attitudes here might change.

Mr. Warner: Yes. We are talking about controlling prices as well as wages. All you want is controlled wages.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: The reasons for the military intervention in Argentina may be complex, I don't know, but the conditions which led up to that intervention are frightening. An article from the Sunday, March 28 edition of the New York Times—

Mr. Martel: You spent a billion dollars trying to win an election last year.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: —describes the economic conditions of Argentina in which hundreds of people made a huge profit on the exchange rate of the peso to the dollar. The official exchange rate was 140; the black market was about 340 and that's the way the black market took off.

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: There was a lot of margin in the exchange operations.

Interjection.

Mr. Kennedy: One asks why were these economic conditions allowed to persist? They weren't.

Mr. Martel: It was the Tories who borrowed from Germany, too, wasn't it?

Mr. Kennedy: There was the overtaking of the Peronist government by the military. We don't want to go that route. We don't want to follow the course the United Kingdom was on in its steps down the garden path of inflation before we really put restraints on ourselves.

Mr. Deans: Who wrote this?

Mr. Warner: You talk about every country but this one.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Be honest with us, who wrote that?

Mr. Warner: Are you going to get around to Ontario?

Mr. Kennedy: The whole rationale for the restraint programme in Ontario centres on the control of inflation.

Mr. Moffatt: He drove John Rhodes out of the House.

Mr. Kennedy: Any member of this House who argues that we in this government have concocted a phoney issue in dealing with inflation is mistaken.

Mr. Ferrier: Why didn't they close the hospitals in your riding?

Mr. Deans: You have dealt with it in the opposite way from which a sensible, fair person would.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kennedy: We are not out to bludgeon the people who are on welfare and those truly in need of welfare. We are not out to deny the sick access to hospital beds—

Mr. Deans: Just because you say it doesn't make it so, you know.

Mr. Kennedy: —and those who raise this question are simply becoming emotional over the restraint programme.

Mr. Deans: Go speak to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman).

Mr. Warner: You just put 5,000 out of work.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kennedy: It is not warranted. No matter how often that topic rises opposite, it is not warranted.

Mr. Deans: Talk to Larry Grossman and—

Mr. Warner: Who built it?

Mr. Kennedy: It is just that you refuse to face the realities of inflation. The members opposite are on all sides; at least you are fairly consistent in supporting the ongoing rise of inflation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, we don't have all the answers in trying to beat back inflation. We believe that members opposite could have some sensible and useful answers in implementing a most useful and difficult task—restraining government expenditures—without affecting the basic overall service provided in health care, education or social welfare.

Mr. Warner: An answer to 30 years of Tory ineptitude.

Mr. Kennedy: I would appeal and do appeal for both opposition parties to re-examine this, and come forward with some specific and responsible solutions instead of engaging continually in rhetoric—

Mr. Martel: You are not for real.

Mr. Deans: After it has happened.

Mr. Makarchuk: Sock it to 'em.

Mr. Kennedy: —rhetoric that is not constructive, that is not helpful, and will not be of help in getting us over this time of economic difficulty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: Monsieur l'Orateur,—

Mr. Moffatt: Why are you leaving over there?

Mr. Cassidy: —je vais faire un discours qui sera peut-être très politique mais malheureusement qui ne serait pas compris par beaucoup des députés qui sont avec nous aujourd'hui. Je crois que c'est désirable que l'un des discours de ce débat soit en français, l'autre langue officielle de cette province. Alors j'ai quelques mots à dire en général et j'aimerais bien parler un peu des deux problèmes qui affectent l'éducation en français de nos franco-ontariens et aussi de nos gens de langue anglaise dans la ville d'Ottawa.

Dans le Nouveau Parti Démocratique, M. l'Orateur, nous sommes déçus que le Parti Libéral de l'Ontario a décidé de ne pas procéder avec leur intention de forcer une élection à la conclusion du débat sur le discours du trône.

An hon. member: Very good, Mike.

Mr. Cassidy: C'est du bon français, oui. Alors les Libéraux ont changé de position si souvent dans le passé, M. l'Orateur et maintenant ils vont reculer encore une fois. Leur chef était si courageux le jour, quand il présentait son amendement qui serait supporté par le Parti Néodémocrate mais deux jours après, après son petit jeu de tennis il était si timide. Il paraît que M. Smith manque maintenant la confiance de son caucus, qu'ils ont eu un petit discours et puis qu'il a changé sa position.

Peut-être les Libéraux ont pensé que le Nouveau Parti Démocratique n'était pas sérieux en présentant des alternatives au programme du gouvernement et en déclarant que nous étions prêts à les combattre dans une élection sur les problèmes, les programmes, les questions majeures des découpages des services sociaux et de la santé.

Alors tant pis. Le NPD sait depuis longtemps que les libéraux étaient un parti d'opportunisme, un parti qui manque de principes et que c'est un parti qui manque de positions fixes et qui change sa position d'un jour à l'autre.

Mr. Roy: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. He is being very offensive there, very offensive and I think unparliamentary toward this party.

Mr. Moffatt: You should have heard him before you came in.

Mr. Cassidy: Je voudrais dire, M. l'Orateur que ce n'est pas vrai. It's not true what he's saying about me.

[5:45]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair feels he is very parliamentary. We may differ with his views, though, on both sides of the House. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Cassidy: Si je ne suis pas à l'ordre, M. l'Orateur, je suis certain que vous me l'indiquerez.

Ce changement, cet opportunisme du Parti Libéral n'a jamais été plus évident que dans les événements des récentes semaines. Le député d'Ottawa Est était absent en vacances à Miami, n'est-ce pas? A Sarasota, oui, en Floride. Ce qui est plus important et qui nous trouble bien plus c'est le changement de position du Parti Libéral, le gouvernement minoritaire du Premier Ministre (M. Davis) a gagné maintenant plusieurs mois de survie. Les Libéraux évidemment ne sont pas en position de défaire le gouvernement. Au moins jusqu'à l'automne et peut-être jusqu'en 1977 ils vont supporter le gouvernement sans aucun regard aux effets de ses programmes sur la population de cette province.

Ce n'est pas la position du Nouveau Parti Démocratique. Quand notre chef (M. Lewis) a proposé notre amendement de manque de confiance dans le débat sur le discours du trône, c'était bien plus que la motion traditionnelle proposée par l'opposition dans un système parlementaire. Nous avions à considérer, vu la situation minoritaire si nous voulions précipiter une élection ou non. Notre résolution était rédigée pour être acceptable à tous les députés de l'opposition, ci-inclus les députés du Parti Libéral. Nous étions préparés pour une campagne électorale et nous continuons de croire que ce serait plus désirable de voter en mai que de laisser les conservateurs au pouvoir jusqu'à l'automne ou jusqu'à l'an prochain.

Ce qui est arrivé à Queen's Park, M. l'Orateur, c'est que l'esprit de coopération offert par le gouvernement dans les mois suivant l'élection de septembre a été remplacé par un esprit de confrontation. Dans la situation de gouvernement minoritaire, il nous semble que la coopération est obligatoire. Mais en actualité le gouvernement a tourné le dos sur l'opposition et sur la Législature depuis Noël. Ils ne sont pas simplement anti-coopératifs, ils sont devenus anti-démocratiques.

Dans la dernière semaine de la session d'avant Noël, le trésorier (M. McKeough)

a commencé le programme d'économie qui résulte maintenant en des découpages sauvages pour les services sociaux et les services de santé. Vous vous souvenez peut-être, M. l'Orateur, que c'était environ le 17 ou le 18 décembre, une couple de jours avant la fin de la session, que les plans du gouvernement ont été dévoilés. Puis le ministre de la Santé, (M. F. S. Miller) commençait en janvier et en février à fermer des hôpitaux et obligeait environ 4000 employés à démissionner.

Des membres du cabinet ont fait une tournée dans la province pour informer les municipalités et les commissions scolaires que le régime provincial de coopération fiscale était terminé et qu'elles seraient obligées de hausser leurs taxes foncières d'environ \$150 à \$200 par an pour chaque contribuable, pour chaque maison et chaque appartement en 1976. Finalement le ministre des Services sociaux (M. Taylor) a fait son tour de la province pour informer les municipalités et les agences de services sociaux que des services essentiels comme l'aide à l'enfance, les garderies et les foyers pour les personnes âgées seraient coupés, qu'ils allaient subir un grand découpage dans leur budget réel et qu'il avait lui aussi, comme ministre, l'intention d'obliger toute mère de famille recevant l'assistance sociale à travailler même si c'était à temps partiel et même si elle avait des enfants petits à la maison. Voici le programme.

Tout cela s'est fait sans consultation avec la Législature, parce que la Législature n'était presque pas en session sauf la mini-session de deux jours en janvier.

Le gouvernement a élaboré son programme de réduction des dépenses pendant une période de presque trois mois, sans consulter les représentants élus des citoyens de l'Ontario. Puis le discours du trône, que nous débattons aujourd'hui, a parlé dans un ton réactionnaire de la détermination du gouvernement de réduire la qualité de vie de notre province avec une attaque sur les gens âgés, pauvres et faibles.

Dans cette situation, il nous paraît que c'est inutile de continuer avec le gouvernement minoritaire. Nous croyons que très peu de constructif sera fait. Le gouvernement ne veut plus de consultation avec l'opposition ou avec le public. L'autre jour, par exemple, M. l'Orateur, j'ai entendu le ministre des Affaires Commerciales et du Consommateur nous dire que c'était inutile de se présenter en des manifestations devant la Législature parce que cela n'avait aucune action sur le gouvernement.

Alors inutile de dire à ce ministre, M. Handelman, et aux autres ministres que la raison pour laquelle les gens viennent dénoncer devant la Législature c'est quand ils ont essayé toutes autres sortes de moyens d'influencer, ou de faire écouter le gouvernement sans aucun effet.

En plus, nous dans le Nouveau Parti Démocratique croyons que le gouvernement a fait une erreur fondamentale en mesurant l'opinion des citoyens de cette province. Evidemment personne ne s'oppose au principe que les dépenses du gouvernement doivent être freinées. C'est aussi évident que si les gens de la province avaient le choix, ils préféreraient de ne pas avoir une élection, était même si on n'est pas allé aux urnes depuis plusieurs ans.

Mais la situation qui existe, M. l'Orateur, c'est un peu différent. Ce qui nous trouble c'est que nous sommes arrivés dans cette province à un déficit de deux milliards de dollars en Ontario à cause d'un manque de contrôle sur les dépenses par le même gouvernement conservateur qui se présente maintenant comme le gouvernement d'économie.

Ce qui nous trouble c'est que le gouvernement a lancé ces restrictions sans consultation. Le gouvernement veut détruire la qualité des services sociaux avec des découpages inconsidérés. Nous sommes troublés que le gouvernement ignore les dépenses qu'il fait pour aider les grandes corporations en même temps que les services les plus essentiels aux gens qui sont très pauvres, comme nos personnes âgées sont retirés. Nous sommes troublés parce que le gouvernement ferme des hôpitaux et coupe les budgets des hôpitaux en même temps qu'il ignore l'abus des laboratoires privés, tandis qu'il donne une augmentation de cinquante six millions de dollars en salaires à nos médecins, ou en même temps qu'il permet des opérations chirurgicales qui ne sont pas nécessaires et qui coûtent chaque année une quarantaine de millions de dollars.

En plus c'est un gouvernement qui continue d'ignorer les problèmes que nous avons soulevés à la dernière élection—le logement qui est abordable, la perte de nos terres agricoles, l'énergie, la santé. La qualité de notre vie subit une attaque primordiale de la part du gouvernement et nous regrettons beaucoup que le Parti Libéral a décidé, pour des raisons strictement partisans, de laisser au pouvoir le gouvernement conservateur—

Mr. Roy: Vous devez regarder la résolution de votre confrère, résolution numéro quatre.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: Les gens de la province ne veulent pas d'élection.

Mr. Cassidy: M. l'Orateur, dans la dernière élection, le parti Néo-démocrate a proposé des programmes très positifs pour assurer le logement abordable pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes du coût du logis de la perte de notre patrimoine agricole, et sur les autres sujets que je viens de mentionner.

Les problèmes soulevés lors de la dernière élection n'ont pas été résolus, pas même considérés par le gouvernement et c'est pour cela que si, par hasard, l'élection était déclenchée ce soir, nous l'accueillerons. Nous sommes prêts si c'est nécessaire et nous désirons bien avoir l'opinion du grand public de cette province parce que nous croyons aussi que le public est prêt pour une élection, qu'après une couple de semaines de considération de qui a déclenché cette élection, nous retournions aux questions primordiales qui résultaient dans la défaite du gouvernement conservateur dans la dernière élection.

M. l'Orateur j'aimerais bien ajouter quelques mots sur d'autres problèmes qui sont très importants pour la population francophone et aussi anglophone de cette province.

L'une c'est la question de l'école secondaire française dans les régions d'Essex et de Windsor. Nous avons une situation à Windsor, ou après de grandes pressions par le ministre de l'Éducation, la politique de la province d'assurer l'éducation en français partout où vous avez un bon nombre de francophones qui peuvent en bénéficier, a été accepté par la Commission scolaire d'Essex.

Ils ont fait un accord informel et coopératif avec la Commission scolaire de Windsor de bâtir une école française telle que celle qui existe dans la région d'Ottawa, au nord de la province, à Toronto, même dans la région de Niagara.

Mais voici que dans les dernières semaines cet accord a été rejeté par la Commission scolaire d'Essex. Ils ont passé une résolution pour dire qu'ils ne veulent pas continuer avec le projet de construire une école secondaire française. Ils ont basé cette décision sur un préjudice contre les francophones, et ils ont rejeté un accord fait avec le gouvernement et avec le ministre de l'Éducation (M. Wells) selon lequel la commission scolaire a déjà bâti deux extensions à des écoles anglaises dans la région sans maintenant continuer à conclure son obligation de bâtir une école secondaire française.

L'autre jour, lundi de la semaine dernière, en effet, la commission a décidé de procéder

avec une option pour acheter un terrain pour construire une école secondaire. Mais c'est évident, même si la surpopulation des écoles secondaires qui existent, justifie une nouvelle école, qu'ils ont l'intention s'il n'y a pas de changement influencé par ce gouvernement de procéder avec ou une école bilingue ou bien une école qui serait strictement pour la population anglaise.

M. l'Orateur, certainement ma compréhension était que la politique du gouvernement est que tout élève francophone dans la province serait assuré d'une éducation en français au niveau secondaire, partout où vous aviez un bon nombre de francophones.

La région de Windsor est presque la dernière région de la province où vous avez un bon nombre de francophones et où cet engagement du gouvernement est ignoré. La commission scolaire a donné comme raison la diminution des subventions du gouvernement de 95% à 77% du coût capital de cette école. Mais je crois que ce n'est pas une raison valable. Le ministre (M. Wells) doit exercer toute sa capacité pour persuader la commission scolaire d'Essex, ou si la commission scolaire n'est pas prête, alors de leur donner l'ordre de construire l'école française dans la région de Windsor.

Nous avons un précédent pour cette action dans le traitement des commissions scolaires dans la région de Toronto sur la question du transfert des écoles à la système séparée. La précédente a été fixée et pour cette raison je crois que le ministre détient le pouvoir informel et peut-être formel pour assurer l'éducation secondaire dans une école française à Essex dès le commencement de l'année académique en septembre 1976.

Deuxièmement, M. l'Orateur, nous avons le problème de l'éducation de nos enfants anglophones en français. Les cours d'immersion français pour les élèves anglophones ont eu un énorme succès dans la région d'Ottawa mais sont menacés par le retraitage des fonds fédéraux.

Evidemment, maintenant nous avons l'appui de M. Spicer, le commissaire aux langues officielles au niveau fédéral qui dit que c'est bien mieux de dépenser de l'argent comme ça que de dépenser des dizaines de millions sur l'éducation des fonctionnaires âgés de 30, 40 ou 50 ans. A peu près un tiers des enfants anglophones à Ottawa prennent maintenant leur éducation en français.

M. l'Orateur, c'est notre opinion que le gouvernement ne doit pas ignorer le besoin à Ottawa et que le gouvernement doit continuer avec un programme d'immersion pour assurer l'éducation en français pour tout élève anglophone qui en désire partout dans la province, que cela doit s'étager dans une période de deux ou trois années pour assurer que ces cours sont disponibles partout dans la province avant le commencement disons de 1980.

M. l'Orateur vous parlez très bien le français et j'aimerais bien continuer avec ce discours, mais le temps est fini. Nous sommes en désaccord avec le gouvernement. Nous croyons que le gouvernement a commencé une politique de confrontation contre toute la population de la province. Pour ces raisons, nous croyons que la disposition doit être défaite et une élection doit être déclenchée.

Mr. Bullbrook moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, April 5, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Mr. Bullbrook: I don't want you to take issue with me tonight if I play to the gallery, because there are very few other people to play to here.

Mr. Evans: Especially in your seats.

Mr. Bullbrook: I think, frankly, the whips should be constrained to some degree of secrecy, because it is obvious from the attendance here tonight they knew I was going to have the honour and opportunity of winding up for the Liberal Party. In any event, I say to you that I regard this with a little more trepidation than I have in the past in winding up on behalf of our party. It's always been a great honour.

I remember one time being asked to undertake the responsibility, and if I recall correctly it started at about 5:50 p.m. I didn't feel that 5:50 p.m. was an appropriate time to begin any major speech and that night I attempted to pay tribute to my hon. colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence). Maybe the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) remembers that night? I explained that night at 5:50 p.m. how we used to practice, going back and forth—I would drive him down to Delaware and somebody would pick him up there. This is about six or seven years ago, and I remember explaining for the then Premier, the Hon. John Robarts, how we used to practice being cabinet ministers, going back and forth.

I want to tell members that after this length of time, I'm getting sick of practising. If I don't soon get over there, I might consider an invitation to the Senate in Ottawa. That admission has to be an incredible conveyance of a sense of frustration on my part.

In any event, I do appreciate the opportunity of joining in this debate. I want to make some comments on Her Honour's humble address. Recognizing that Her Honour does not write that address, I want to say that the nomen-

clature is extremely appropriate, in the year of 1975-1976, when it is called a humble address. Any person who was involved in putting together that Throne Speech should regard it as totally one of humility, because it doesn't say very much. But that's understood; in a period of restraint it is very difficult for a Progressive Conservative administration to understand that government can govern without the inordinate, excessive expenditure of public funds. But more to that in the future.

I wanted to begin my comments, if I could, by wishing on behalf of this party—I am sure without reservation—through you, and recorded in the annals of our assembly, our best wishes for the speedy recovery of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller).

I must say when he was first elected—I believe it was in 1971—I didn't know him. I found him to be a most charming, engaging, affable man and he has put upon those particular attributes an extreme ability as one of Her Majesty's ministers. And there isn't a member of this House who doesn't want to take issue with some of the decisions he has made, who doesn't recognize that he has become an instrument for what could only be characterized as financial hypocrisy; there isn't one of us who doesn't recognize also that after some type of soul-searching he undertook a very difficult task with his physical being and handled it extremely well from his point of view. If that responsibility contributed to the present illness, which I think probably that it did, then we not only wish him a speedy recovery, as I say, but we express our appreciation to him for his efforts on behalf of the people of Ontario.

If I may also, I want to begin by saying that I want to pay tribute to my former leader. It's somewhat of a redundancy because many others have paid tribute to him, but I don't think it is the type of redundancy that those people in this House will regard as unduly excessive. I don't think there is any doubt in anyone's mind that if you ask any member of this House, no matter what their partisan persuasion, what man represented

totally, in their minds, integrity of purpose, ability and dedication, the response would be Robert Fletcher Nixon.

It is, to say the least, Mr. Speaker, a somewhat difficult task to be the leader of the Liberal caucus in the legislative assembly of Ontario; somewhat. There are sometimes slight moments of trauma that affect you.

Mr. Grossman: That is an understatement.

Mr. Bullbrook: But I ask you, seriously, to hearken back for a moment, those of us who can, for perhaps a decade—and I know there sits the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch), who not only has a great affection, from a political point of view, for the former leader of the Liberal Party, but a very personal one also, going back many many years; and perhaps the length of my comments embarrass. I don't apologize for that because no one, without reservation, no one could, constantly, day in and day out, represent this party, in the analysis of legislation, in the understanding of what government policies' deficiencies were, as Bob Nixon did.

I want to say to those members—and obviously I want also to add this as a digression, that it again has become public knowledge to the press that I was speaking because I see there are two of them up there at the moment.

Mr. Nixon: They are all running back to hear you.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to say to you that those members of what Douglas Cater called the fourth branch of government—and I guess here, because of the lack of delineation between executive and legislative branches we can call them the third branch of government—who I think by and large do as an effective a job for the welfare of the people of Ontario as the other two branches do, the legislative and judicial; I think by and large they do. Frankly, I have had my moments of trauma with them, but I think they were self-engendered. I think there was some justification, at times, for some of the things that were said about me, personally and professionally and politically.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is one member up there who I've got to put down in the history of this province as lacking any common sense, objectivity, nay at times, if I could add, some milk of human kindness. The vilification that our former leader was subjected to during the last elec-

tion by one member of the press gallery was something to behold. I'm sure that if Bob Nixon had gone out on a platform totally in favour of widows and orphans that particular man would regard it with some degree of illegitimacy.

In any event, we are all subjected to those things. But one does like some degree of temperance at times.

Mr. Nixon: That is a nice phrase.

Mr. Bullbrook: That is sort of a nice phrase. Every morning when I shave I use that phrase.

Mr. Nixon: Not necessarily temperance.

Mr. Bullbrook: I say to you frankly, Mr. Speaker, I really want to record, as significantly as I can, the revulsion I have for the constant vilification by that man of Bob Nixon, without justification at all. Now he commences the crucifixion of the new leader. If St. John the Baptist were the leader of the Liberal caucus, he'd accuse him of using too much water. There's no doubt about that at all.

Hon. B. Stephenson: St. John would never have taken it.

Mr. Lewis: He crucifies everyone equally.

Mr. Singer: Oh no, you've got to get your share.

Mr. Bullbrook: I knew the Minister of Labour and the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) had supreme connections, but does she deal with St. John the Baptist?

Mr. Nixon: On a first-name basis.

Mr. Lewis: No, he deals with her.

Mr. Bullbrook: I think she did call him John, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Breithaupt: She has him on hold.

Mr. Sweeney: With the load she is carrying, she needs those kinds of connections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence in giving me the opportunity to make comments with respect to my particular fondness, respect and affection for those two members. I want to say to you, sir, it is going to be a difficult time for the Minister of Labour to undertake that peripheral and collateral responsibility, but I think she's doing a very fine job in that respect. She is a very able minister of the Crown.

Mr. Reid: There are very few of them over there.

Mr. Bullbrook: If ever there was a manifest conflict of interest, it's holding the portfolios of Health and Labour at the same time in the Province of Ontario, because in fairness to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), he's done a very significant undertaking with respect to environmental and industrial health in the Province of Ontario.

The Labour ministry, if I may say so, has been one of reciprocity in effect. There has been no leadership in that particular portfolio with respect to those things that we talk about. The basic dehumanization of the work place is something absolutely foreign to the Labour ministry in the Province of Ontario. The government gives us this pap on page 5 of Her Honour's speech:

There are few problems more urgent than dispute resolution in the labour relations field. The Ministry of Labour will intensify its examination of the collective bargaining process with the aim of recommending substantive changes to reduce the incidence of industrial conflict.

That's the comment of the Ministry of Labour. That's the thrust of that ministry with respect to the minister's contribution to labour relations.

There's nothing new about what I say in this regard—if my colleagues who have been here some time will bear with me on this—because on Aug. 30, 1974, I said:

I just want to catalogue, if I may, these dates for the minister [That's this minister's predecessor]. On May 16, 1968, on June 2, 1969, on Dec. 17, 1969, and on Nov. 1, 1973, I myself exhorted the then Premier and the then Minister of Labour to establish some type of legislative forum, preferably a select committee, for the purpose of looking into the question of labour relations in the Province of Ontario.

[8:15]

Mr. Reid: And still is.

Mr. Bullbrook: There's nothing novel about this because mediation, conciliation and arbitration are not and should never be, as far as I'm concerned, the total burden of the Ministry of Labour; quite the contrary. Reciprocity is not the function of the Ministry of Labour and I wish Mr. Munro in Ottawa understood it also.

That isn't the function of that type of portfolio. The function of that type of portfolio, in the absence of direction by trade union leaders, is to lead; is to talk about the dehumanization of the work force which goes on, day in and day out, and continues in

this province and continues throughout the Dominion of Canada.

We like to sit here during the question period and play our games while some fellow in Oakville has a job, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 4 in the afternoon, putting a screw in the same place every day. That's the type of thing the Ministry of Labour should be looking into as well as industrial—why does the minister shake her head?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I'm not shaking my head.

Mr. Bullbrook: The minister shakes her head; maybe I have double vision.

Mr. Reid: She should be nodding.

Mr. Bullbrook: I thought I saw her shaking her head. But that's the type of thing—

Interjection.

Mr. Bullbrook: How long do we have to ask? A decade we've been asking for this—a decade—for some type of response.

Collective bargaining can't be dollars and cents all the time. I sometimes wonder whether the leadership of the trade union movement doesn't think it should be that. I say that with some hesitation, some reticence, but without confrontation, where stands the leadership of the trade union movement?

What have we done? We've asked for an analysis of co-determination. We did this in our policy. Our leader asked for that during the last election. Why not let's have a look at it? It's been successful in the steel industry in West Germany. Why not let's have a look at it?

Why not some involvement by the workers in the development of the milieu in which they work? Why not? Why not some participation in the equity endeavour of the corporations? Let's have a look at, say final offer settlement. Let's have a look at it.

Instead, what do we get? A decade of indifference and when the time comes—as I'll refer to in a few moments—when the Tories can't write a Throne Speech based on spending money, they decide they'll give the people of Ontario that type of pap, that type of progress—

Hon. B. Stephenson: It's not pap.

Mr. Bullbrook: If it's not pap, let's get on with it. I say this: March 9, 1976, was the date of Her Honour's address to us, almost a month ago; we on this side of the House, who have, I hope, some interest—as I hope

do all members—in the collective bargaining process and, more important, what is regarded as the humanization of the workplace, want to get on with that.

I ask now, for the sixth time in nine years, for the establishment of either a royal commission or a select committee—preferably, I say to members, a select committee. Just for my own particular feelings, and I know that my former leader and I have had discussions in this respect—I believe we have?

Mr. Nixon: Right.

Mr. Bullbrook: We have. I myself would like to see a select committee appointed in this respect. I truly believe in the function of the legislative process, notwithstanding the obvious disintegration that takes place; because at 2 o'clock every day, to me now, Mr. Speaker—I want to say with the greatest respect to you—it is almost Bastille Day in this House. It really is. I expect to hear the clicking of knitting needles some day and Madame Defarges yelling. That question period has become so irrelevant that I wonder whether—I had a lady in the House today, the mother of one of our pages, who said to me: "It would have been nice to be able to hear the response of a minister and, more important, it would have been nice to hear the question that was asked." Maybe I should lead the way as I have attempted to do—I don't know whether members have noticed that over the last few weeks I have attempted in the vernacular, to keep my mouth shut as much as possible.

Mr. Nixon: Moderation and responsibility.

Mr. Bullbrook: I tell members that is a very difficult task for me.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Temperance.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm really—my colleague the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) has just said "Hear, hear". I'm not sure that I like that.

I want to say, if I may, that this is what I regard the Labour portfolio to be. I think perhaps if this minister is engendering this type of response, it certainly isn't novel. It is a response that, as I say, comes a decade late, but it's a response that we need. I just hope very shortly, therefore, we are going to have some statement to support that type of comment.

We are involved in a minority government situation. I want to record that I don't believe in the efficacy of minority government;

I just don't think they work, no matter what the attitude of people is. I truly believe in the concept, rightly or wrongly, that to govern you have to have the ability to govern.

Mr. Grossman: How are you going to vote tonight?

Mr. Nixon: How are you voting for that, Larry?

Mr. Bullbrook: I'll tell you how I am going to vote—in response to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), I am going to vote, and I am very prideful of this, the same way I have done in every recorded vote that I was involved in since I was elected in 1967; I am going to vote with the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Reid: What do you plan to do about Doctors Hospital?

Mr. Bullbrook: I'll tell you, I'm very prideful to do so.

Mr. Lewis: You are the only one who can say that, Jimmy.

Mr. Bullbrook: We will get onto that in a few minutes.

Mr. Reid: What are you going to do about Doctors Hospital?

Mr. Bullbrook: I need some protection tonight.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Minority government is a difficult situation; it truly is. We look back to December and the trauma that descended upon the New Democratic Party—

[Interruption.]

Mr. Bullbrook: If I may just resume my seat for a moment, all right?

Mr. Lewis: Adjourn the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask that everybody hold their places for a few moments, please.

[On resumption:]

Mr. Speaker: I think we might continue now, thank you.

Mr. Bullbrook: Thank you, sir. That's a shaking experience for those people who are involved in the public galleries. I don't want to seem opportunistic, but any of us who've

availed ourselves of the responsibility to visit with school children or others, knows the inclination of those stairs is truly something. It scares you. Perhaps you might consider, sir—and I am sorry if this does seem opportunistic—some handrails or something of that nature that might assist.

In any event, I was talking about the fact there is a minority government here and people do have different approaches to it. I just don't, myself, feel that minority governments truly are the most efficacious way of governing ourselves. I think the rent review legislation was an example of that, frankly. The problem is, government must bring in legislation. I truly believe that government has a responsibility to understand the administrative and financial consequences, the social and economic consequences of legislation when it brings it in, and it can't be assured of that in a minority situation.

We put forward 15 amendments to the rent review legislation, which, in my opinion, make it almost an administrative nightmare. I just don't think government can work that way, but people have different ideas of governing, and we, I suppose, collectively can be called upon under the traditions of the parliamentary system to bring a government down. For example, the New Democratic Party had the opportunity, I suppose, on the aspect of AIB to bring the government down. They chose not to do so. There was no great vituperation on our part in that respect. That was their choice to be made at that time, but it seems to me that there is a lack of reciprocity in that understanding at times, I don't know.

Mr. Martel: That's carrying it too far.

Mr. Bullbrook: Maybe I carry it too far, I sometimes do that. But I want to tell you—

Interjection.

Mr. Bullbrook: I wonder sometimes; I read the resolution on the order paper of that esteemed colleague from—is it Sandwich-Riverside? — my very, very fine colleague from—

Mr. Burr: Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Bullbrook: —from Windsor-Riverside. Has this been caucused? I read it to you.

Mr. Reid: Is this party policy?

Mr. Lewis: He has never been so fine as when he submitted this motion.

Mr. Bullbrook: "That in the opinion of this House"—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'll try again:

That in the opinion of this House whenever a minority provincial government is elected in Ontario, no further election should be held for a period of two years, thereby assuring the elected members a minimum period of security of tenure.

I tell you it—

Mr. Reid: This is the party position?

Mr. Bullbrook: —flies in the face of parliamentary tradition, but with great, great—integrity I suppose is the word again. At least Fred Burr puts first things first. It's the security of tenure of the members that's important. It's not the welfare—no, it's not the welfare—

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: It also flies in the face of your sense of humour.

Mr. Bullbrook: Well, at least I have one to fly in the face of. Isn't that remarkable? That's a novel approach.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Whether it conveys just an individual attitude from a socialist or a social democrat, or whether it's something that is a response to a collective wish on the part of the New Democratic caucus, I don't know.

Mr. Burr: I just explained to you it was my own personal opinion.

Mr. Bullbrook: If it is, then I apologize.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: If it is his wish, Mr. Speaker, if it is his singular and sole individual and personal wish, so be it.

Mr. McClellan: Why are you going to vote with the government?

Mr. Bullbrook: But it's interesting to analyse that resolution, because the resolution in effect says no matter what the government does to the disadvantage of the people of Ontario, we will not have an election. That's what it says.

But I think the second aspect of it really is significantly interesting. It's because of security of tenure, as I say, the important aspect of the longevity of this House. It is not the welfare and good government of the people of Ontario, but to make sure that we don't have an election again.

I want to tell you there isn't one member of this House superior to me in laziness or inertia—not one.

Mr. Reid: I don't know, I see a few over there.

Mr. Bullbrook: Nobody wants an election less than Bullbrook.

Mr. Nixon: Our party would win with a bigger majority.

Mr. Bullbrook: I can't abide elections; I just can't. I must tell you I find them truly distasteful, but they are, unfortunately, part of the democratic process. I want a benevolent dictatorship with Lorne as the benevolent dictator, because—

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: At least the subsidy cheques would arrive on time.

Mr. Bullbrook: —the discussions—

Mr. Foulds: I want to—

Mr. Bullbrook: You know my former leader makes light of that, about the subsidy cheques getting there on time.

Mr. Nixon: They'd be hand delivered.

Mr. Bullbrook: A lot of people thought that the delivery of those cheques to the old folks' home did have something to do with the concurrence of an election. It didn't. Lorne wanted to make sure they got them. I know he did.

Mr. Nixon: Is it true he had cash in his pocket to cash the cheques?

Mr. Bullbrook: The fact that there was an election the next day just was co-incidental; and the fact that he told them where their polling subdivision was was nothing but a corporal work of mercy.

You talk about elections and minority governments and how they work. I want to read a letter to the mayor of Sarnia in connection with the seatbelt legislation. The seatbelt legislation has become in Sarnia at least an extremely emotional issue based upon what is regarded—I am not sure whether Borovoy would agree or not—as an essential intrusion

on fundamental rights. I want to tell you, on the field—

[8:30]

An hon. member: He is from St. Catharines.

Mr. Johnston: Great city, St. Catharines. Represented by a great man.

Mr. Reid: Are you going to represent yourself as a great man?

An hon. member: Who's that member over there?

An hon. member: Is that his maiden speech?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia is making this speech, thank you.

Mr. Bullbrook: Oh no, I don't mind that at all—an interjection from the member for St. Catharines. It records him in the annals of this House, which is a novel experience at best. I like to see him here. I've found him a congenial and, at times, convivial colleague in the legislative process.

I want to read to the House, if I may, this letter. It has to do with seatbelts. Seatbelts became an emotional issue. It was almost traumatic; I had many letters. I want to tell the members I made a terrible mistake in that respect; I've learned a lesson. I spoke against the legislation. I thought for a moment I was a civil libertarian but the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) convinced me otherwise.

I decided, frankly, that we would give it a year so that they would statistically prove the benefits of the wearing of seatbelts. But in Sarnia it became significant—I know it became significant to my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence). As a matter of fact, with respect to seatbelts he had more mail in one week than Errol Flynn had during his whole career. But I say to the House, he resisted it. What he did, of course—and our colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Johnston) did the same thing—was, when the law became the law, and he must be subject to the law—

Mr. McClellan: Under persuasion.

Mr. Bullbrook: Under some persuasion.

Mr. Nixon: You still don't wear it, eh, Bob?

Mr. Bullbrook: I regret hearing that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia.

Mr. Bullbrook: I regret hearing that our colleague from St. Catharines will not wear the belt.

Mr. Johnston: I never intend to.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want him to know there is nothing better than a belt once in a while. It can be protective.

But in any event, one of the aldermen in Sarnia who is still, I think, a member of the executive of the Progressive Conservative Party, has undertaken a very stirring drive against seatbelts. I think perhaps I might have to join them if the merits of same aren't statistically proven afterwards.

Mr. Nixon: Is it true he's going to run against you?

Mr. Bullbrook: That was the understanding I had.

Mr. Nixon: Well, we'll wipe him out too.

Mr. Bullbrook: It would be an issue.

This letter from my colleague, the Minister without Portfolio. By the way, if I might digress again just for a moment, I received an unsolicited letter last week from a constituent—I don't know what his partisan persuasion is—asking me, truly asking me, what the function, duty and responsibility are of my colleague, the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. Nixon: That's a difficult question.

Mr. Bullbrook: I had asked that before. I wrote him a letter saying that the Premier (Mr. Davis), in response to my initial question, said, "He's of great help to me." I have no doubt about that at all. I sent the letter on to the Premier, accompanied by a copy of the letter from the constituent, asking for a copy of the Premier's reply. Notwithstanding the very enjoyable relationship that I have with the hon. Minister without Portfolio, and frankly the charity that he does permit me—for example, if there are eight appointments to be made in the city of Sarnia, it'll be one for Jim and seven for Lorne—

Mr. Nixon: They've got to go.

Mr. Bullbrook: Justice is justice and if you can get a little bit of justice, get it while you can.

This is a letter to "Mr. Andrew S. Brant, Mayor of Sarnia, City Hall, Sarnia, Ont.," and it's headed, "Dear Friend." You bet your life he's a dear friend. He used to be the vice-president of my association. He no longer is. He's a very significant Tory, so Lorne should call him "dear friend." He says:

I have received your comments on the seatbelt legislation which was passed through the Ontario Legislature in the December session of the Legislature and was to become effective Feb. 1. First, may I take this opportunity to explain how this legislation came about.

And then he goes through and makes the comment about the saving of \$50 million and the possible saving of one life per week—

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Per day.

Mr. Bullbrook: Per day, I'm sorry. And I want to give him credit, that works out to 365 in this letter.

Mr. Eaton: That's 366; it's leap year.

Mr. Bullbrook: I am sorry, but you have 365 here. But now let me read on. Maybe it is like my colleague from Windsor-Riverside, maybe it's a personal opinion, although it does come from a minister of the Crown.

In view of the fact that we are now a minority government, it would appear to me that one or both of the opposition parties will have to come forth and ask to have the legislation withdrawn from the law books of Ontario.

Mr. Reid: What do you get paid for?

Mr. Singer: That's leadership!

Mr. Bullbrook: That's the view of a minister of the Crown as to how we rescind legislation. He wrote that to the mayor of Sarnia because a copy was sent to me at the request of one of the aldermen, saying: "Charitably, at best, I will make no comment."

Mr. Shore: "Dear friend."

Mr. Bullbrook: But I do want the people of Sarnia to know that we could put forward 4,000 bills rescinding that legislation and the rules of this House do not permit that such legislation would be debated on second reading or entertained by the members of this House—

Mr. Singer: Or voted upon.

Mr. Bullbrook: —or voted upon; unless the government which controls the orders of the day allows it.

Mr. Eaton: Would you rescind it now?

Mr. Bullbrook: So I want to say to my colleague from Lambton, if you don't like the seatbelt legislation, why don't you have courage enough to rescind it? That's all you have to do.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: We do like it.

Mr. Bullbrook: You do like it? Well why do you artificially transfer the burdens of responsibility to the opposition when you know perfectly well they can do nothing about it? Have at least courage enough to tell the people you are in favour of it and it will stay there until you decide it's in the best interests of the people, so that the people involved decide when it's in their best interests to have it rescinded.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It's the first time in your life you have had to accept responsibility in this House.

Mr. Bullbrook: So those are the two aspects of minority government in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank God, he doesn't have a portfolio.

Mr. Bullbrook: It will work. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have gone on much longer than I intended and I apologize.

Mr. Hodgson: You haven't said anything, but keep going.

Mr. Bullbrook: I apologize to you for this, but I want to say something to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues.

I am sorry, did I miss somebody? No, not really, but I want to wait until he gets in his seat so he's in order.

Mr. Gregory: Go on.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sarnia should continue.

Mr. Bullbrook: Listen, the only enjoyment one gets out of life is interjections once in a while; it truly is.

I want to say this to you, Mr. Speaker, and I will try, frankly, to be as serious as I can. Government now is all about restraint and the restraint in spending, and I haven't suffered the degree of effect that many members have.

The last election the Liberal Party ran on the fact that we couldn't afford another Davis government. That was based on several things, one of which was fiscal responsibility. Had we formed the government, we want to tell you, we would have undertaken without too much reservation a programme of restraint, and we would have suffered the collateral effects of a restraint programme. We find it very difficult ourselves to abide the fact that the beginning of a restraint programme must be effectuated in the health and social service fields.

Many people have spoken about visiting their Children's Aid Societies. People who have spoken during the course of their contribution of the Throne debate have mentioned mine, the Lambton Children's Aid Society, which had a deficit last year of some \$87,000 and then were called upon to meet their statutory obligations under the Child Welfare Act with a contribution towards their increased cost of 5.5 per cent.

They said to me, and they said to my colleague from Lambton, the Minister without Portfolio: "It can't be done, and we know it can't be done."

I want to tell you, in the context of money that's wasted day in and day out in the community colleges of Ontario, it is galling to think for one moment that people should be subjected to a withdrawal of services that are essential, not to their well-being, but essential to their very life, while the Council of Regents and the boards of governors and the administrators and presidents of community colleges attempt to invent ways to spend public funds. That's where we would like to see something done. I know I would. I would demand it of the Premier of Ontario if we were incumbent and I was given the opportunity of serving with him in the government of this province.

Let me tell members something that goes on right now and I wish the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) were here. The Ontario Dental Association has undertaken a programme of providing for preventive dentistry or dental assistance. The Ontario Dental Association said that it could be done in a maximum of little over two semesters. Do members know what the Council of Regents of the community colleges said? It's got to be a two-year programme.

The Ontario Dental Association is meeting shortly with the Minister of Colleges and Universities in respect to this because all it is, of course, is a waste of public funds. Members have heard my former leader talk about some of the programmes in community colleges and the expenditure of funds which has been made with respect to them.

I only say this: We will support a restraint programme. It would have been done, I think, on a priority basis very much unlike the priorities established by this government. But so be it if we have to. But it is very difficult. I find it very difficult as one member to sit here—I find it almost like a sea captain who has grounded his vessel on the shore, through negligence, criminality and without regard to the passengers, inviting the

passengers to applaud when he says: "Save our ship."

I want to tell the House that's what it has been. It's been negligent, it's been criminal; the expenditures of funds. When I was elected here in 1967, the budget for 1968 was \$1.4 billion and I invite my colleague from Ottawa West to hearken back to the beginning of his days.

We realized the inflationary tendencies. We realized that public spending has gone up. We realize the impulsion of the federal government upon the provincial purse. We realize that, but we have to sit and hear them, as we will hear the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) tomorrow night, pontificate in an almost sanctimonious fashion about the need to save money in the Province of Ontario, when the deficit last year was more than the total budget when I was elected in 1967. It's \$2 billion of waste.

We talk about the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. It's a vacant document. Vacuous, filled with nothing—not even any attempt at sound and fury, because this government and the Progressive Conservative Party can only write an effective Throne Speech when they spend money.

I wish I had more time to speak about the expenditure of public funds and read some of the former Throne Speeches in which one after another of the pages is filled with new programmes. I'm going to disclose not a confidence but a conversation I once had with the hon. Stanley Randall after he left the government. We were talking one evening and he was talking about what it was like to be a cabinet minister in a Progressive Conservative regime and he said that the thing he had to do to be effective was to undertake programmes. Programmes were everything; the spending of funds was everything. Members will remember when the Committee on Government Productivity brought its report in and we said, "Goodness gracious, why? Why this duplication of effort? Why the spending of money?"

I just want to take one moment of our time to read, if I can, from the Henderson report at page 63.

The Ontario government's total budgetary expenditures doubled in the five years from 1970-1971 to 1975-1976. In contrast, expenditures on administration increased 2.3 times. This greater increase in government's implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Government Productivity for improvement of administration in the Ontario Public Service—these recommendations covered finance and ac-

counting, policy planning and analysis, communication and the use of human resources.

One has to apologize for reiteration and redundancy but I ask, what does the Provincial Secretary for Justice do? What does he do?

Mr. Speaker, you know he does nothing and yet we expend \$1.4 million for that charade.

[8:45]

I want to read just for a moment some statistics that I would like to record for you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, not about the increases in payments for social welfare, not about the increases that are made for some other needed services, but the increases that have been made to support government, the money spent for cabinet ministers and the supportive services. In 1971, the expenditure in millions of dollars for the support services for ministries of the Crown was \$51 million. In 1972, it went up 27.2 per cent to \$64.9 million. In 1973, it went up 12.4 per cent to \$73 million. In 1974, it went up 13.4 per cent to \$82.8 million. In 1975, the interim levy for support services for ministries of the Crown was \$98.1 million or an additional annual increase of 18.5 per cent. The estimates for this year were \$122,100,000 for an additional increase of 24.5 per cent.

We are not talking about providing obligations under the Child Welfare Act. We are not talking about the redundancy of building a hospital in Hanover and closing one down in Chesley and Durham. We are talking about the money spent by government to support the ministers over there. Henderson says in his report that there is no need for an increase of any kind, indexed to inflation or otherwise, for government services next year. If there is any integrity at all in the programme of this government, there won't be one additional cent spent for supportive services in administration. Let's begin there. That's where we want to begin.

I am not going to burden you with talking about OISE again. I intended to do that tonight, Mr. Speaker, but I have taken too much time. It's very difficult for us to applaud that captain who wishes that type of applause in the restraint programme. We know it's necessary. But it's very difficult for us to applaud him when we know we are still wasting that money on the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, because what has happened in the field of education, in my respectful opinion, is an abomination.

I have never believed that life, liberty and, more important, the pursuit of happiness was

dependent upon understanding what a split infinitive is. But I tell you this, I truly believe that it is a desecration of the process when my child is not permitted by his teacher to know what it is because the teacher doesn't know what it is. That has come from one person and one bit of gamesmanship. That person is the present Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis), make no mistake about it. He was the one who began this business of experimentation in the field of education.

Almost all parents, aware of the opportunities they had, find it not only repugnant but totally unacceptable. Yet we go on and on and spend more money, year after year, on experimental programmes.

Mr. Speaker, you've been indulgent with me. I intended to go into more detail but I say again to you that I hope we have an opportunity of bringing the question period back into some relevancy. It's a difficult task for you, I realize that, and I am sure you do it much better than I could ever possibly aspire to do it.

I say again that we will vote this evening, we hope, to continue with the minority government, notwithstanding the reticence that we have, personally and collectively, as to its efficacy. We feel—and I hope I convey this to you as sincerely as I may—that this is a response to the will of the people of Ontario, as we see it. If, as some writers say, there is a shame and a change of attitude, then we will bear the burden of that alleged shame. If, however, the people of Ontario, as we think, feel they want an opportunity to evaluate the government and they don't want the expenditure of so many millions of dollars for an unnecessary election, as they see it, then we will bear the burden of that alleged shame. We believe in the Truman axiom—we can stand the heat—because we're on our way to the cabinet.

ALAN GROSSMAN

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I'm not sure whether they are clapping for my colleague or for my standing up.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: I notice, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery tonight is the former member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. A. Grossman) and I'd like to call to your attention, sir, that he is with us tonight. More than ever before, we certainly have the need of his services in this Legislature, considering who succeeded him.

Mr. L. Grossman: Thank you, Pat.

Mr. Reid: The other thing I would like to draw to your attention, sir, because a great point of it has been made in the past, is that in this very significant Throne Speech debate windup, there are four of 26 cabinet ministers here to hear the windup of these speeches. I just thought that you'd be interested in that statistic.

Interjections.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (concluded)

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I'm not as distressed as my friend from Rainy River about the lack of the cabinet across there. I don't have much use for them anyway, so whether they are here or not it doesn't make much difference.

Secondly, I'm honoured by the privilege my caucus colleagues have bestowed upon me in designating me as the windup speaker for the official opposition in this Throne Speech debate. I undertake that responsibility with a sense of some awe and humility, because this is and has been a crucial Throne Speech debate. This is really the first time that a government in Ontario could fall on a substantive matter in the House in some 30 years.

Mr. S. Smith: The AIB wasn't substantive enough for you?

Mr. Foulds: As a matter of fact I'm glad you raised that, because we in this party see no difference between "wage and wage" controls administered federally or provincially.

When you administer controls solely on working men and women in the lower academic classes—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: —give us something substantive. Don't play games.

Mr. Martel: Give him a tennis racquet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, there will be a historic vote taken later tonight, and it was with some sorrow and no little bit of anger that I learned that the third party, after first grandstanding with a particular sub-amendment, which simply repeated three of our points, had decided after a caucus re-

volt, while their leader was off playing tennis, that they would change their position. I admit that the hon. leader of the third party put the best face on it that he could.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: But the caucus not only betrayed the leader of that party, they betrayed the people of Ontario. Because, Mr. Speaker, I put to you that if you move a motion of non-confidence, which a subamendment to the Speech from the Throne is, if you move a motion of non-confidence, then you stand by it, and you don't play games with motions and amendments to substantive matters like the Speech from the Throne and the budget. This is not a psychiatrist's couch, this is not a college debating society. Government business and legislative business is serious and important and you play it straight.

What particularly angered me about what ever happened over there is that the Liberal Party, the third party in this Legislature, has effectively given a carte blanche to a minority Conservative government.

Mr. Breithaupt: Don't you believe it.

Mr. Foulds: How the devil can they—after saying they polled the people of Ontario and the people of Ontario don't want an election—tomorrow night, when the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) raises OHIP premiums, vote against that government when it's part of the Liberal Party policy that health care should be taken from income tax? How are they going to face that public?

Mr. Martel: Oh, they'll manage it.

Mr. Foulds: Oh, I know they'll manage.

Mr. Martel: They'll manage anything.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: I know they'll manage, but what that illustrates, Mr. Speaker, is that there is no substantive matter on which the Liberals can now vote to defeat this government within the foreseeable future. They've given the Premier (Mr. Davis) and his tired colleagues over there carte blanche for the next year, year and a half or two years.

Mr. Martel: Right on. Maybe they should take up ping-pong.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: The Premier had announced before the Legislature opened that this would not be a session with a heavy load of legislation. Therefore, we could have reasonably expected that the Speech from the Throne would have departed from the usual string of rhetorical clichés and would have dealt with substantive matters in some detail. It failed to do so.

For example, it would have been reasonable to expect the Speech from the Throne to tackle the serious economic problems facing Ontario as well as vaguely dealing with the fiscal questions facing the province because of the Conservative government's mismanagement over the past number of years. The speech should have tackled Ontario's unemployment problem vigorously. It failed to do so.

We could have expected from the Speech from the Throne that it deal with a strategic plan of development throughout Ontario, especially as it affects development in northern and eastern Ontario. Not only did the Speech from the Throne fail to do that, it failed to mention those two parts of the province.

An hon. member: They don't know where they are.

Mr. Foulds: Perfectly true. Perfectly true.

Mr. Martel: Another grant for the mining companies.

Mr. Foulds: I say to you, Mr. Speaker, it was with a great deal of seriousness that the New Democratic Party approached this session and this problem. I don't think I'm betraying any confidences of our caucus to say that we had three very long and detailed caucus meetings before we made the final decision to put our final amendment to the Speech from the Throne, and we did it with a great deal of seriousness. And when we did instruct our House leader to draft the amendment, we knew what it would contain and we knew the possible consequences of that. We even knew that the Liberal Party might support us and cause an election. We didn't think they would support us and then not support us, but we knew that there might possibly be an election.

Mr. Martel: Well, there's still another hour. They might change their minds yet. Give them time.

Mr. Makarchuk: They're still caucusing.

Mr. Lewis: It's nice to be speaking second last rather than third last.

Mr. Bullbrook: You're right. I intend to speak last next time.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, much has been made of two points. First, do the people of Ontario want an election? And much is being made of the second point, that this government supposedly needs more time to prove itself. I want to say to both those points that we reject them. People never really want an election. For most people, it's a false question to put to them.

Mr. Reid: Even the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) doesn't want an election, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. S. Smith: For two years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: That is, in fact, his private member's resolution, and if it comes up for debate the member for Rainy River will have an opportunity to support it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue with the Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Foulds: By the way, has the Liberal-Labour Party made its caucus decision yet?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: For most people in our society, elections are an intrusion. If you ask anyone at any point in time, "Do you want an election?" by and large they will say no. But the logical extension of that attitude is that we should never have elections. And although the member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook), like Pierre Elliott Trudeau, states he is in favour of a benevolent dictatorship, I think any democrat, let alone a democratic socialist, would reject such an idea.

[9:00]

Secondly, and more importantly, I think this party rejects absolutely the argument that this government needs time to prove itself. How long do they need? The Progressive Conservative Party has been in power in this province for these 33 years. The Davis ministry has had power for five years. The present Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has been in control of the treasury of this province,

with one honourable and brief interregnum, for a considerable length of time. If the province's finances are in a mess, whose fault is it? How long do they need?

Some hon. members: How long, O Lord, how long?

Mr. Foulds: How much longer does this government want to wreak havoc on the Province of Ontario? How much longer can we afford the Tories? They talk about an affordable society but I submit that society in Ontario can no longer afford the Tories; they are no longer an affordable party.

Mr. Breaugh: We just can't afford another Davis government. I just thought that up.

Mr. Martel: Did you hear that one, Bob?

Mr. Breaugh: This is your chance, guys.

Mr. Foulds: We know what the government's response has been to the serious social and economic problems facing this government. We know, from their actions over the last several months, what their programme will be over the coming year or years, or however long they have.

There are a couple of fallacies about that action. First of all, it is taken, by and large, outside of the venue of the Legislature; it is taken as much as possible through regulation; and it is taken—for example, the hospital closings—the day after the Legislature closes on Dec. 18 when they send the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) out to close hospitals and curtail health care. Only a man with the personal integrity of the Minister of Health could have carried that programme out without bringing this government to its knees. It's only his personal integrity that has allowed the government to survive that particular phobia and madness.

Over the last few months we have had the dynamic duo of Wells and McKeough going around the province with, I might say, considerable backing from other cabinet ministers who went along at the public's expense and said nothing. We had these two ministers going around in a Churchillian vein, laying on the blood, sweat and tears speech to the people of Ontario, that we have got to tighten our belts; the only thing we have to offer is more taxes, less services and so on.

Mr. Martel: And fewer jobs.

Mr. Foulds: What they did, in effect, was to lay an authoritarian heavy hand upon the

school boards and the municipalities of this province. But, even more important than laying it on the municipalities and the school boards, they laid it on to the local taxpayer as if the provincial taxpayer somehow was somebody who was different from the local taxpayer. It was as if they were saving money and not forcing the people who own their homes, pay apartment rents and so on in the municipalities to pick up the slack.

There is a lot of debate—not a lot but there is some debate—amongst economists about whether or not property tax is regressive. I just want to use a very personal and small example, if I might. My mother, who is 73 years old, owns her own home. When it was built during the Depression, it probably cost about \$3,500. Its assessed value now is probably somewhere between \$18,000 and \$24,000. My father died a couple of years ago; her pension from the CNR was cut in half, and yet her taxes continue to rise as her income declines. She is able to pay the taxes, but the increasing property taxes are not based on an ability to pay as that one small example illustrates and as people in this party during the budget debate will be illustrating many times in the future months.

Mr. Maeck: What sort of property tax do you pay? Tell us about that.

Mr. Foulds: Then we had—I hardly know how to describe him. The minister who sits beside the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. Lewis: That is his greatest distinction.

Mr. Foulds: You are right. That is his greatest distinction. The minister who has the title of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor).

Interjection.

Mr. Foulds: We saw that minister laying waste the Children's Aid Societies, day care, and the municipal social services across the province. How much evidence do we need that this government is lacking in a creative, response and is reaching back to a destructive, reactionary Conservative strain that does not come to grips with the Ontario of 1976?

By their work, ye shall know them; by their work we know this government. By its work of omission and commission this government is known and should be judged. After seven months of this particular parliament, this government has not responded to the crises in the province nor, may I say, to the views of the electorate as they were expressed in September of last year.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that during this debate, my colleagues from right across this province and from right across the areas of interest as they are expressed in the ministries have built a case, logically, methodically, step by step, brick by brick, to make our case forcefully for the defeat of this government. And we will continue to do that in this House as long as it should last and on the hustings when that will come. We see Sept. 18 of last year merely as round one in the current set of battles and this as round two.

I want to take first the three areas where the government action or inaction has been positively harmful and which we enunciated in our amendment. First of all, we said that we feel that this government lacks the confidence of this House because of its failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, are exemplified especially by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories. My colleague from High Park (Mr. Ziembra) and my colleague from Parkdale (Mr. Duksza) and many, many of my colleagues put that most forcefully during the supplementary estimates of that ministry. I just want to underline one or two quick points.

The leader of this party documented in his leadoff on the Speech from the Throne that the so-called savings, the so-called restraints, are actually going to cost the taxpayers of this province more money. The expenditure at Goderich, for example—the minister's net saving is a loss of over \$500,000. Now it takes real genius to develop a programme of restraint that costs the taxpayers more money.

Mr. Makarchuk: Only a Tory can do it.

Mr. Warner: Nobody can lose money faster than they can.

Mr. Samis: New math.

Mr. Foulds: The saving in Timmins—North-eastern—the saving is a net loss of \$126,000. That takes real genius.

Mr. Ferrier: That saving does serious damage to people who are now not receiving adequate care.

Mr. Foulds: Not only that, as my colleague from Timmins interjects and rightly points out, in economic terms it's stupid and foolish; in human terms it's destructive and harmful. The destruction to small communities and to the life blood of this province is even more foolish and harmful—in communities such as Durham and Clinton. The dislocation to other larger centres, such as Thun-

der Bay, where 107 active treatment beds are being closed down, 122 psychiatric hospital beds are being closed down.

What that says to me, and I say it with some care, is that this government—in the name of fiscal restraint because its bankers have told it it must pull up its socks—is willing to allow suicides to take place in the province in the next few years which would not have done so; people will die in this province who would not have done so because of the cutback in health and psychiatric services.

In the social services area—I can't tell members how impressed and pleased I have been as a sophomore, a second run member of this Legislature, about the quality of the new members who have been added to my caucus. Nothing was more impressive than the documentation put forward by my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in the supplementary estimates of Community and Social Services. He enunciated, along with a number of his colleagues whom he had organized and who had supportive material, the problems in Children's Aid Societies in Metro Toronto, Ottawa, Kenora and throughout this province. I don't want to get into the details of those cases because he has done such a fine job of it but I want to embarrass him by quoting what I think was one of the finest short statements about what that debate and this debate is all about. As he said to the Minister of Community and Social Services:

What you are doing is cutting precisely those programmes that serve to strengthen families; to prevent their breakdown; to prevent them from coming into care at double or triple the cost; to prevent them from ending up in later years on the welfare roll or in mental institutions or in jail at double, triple or quadruple the cost. It's precisely the kind of programming that has been most severely hit by your mindless austerity programme, by your shifting of the burden of paying for service to municipalities and to the property tax in an election year. That's the consequence of what you're doing.

Nothing could be more true. What this government is doing is dismantling the preventive care in all these areas which would, in the long run, save us money economically and save us human beings so that they could lead more productive lives in this society.

What has happened with Community and Social Services? We had the 5.5 per cent laid on by the minister so he could go across the province doing his welfare bashing. In fact, what has happened after considerable public

pressure; the threat of a number of the boards to resign; some pretty tough negotiations on the part of some boards like Kapuskasing; and, I submit, the battle that he and my colleagues raised here in the Legislature, is that the minister is going around now and negotiating with societies, one by one. Why didn't he do that in the first place?

Mr. Warner: It's too sensible.

Mr. Foulds: Why didn't he say: "We would like to keep the spending, if humanly possible, to five per cent or eight per cent. What I want to do is sit down with you individually, one by one, go over your budgets and see where we can save."

Mr. Wildman: But they didn't know to do that until they got the children's letters.

Mr. Foulds: What we have to do or what this government has to do is hit everybody over the head. One director of one northern Children's Aid Society actually had to sit down with the children he had in his care in a group home because they were so traumatized, so insecure, because of the headlines, and assure them that they would not be turfed out on the street tomorrow.

[9:15]

What has happened to the government's sense of reason? We know that the present minister never had much of a sense of reason, but what has happened to the Conservative sense of reason or reasonableness? They have abandoned it and they abandoned it long ago, as they have abandoned the people of Ontario.

Thirdly, we felt that this government had lost the confidence of the House because of its obvious increase in the burden of municipal taxes. My colleague from Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), I am sure, will be dealing with this matter extensively in the budget debate, as will my colleague from Welland (Mr. Swart), and many others. I just want to point out one or two kinds of interesting things. To the best of my knowledge, there is not a mining company in Ontario that pays property taxes for the mine. And yet because of these mines, all kinds of northern communities exist and must exist.

What is even more ironic is when a corporation, such as Noranda, is quite willing to be annexed by the township of Ignace, so that it would pay property tax to that municipality, the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs won't allow it to happen. The mine is some 50 miles away, but it's Ignace that is the dormitory community. The government prevents the corpo-

ration from paying municipal taxes, even though the corporation is willing to be annexed. Consequently, Ignace goes bankrupt and comes under the receivership of the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

What kind of insanity is that? In the meantime, our good friend—pardon me, I mustn't say good friend, because he is not—the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) goes around handing out tax concessions to the major mining companies, while admitting at the very same time that those concessions will not increase productivity, will not increase employment and will not even increase sales because, as he says in his own press release; "All that we can hope for is that the inventory will be taken up and sold, for example, from International Nickel and from Falconbridge."

And yet this minister is willing to take that action, which is a doubtful action, on behalf of the major mining corporations in Ontario, and he is willing and the government is willing to sacrifice \$15 million in revenue. In other words, it is a tax giveaway in the time of restraint. Revenue that we could justly use for other programmes is given away.

Is the minister willing to take any kind of aggressive action to protect working men and women in the workplace in occupational health hazards?

Mr. Laughren: You have got to be kidding.

Mr. Bain: Not that government.

Mr. Foulds: What do they do? They turn the argument around. With the tax concessions they say: "There might be some benefits trickle down. We haven't had it proved to us yet but we are willing to take the chance." But when they are dealing with the health and the lives of miners they say; "No, you have to prove to us that it's causing death and that it's causing illness."

My time is running somewhat short, so I am not going to use all of the documentation that I have. I know that this would probably give my colleague from Sarnia an apoplectic fit, if he were in the House, but I want to quote one of the legislative reporters whom he took to task a while ago. I quote him because he's not particularly known as a friend of the New Democratic Party. He's always wrote rather scathingly of us—

Mr. Nixon: He has what?

Mr. Foulds: He has written.

Mr. Nixon: Well, I thought under the circumstances that should not be allowed to pass.

Mr. Foulds: Claire Hoy wrote in the *Toronto Sun*:

Let us venture into northern Ontario to a small village near Kirkland Lake named Matachewan, where about 155 men earn their living in the United Asbestos Inc. plant.

The Ministry of Health has access to countless studies, including some of their own, which prove the serious risks of cancer to asbestos workers. Yet nothing has happened. The time bomb called cancer is allowed to tick relentlessly away, demonstrably increasing the risks to workers and their families and nobody has ever even bothered to inform the workers of the danger they are in.

It is not alarmist to say flat out that many of these men are being allowed to kill themselves by working in the poorly protected conditions of that plant. This is not a political gimmick or a Lewis fantasy. It has nothing to do with socialism versus capitalism. It has to do with life.

An hon. member: I disagree with him there.

Mr. Foulds: I disagree with him there, too. But it has to do, as he says, with life. He goes on:

It is as if the Ontario government is condemning many of those men to a premature death for the crime of working in a factory so they can afford to feed their kids. No excuse can alter that fact.

Mr. Ruston: Good to have you back, Bill. Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: It was interesting to note as I was going through some statistical information this afternoon, that occupational health related factors in 1975 cost us 5.2 million person-days lost for temporary loss of employment. What could we do to the productivity of this province if we simply increased occupational safety?

Mr. Martel: It won't happen with Bernier around.

Mr. Foulds: It sure won't.

Mr. Nixon: Davis comes and Lorne leaves.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Need balance.

Mr. Nixon: I thought so but didn't want to say so.

Mr. Foulds: What I find shocking about that whole situation — my colleague from Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and my colleagues from Sudbury (Mr. Germa) and from Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) put the case very forcefully—is that we have no commitment from the government that there will be continuous monitoring in any of these situations. We have no concept by this government that potential dangers and death must be avoided, whether it is asbestos in the mines or asbestos in the drinking water at Thunder Bay. They always use the argument that there is no proven scientific evidence although it mounts, and mounts, and mounts, and we have to unearth and confront them with every single case. They will not move on it until they literally have their noses rubbed in it, and, frankly, I would like to rub the noses of every single cabinet minister of this province in the asbestos in the mines at Matachewan.

Mr. Martel: Or the uranium at Elliot Lake.

Mr. Foulds: It's the same with the mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system. When we have a potential case of possible minamata disease in a young child, we get the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) coming on the blower saying, "He has a premature birth. All these other factors have to be taken into consideration." By the way, who gave you the right to release his medical record?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for York South (Mr. MacDonald).

Mr. Lewis: An interesting comment.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to put to you, Mr. Speaker, that the record of this government and the Minister of Natural Resources in terms of environmental safety is a disgrace to the government, it's a disgrace to the Legislature and it's a disgrace to the north.

Mr. Martel: Worse than that, it is criminal. What this Tory government has done is criminal.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: I want to skip over the agricultural land-use because it was so forcefully put by my colleague from York South; and the problems of northern development have been dealt with by my colleague from Nickel Belt. I do want to make one or two points about the development of the north.

First of all, over the years this government has failed to see transportation as a develop-

ment tool for the north. They have failed to grasp that we need not only to provide incentives for development in the north and the eastern part of the province but we have to balance that with a programme of disincentives for the south so that we can save the agricultural land in the south and could use some of our less arable land for the development of secondary industry in northern Ontario.

Job creation: I went through the speeches in this debate over the supper hour and a little before and I was really rather surprised that there wasn't a single cabinet minister or government member who was able to document the creation of jobs since Sept. 18. This government is simply not committed to the creation of full employment and, indeed, the major fault of Tory economics is they see unemployment as a necessary evil. They don't even think of it as an evil but as a necessary tool—

Mr. Bain: Keeps the workers in their place.

Mr. Foulds: —to fight inflation and they make no effort truly to fight inflation. They make no effort to fight inflation in terms of housing costs. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) has not made a single statement since December about housing. He has talked about rent control. He has talked about home warranties. He has talked about cottages, but he has not talked about the creation of housing or the reduction of prices of housing or any methods to go about that.

Mr. Wildman: Watch it; you are going to be called a criminal.

Mr. Foulds: I want to sum up. I don't think that we in this party forget, nor do I think the people of Ontario should forget, that the Tory restraint package is an attack. It's an attack on small communities throughout this province where this government is ripping the guts out of those communities. They have closed the schools. They are now closing their hospitals.

The government's restraint programme is an attack on the disadvantaged of our society. It's an attack on single-parent families. It's an attack on those who suffer from crippling diseases. The government restraint programme is an attack on certain hard won rights and freedoms—the freedom of the pensioner to survive; the right of the northerner and the urban dweller to housing; the right of the handicapped to access to his community; the right of the able-bodied to have

work; and finally, the freedom and the right of the sick to health care.

We in the New Democratic Party do not say that a government which does not protect these rights minds its own business and is therefore non-interventionist. We say it has no business and that is why this government has lost our confidence and we are ready to vote it down.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Nixon: We have to help you—there is nobody over there to help.

Mr. Roy: You are looking at many more faces here than there.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I am disappointed in you.

Mr. Nixon: Let's hear a good Liberal speech.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had to extend my congratulations to you and to the Deputy Speaker of this House. It is obvious that the chore you have taken on is not an easy one; the makeup of this Legislature is not one that would lend itself necessarily to orderly debate at all times.

Mr. Kerrio: To say the least.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: One would have assumed that the—

[Interruption]

Mr. Speaker: I have been advised that the Hansard recording equipment is not operating. May I ask the members to co-operate and suspend proceedings temporarily?

The House recessed at 9:30 p.m.

The House resumed at 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Now that our technical problems have been resolved, the hon. Minister of Housing will continue.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the one comment I must make is that I realized a lot of brown paper envelopes were being delivered but I didn't know the NDP would go to such extremes as to have them delivered at this time of night and turn out all the lights.

I want again to assure the hon. leader of the Liberal Party—

Mr. S. Smith: Watch the lights, John.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —that we would be most pleased to have him come back and see us some time. I would be most pleased to welcome him back on the condition—because I am going to go to Hamilton later on this week and I promise to say it's a nice town and to spend some time there.

Earlier in this debate the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook)—I think probably reflecting the attitude of many people in this Legislature today—said he really didn't care much for elections; he wasn't a great fan of elections. In fact, he said he hated elections. That isn't necessarily confined to the member for Sarnia. There are probably others who would agree with him.

For example, later on this evening we will be having the vote on the amendment and the sub-amendment. There is one gentleman sitting in the New Democratic Party caucus who doesn't like elections too often either, yet I am sure he will be standing to be counted as the votes are taken. I am referring to the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr). The hon. member for Windsor-Riverside—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —has a private member's notice of motion and I will just read it: "That in the opinion of this House, whenever a minority provincial government is elected in Ontario, no further election should be held for a period of two years thereby assuring a minimum period of security of tenure."

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Like the universities.

Mr. S. Smith: With sabbaticals.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I suppose one might—

An hon. member: No sabbaticals.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I suppose one might expect that when the vote is taken the hon. member will stand by his motion and will not be voting in favour of the amendment.

Mr. Lewis: I agree—stop those tenure ripoffs.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That's right. The next thing we will be asking for is sabbaticals. It is going to happen.

Mr. Reid: How about after five years?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The motions that will be decided this evening by members of this Legislature reflect not only the views of the Liberal Party in Ontario but also reflect the views of the New Democratic Party in this

province, now the official opposition. There are some who wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and his followers can be called power hungry.

I have had the opportunity of observing them for some time, especially in the north, and I really don't think they are power hungry. I don't think that's the right term.

Mr. Peterson: They wouldn't know what to do with it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think they are very content to be the official opposition. The amount of plain brown envelopes they receive on a regular basis has increased and that has certainly made them feel better, although one can never be sure whether or not they are legitimate. It might well be that we have somebody sending them to the NDP just to keep their research people busy. I couldn't be happier.

Mr. Lewis: The first time that happens, we will send them back.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Of course, that sort of thing—

Mr. Lewis: We are waiting.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —would be beneath any self-respecting and responsible government.

An hon. member: Brown paper bags.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I do not believe that the New Democrats are power hungry. I take the view that they enjoy being relieved of the third party burden in this Legislature. As the third party, we always knew where they stood and that was fundamentally far away from where anyone else stood most of the time.

Mr. Lewis: We are standing alone tonight.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They could be strident. They could be outspoken. They could be benevolent and they could be holier than thou.

Mr. Reid: That is tomorrow night. The Treasurer is going to be holier than thou.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Now within the context of being the official opposition they can do all those things on the assumption—and this is, of course, the traditional assumption in the British parliamentary system—that it is their role alone to lead the charge and to lead the opposition to whatever it is that the government may be doing. That basic supposition of negativism, that basic anti-position which is now enshrined in their role, because it is

traditional to our constitution, really assures those within that party who have always had some sense of conscience about whether or not it was appropriate totally to oppose at all times all things put forward by the government of the province. I think it is reassuring to them since, as it makes their job simpler, it makes their task not quite so convoluted. But I guess that's a debate for another time and perhaps another place.

I'd like to touch for a moment upon my ministry. This government committed in the fiscal year of 1975-1976 almost double the previous year's allocation and three times what was spent two years ago. Our spending on housing out of our own resources is more than that of all of the other provinces combined.

Mr. Nixon: Tell us how great rent control is.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Oh, would you like to discuss rent control?

Mr. Nixon: Go ahead, be my guest.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Are you going to resign too?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Rent control would not have been a mess if the responsibility that is apparently going to be shown later on this evening would have been shown at the time that bill was being debated by certain members opposite.

The ministry's programmes represent a balanced approach to housing, ranging from increased mortgage funding to interest-free loans and grants to municipalities under the Ontario Housing Action Programme to a wide variety of community planning, socially assisted and renewal programmes aimed at producing new units and preserving the existing ones. In times of constraint our housing budget will not be reflecting the dramatic increases of the previous two years. However, we will continue to be making a very substantial contribution as a province to housing and local planning and likely a far greater contribution than all other provincial governments combined.

In the budget the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) will be bringing down on April 6, several new approaches for housing will be mentioned. There has already been a statement that the Ontario Housing Action Programme will be continued in another form. Following the presentation of the budget, I will be giving more details of these programmes. At the time my estimates are before the House, I will make a full statement in regard to them. I can assure the hon. members that

these will be further examples of this government's concern and initiative in regard to housing, servicing and upgrading of existing communities.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'll have to bow to the hon. member until he sends me a report on his trip to Cuba and how things are over there. I understand he was cutting cane; is that right? You must be like Trudeau.

Mr. MacDonald: You got him mixed up with Bert Lawrence.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: At least he paid his own way down.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: This month we will be bringing forward two reports of considerable interest in the housing field, prepared over the past month by experts in the ministry. One of them will deal with advantages and disadvantages of condominium construction on leasehold land, be it privately or publicly owned. This will be in the nature of a study paper for discussion by the hon. members and throughout the industry.

Mr. Lewis: That is great stuff—a terrific contribution to housing.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The other study which concerns subdivision plans is a study of current standards. Our purpose was to determine the cost effects on housing obtained by reducing the development standards which various provincial and municipal agencies impose on subdivision planning.

Mr. Reid: That's not for you.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I think the events which have transpired in the last year have served to underline some of the positions this government took a year ago and which, as restated in the context of the Throne Speech debate, are indicative of the general sense of understanding which the government I am pleased to represent in this House really does have for the problems facing the people of Ontario.

In addition, I would like to say just a word with respect to my colleague and good friend, the former Minister of Housing, the present Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine). I can recall when he stood up in this House and said there would be an increase in housing starts and some members opposite said that would never

happen. I can recall when he predicted how many housing starts would come on stream and those opposite said it wouldn't happen.

Mr. Cassidy: And it didn't happen.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I can recall when he indicated there would be some fairly fundamental bureaucratic problems with rent control programmes and those across the way thought to ignore that sort of concern. Never has one man's predictions, assertions, intentions and basic instincts with respect to housing been borne out so specifically and effectively by the fact. This province is indeed lucky and fortunate to have had that man in that portfolio at that time.

Mr. Mancini: Why don't you resign and let him take over?

Mr. Roy: That's why he got a promotion, eh?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: And I, as his successor, am more than prepared to say this evening, on behalf of this party and on behalf of this government, that we were indeed fortunate to have had his services in a very trying job at a trying time.

Mr. Reid: It's obvious you didn't write this speech.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The programme put forward in the Speech from the Throne, for which the Premier (Mr. Davis) has sought the support of all members of the Legislature, is a programme which provides the type of initiatives that will guarantee the economic viability of Ontario and, therefore, the economic security of the people within this province.

The alternative to this type of approach is an approach that would allow major sectors of our society to spend their way out of today's problems with tomorrow's tax dollars. It would allow entire social service and health service delivery systems to become unaffordable, and the types of burden on a society as a whole that would not bode well for their future and, above all, for the people whom they are supposed to serve.

Mr. S. Smith: You are reading our campaign literature from the last election.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Recently, in addressing the state house, the recently elected governor of the State of New York indicated that in his view the fundamental reality in North America was that the days of wine and roses were over.

Mr. S. Smith: "You can't afford another Davis government," is the way we put it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They were over, because there were no more six-point plans and \$12-million programmes to solve long-term difficult problems.

Mr. Reid: In 33 years you spent us into that situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Reid: In 33 years you put us into that situation.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Those who have been harbingers and exponents of these plans have simply been proven wrong by the weight of history and, the turn of events.

Mr. Reid: What a bunch. Who spent us into that situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the members please refrain from further interjections?

Mr. Lewis: Imagine following New York State!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition is requested to be quiet. The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Labour and acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), in a recent speech indicated that perhaps all governments in North America have been guilty of the assumption that there was no problem too large and no difficulty too costly for government to somehow remedy. She went on to point out that all governments had been guilty of that, including the government of which it is my privilege to be a member and to serve.

Mr. Nixon: Remember this time last year when you were remedying the problem?

Mr. S. Smith: The repentant sinners.

Mr. Hodgson: Keep quiet over there!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The point that she made, which I think should be implicit in everything that is being said now, is that it would perhaps be typical and partisan and expected for this party to somehow say to the people of Ontario that all the decisions which were made in the past were right and

all the assumptions were correct; that there were no mistakes, no misjudgements.

The general tone of optimism of the 1960s, the expansion of wealth-producing activities within the society of Ontario and societies across North America, and the pre-energy crisis boom, which typified development and growth throughout the western world, were very much part of the reality that successive Progressive Conservative governments in Ontario have had the opportunity to deal with in managing the affairs of this province.

The wealth that was developed at the time—

Mr. Cassidy: Needless to say, you were responsible for that.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —and the borrowing and the buying power that wealth represented, allowed this province to put together the best health delivery system, the best education system, the most equitable, decent and fair social service system in North America. I for one am not prepared to apologize for the decisions made that brought about those respective successes.

Mr. S. Smith: And the biggest deficits in history. You were against the Canada Pension Plan.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: But that doesn't mean, Mr. Speaker, that the assumptions that were pertinent, appropriate and, frankly, the only possible assumptions acceptable during those days of government, continue to be acceptable now.

Mr. Good: That is why you lost 23 seats. You still don't think you were wrong.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, there are those who might say that it is folly for a Progressive Conservative government, elected on Sept. 18, 1975, to suggest that all those decisions made by previous governments of the Progressive Conservative affiliation here in Ontario, are now open to scrutiny. There are some who would say that this affords the opposition a tremendous opportunity to lead a vicious, partisan attack against the party which has governed this province for some time. Those who say that, of course, would be displaying their own rigid severity and political serfdom to the rigidities and the irrationality of an overly partisan view of public responsibility.

Mr. Nixon: John, you can't believe that. Who wrote that baloney in?

Mr. Cassidy: Did you read it before you came into the House?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Oh yes, I read it.

Mr. Cassidy: You are stumbling over the words.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Fewer interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I entered public life because I believed government does have a responsibility to re-examine assessments and assumptions, notwithstanding some of those assessments and assumptions were made—

Mr. Lewis: Regardless of which party was the government.

Mr. Roy: Even party affiliation, eh?
[10:00]

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —by previous forebears, sharing one's own political affiliation. It is interesting; I've listened for over four years now to some of the darts and barbs from members opposite about the changing of political affiliation, and I ask the leader of the Liberal Party to look round and see if he can truly say that behind him sit nothing but true-blue born Liberals. No way. No way.

Mr. Reid: There aren't any switchers.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You still are. The hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell)—

Mr. Sargent: What about Marvin?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —the hon. member for London North (Mr. Shore). Right? No switchers?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, this government has the intellectual courage in the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. Let's have fewer interjections, please, so that we can get on with the business of the House. The hon. minister, please.

Mr. Shore: Threaten to turn the lights out again.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'll turn the lights out again on them. Mr. Speaker, we are not fighting inflation on the backs of the working people and the poor as some would suggest. We are fighting for a stronger and more optimistic future for the working people of this province, for the poor people of this

province and for all of the citizens of this province by making tough decisions now. Weakness in the face of protest, timidity in the face of dissent, would do greater harm to the future of this province than even a government led by my good friends opposite.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The budget presented tomorrow by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), the commitment to Ontario's future which is implicit in other programmes to be announced very shortly, and the specific remedies to ongoing problems suggested by legislation now on the order paper, and that legislation yet to be placed on the paper, constitute the best single formula for guiding Ontario through troubled international economic waters to a brighter and happy economic future for us all. So I appeal to all members of this Legislature to support the government and sustain it in the non-confidence motion that is now before us, put forward by the New Democratic Party.

A little earlier I heard it said by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that we were attacking various segments of society. The Speech from the Throne and what will be reflected in the budget tomorrow will show that this government is indeed attacking. It is attacking inflation. It is attacking unnecessary spending. It's attacking the real problems that are facing this province; in fact, the people of all of this country. That's what is being done. That's the sort of attack that is going on, and that's the sort of decisive action that deserves the support of every member of this Legislature; every member of this Legislature.

Mr. Reid: And who put us in that situation? Thirty-three years of Conservative government put us in that situation.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They have stood and criticized continually. They have attempted to make it look as though this government was attempting only to bring down the various tight restraint programmes in an effort to drop them on the backs of the hard-working people of this province. It's the hard-working people of this province who recognize the need to save, the need to cut back on spending, and it's the hard-working people of this province who insist that we cut back on government spending and that's exactly what we're doing. They want it done and they want it done now. If members don't believe, go to the people. So once again I would ask all members—

Mr. Reid: Is that one of the Minister of Correctional Services' (Mr. J. R. Smith) reject speeches you are giving?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —of this House to support the government in this particular vote, and to vote against both the subamendment and the amendment about to be placed in this House.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Simcoe East.

Mr. G. E. Smith: I rise on a point of order just before the question is put. As many hon. members are aware, during the course of this parliament the Deputy Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), and I as deputy chairman, have refrained from voting in the House in order to demonstrate the neutrality with which we view our offices. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and I both view the division which is about to take place as a very important one, but we continue to feel that our neutrality should be demonstrated before the House. We, therefore, have agreed to pair for this division.

Mr. Speaker: The Throne Speech debate now being concluded, I shall call for the vote as follows:

Mr. Villeneuve has moved, seconded by Mr. Grossman, that a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Hon. Pauline M. McGibbon, OC, BA, LL.D., DU (Ott) BAA (Theatre), Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Lewis then moved, seconded by Mr. Deans, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor now before the House be amended by adding thereto the following words:

But this Legislature regrets the inability of this government to meet its responsibility for necessary programmes as a result of the deterioration of the fiscal capacity of the province during successive Progressive Conservative governments;

And further, this Legislature regrets the failure of the government to provide in the Speech from the Throne any significant

proposals to deal with the pressing problems of:

(a) occupational health and the lack of adequate safeguards for the health and safety of workers;

(b) need to preserve agricultural land;

(c) need for a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity throughout the province, and in particular to northern and eastern Ontario;

(d) need for job creation to offset rising unemployment;

(e) inadequate housing supply and rising mortgage interest rates;

And this Legislature moreover regrets the mismanagement of the government's restraint programme leading to:

(a) the failure to develop an overall policy for the delivery of health care services, especially as exemplified by the closing of small community hospitals and public laboratories;

(b) the failure to respond adequately to financial needs for vital social services, particularly as exemplified by the inadequate funding arrangements offered to Children's Aid Societies;

And further still:

This Legislature is opposed to the endless burdening of Ontario taxpayers exemplified both by the excessive increase in municipal property taxes, which will result directly from this government's policy, and by the additional concessions to the mining industry specifically set out in the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

Therefore, the government has lost the confidence of this House.

Mr. S. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Breithaupt, that the amendment to the motion be amended by adding thereto the following:

And this House further condemns the government:

1. For its financial irresponsibility in forcing Ontario municipalities and school boards to increase inordinately the property tax on homeowners and tenants;

2. For its illogical decisions in ordering hospital and laboratory closings without any apparent regard to efficiency and economy of their operations and to the importance of these institutions in the lives of the communities in which they are situated;

3. For its lack of effective planning in its restraint programme which has resulted in punishing financially those least able to afford it.

We will vote first on the amendment to the amendment as moved by Mr. S. Smith.

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment by Mr. S. Smith which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Angus	Auld
Bain	Belanger
Bounsall	Bennett
Breaugh	Bernier
Breithaupt	Birch
Fryden	Brunelle
Bullbrook	Davis
Burr	Drea
Cassidy	Eaton
Conway	Evans
Cunningham	Gregory
Davidson	Grossman
(Cambridge)	Handleman
Davison	Henderson
(Hamilton Centre)	Hodgson
Deans	Irvine
di Santo	Johnson
Dukszta	(Wellington-
Eakins	Dufferin-Peel)
Edighoffer	Johnston
Ferrier	(St. Catharines)
Ferris	Jones
Foulds	Kennedy
Gaunt	Kerr
Germa	Lane
Gigantes	Leluk
Givens	MacBeth
Godfrey	Maeck
Good	McCague
Grande	McKeough
Haggerty	McMurtry
Hall	McNeil
Kerrio	Meen
Laughren	Morrow
Lawlor	Newman
Lewis	(Durham North)
Lupusella	Norton
MacDonald	Parrott
Mackenzie	Rhodes
Makarchuk	Rollins
Mancini	Scrivener
Martel	Smith
McClellan	(Hamilton Mountain)
McEwen	Snow
McKessock	Stephenson
Miller	Taylor
(Haldimand-Norfolk)	Timbrell
Moffatt	Villeneuve

AYES	NAYS
Newman	Welch
(Windsor	Wells
Walkerville)	Williams
Nixon	Wiseman
O'Neil	Yakabuski—48
Peterson	
Philip	
Reed	
(Halton-Burlington)	
Reid	
(Rainy River)	
Renwick	
Roy	
Ruston	
Samis	
Sandeman	
Shore	
Singer	
Smith	
(Nipissing)	
Smith	
(Hamilton West)	
Spence	
Stong	
Swart	
Sweeney	
Warner	
Wildman	
Worton	
Young	
Ziemba—70	
Pair: Stokes and Smith (Simcoe East)	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 70, the "nays" 48. Mr. Stokes and Mr. Smith (Simcoe East) paired.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment to the amendment carried.

Order, please. We will now vote on the amended amendment.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we get on with the business? Thank you.

Order. We will now vote on the amendment as amended.

Those in favour of Mr. Lewis's amendment as amended will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I think we are all present. We will not need to—order, please. It will not be necessary to ring the bells again. As many as are in favour—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The bells have rung. The doors are locked and we are all here. I think we can—

Interjections.

[10:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will get on with the business of the House.

An hon. member: Are those in the gallery telling you how to vote, Eddie?

Mr. Lewis: Come on, now, Horatio Alger in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't see him. I can't see him.

An hon. member: There he is.

Mr. Speaker: We will place the motion.

As many as are in favour—

Mr. Deans: The bells must ring. We demand it.

Mr. Speaker: You insist on it? All right, I put the question: May we proceed with the vote without ring'ng the bells?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Call in the members.

The House divided on the amendment by Mr. Lewis, which was negatived on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	
Angus	Auld	Lawlor
Bain	Belanger	Lewis
Bounsall	Bennett	Lupusella
Breaugh	Bernier	MacDonald
Bryden	Birch	Mackenzie
Burr	Breithaupt	Makarchuk
Cassidy	Brunelle	Martel
Davidson	Bullbrook	McClellan
(Cambridge)	Conway	Moffatt
Davison	Cunningham	Philip
(Hamilton Centre)	Davis	Renwick
Deans	Drea	Samis
di Santo	Eakins	Sandeman
Dukszta	Eaton	Swart
Ferrier	Edighoffer	Warner
Foulds	Evans	Wildman
Germa	Ferris	Young
Gigantes	Gaunt	Ziemba—37
Godfrey	Givens	
Grande	Good	
Laughren	Gregory	
		AYES
		Grossman
		Haggerty
		Hall
		Handleman
		Henderson
		Hodgson
		Irvine
		Johnson
		(Wellington-
		Dufferin-Peel)
		Johnston
		(St. Catharines)
		Jones
		Kennedy
		Kerr
		Kerrio
		Lane
		Leluk
		MacBeth
		Maeck
		Mancini
		McCague
		McEwen
		McKeough
		McKessock
		McMurtry
		McNeil
		Meen
		Miller
		(Haldimand-Norfolk)
		Morrow
		Newman
		(Durham North)
		Newman
		(Windsor-Walkerville)
		Nixon
		Norton
		O'Neil
		Parrott
		Peterson
		Reed
		(Halton-Burlington)
		Reid
		(Rainy River)
		Rhodes
		Rollins
		Roy
		Ruston
		Scrivener
		Shore
		Singer
		Smith
		(Hamilton Mountain)
		Smith
		(Nipissing)
		Smith
		(Hamilton West)
		Snow
		Spence

NAYS

Stephenson
Stong
Sweeney
Taylor
Timbrell
Villeneuve
Welch
Wells
Williams
Wiseman
Worton
Yakabuski—81

Pair: Stokes and Smith (Simcoe East)

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 37, the "nays" 81.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment as amended lost. We will vote now on the main motion.

The House divided on the main motion, which was approved on the second vote reversed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Resolved: That a humble address be presented to the Hon. Pauline M. McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow afternoon we will go to the order paper and consider legislation that is there. Tomorrow evening we will have a message from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

Mr. Reid: The bad news.

Mr. Lewis: He could say anything he wants to.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton East with a point of privilege.

Mr. Mackenzie: In the House last night, Mr. Speaker, there was a rather unfortunate fall in the public gallery. I understand it's not the first one. It involved my constituency secretary, from my riding office, who is in some considerable pain today as a result of that fall. I had asked her to come over to the House last night.

I have spent some time up in the gallery this morning, going up and down the stairs where the fall occurred, checking the steps, checking the lighting and checking the railings. There is certainly, especially at night, inadequate lighting in those galleries and certainly a need for some light right at the stair level because of the different floor levels. There is a need for a railing of some kind at either end where one comes down. The lady suffered a rather severe cut on her wrist because there are almost razor sharp edges on the brass leaves on the metalwork at either end of the gallery.

It would seem to me that it would be in order for the Speaker to take a look at the safety measures in the gallery. It seems to me that if we had a safety inspector check it we'd be in real trouble in this House. I would request your office to take a look at the safety measures in the public galleries.

Mr. Speaker: In brief response, we are having a look at all these matters which the hon. member has raised and we certainly assure you that we will take whatever action it would appear necessary to improve the situation. They are dangerous steps to begin with, but I think we are very fortunate that we haven't had more mishaps.

ZAMBIA HIGH COMMISSIONER

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. members, a distinguished guest whom we have in our Speaker's gallery today in the person of His Excellency, Wilson Mofya Chakulya, the High Commissioner of Zambia to Canada.

OLYMPIC SKI TEAM

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to the House this afternoon, the members of Canada's Olympic ski team, who are seated in Mr. Speaker's gallery.

I am sure we are all pleased to welcome back again our gold medal winner, Kathy Kreiner, along with her sister Laurie, accompanied by Ken Read and Rob Safrata, Steve Podborski, Dave Irwin and Jim Hunter; I'm sorry that Dave Murray isn't able to be with them.

They are accompanied by coaches Scott Henderson and Lyn MacIntosh along with Keith Nesbitt, Luc Dubois and Ed Champagne from the Canadian National Alpine Ski Association.

As a group, they are bringing special honour to Ontario and Canada and on behalf of all of us, may I assure them of the appreciation for all that they do on behalf of the people of Ontario and Canada.

Mr. Lewis: You will be taxing their equipment tonight.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

MOOSONEE FORCES BASE

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the Moosonee Development Area Board has entered into negotiations with the federal Department of Public Works to accept the assets of the Canadian Forces Station in Moosonee.

Members will recall that on Jan. 17, 1975, the federal Department of National Defence announced the closing of the base effective Aug. 1, 1975. Immediately following the announcement, a committee of local citizens

from Moosonee and Moose Factory, including representatives of the native people and the white community, was established to determine the best uses for the base assets.

As a result of some months of deliberation, it was determined a major component use would be the development of a secondary school complex utilizing some of the buildings on the base. The concept was approved by the Minister of Education on Oct. 1, 1975, and a principal was hired on Nov. 25, 1975.

On Feb. 1, 1976, the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School District was formed, with the board to take office on April 1, 1976.

Disposal of other assets is proceeding, with 25 houses to be transferred to Moose Factory island and 50 houses to be assigned to the Ontario rural and native housing programme.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the best possible use is being made of the assets of the base in providing housing for people and in developing a secondary school complex on that site.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to my remarks in reply to a question asked on March 17, concerning investment funds at Seneca College.

Prior to 1971, there was no need and very little opportunity for a college to accumulate a reserve. Funding was done on a budget-review basis, similar to the Management Board/ministries process. When funds were required by a college to replace equipment or to meet various needs as they arose, these were requested of the ministry and allowed or disallowed, depending upon the relative merits of the situation.

In 1971, the decision was taken to place the colleges on a funding basis similar to that of the universities—essentially a BIU approach keyed to student enrolment. This change placed an extra responsibility on the individual boards of governors to husband their available funds carefully. Instead of just meeting routine operating expenses as they occurred, they now had to plan and budget to provide for equipment replacement, contingencies relating to wage and salary adjustments or arbitration awards, inflation, enrolment fluctuations, etc. It was made clear to the boards of governors that they could not expect any additional assistance from the government to meet deficits on operations.

Consequently, the boards undertook to set aside reserves to meet perceived needs and

contingencies to the extent they were able to do so. The anticipated needs and the capability to set aside funds varied from college to college depending upon many factors some of which were: The age and condition of plant and equipment; the cost of servicing the respective community; the particular impact of the near-moratorium on capital.

In addition, in 1974, the colleges were advised by the ministry to set aside an appropriate amount against an anticipated wage and salary arbitration award. In 1975, they were again advised to set aside an appropriate amount against the next settlement. Indeed, a preliminary survey indicates that at the end of the 1975-1976 fiscal year, the amount available for short-term investments is reduced by \$17 million, largely because of implementing salary and wage settlements.

These reserves in the college system have, for the most part, been in the form of short-term paper. The general level of reserves and surpluses across the whole system is not held to be inappropriate but reflects responsible management on the part of the boards of governors.

Some shortcomings were identified in an approach to CAAT funding based on student enrolment and in the spring of 1975 the Council of Regents was requested to recommend a better approach.

A special task force was organized, consisting of the members of the Council of Regents, two college presidents, two members of the boards of governors and ministry staff. Subsequently, the Council of Regents recommended a new formula approach to the minister in December, 1975, which was accepted and is now being implemented for the first time.

Concurrent with this work, the consulting firm of Woods Gordon was engaged to review the practices relating to reserves set aside by the colleges and to recommend guidelines. This report and another report prepared by an ad hoc committee of presidents on surpluses and reserves are now being considered in the context of the new formula approach. It is understood that the Council of Regents will be considering a draft set of guidelines on reserves and surpluses at its April meeting and, assuming that these meet with my approval, it is probable that the colleges will receive definitive guidelines on reserves and surpluses by May of this year.

In the meantime it is prudent for colleges to carry reasonable working balances to meet the expenditures they expect to incur. These balances are described in the colleges' financial statements as either operating surplus or

deficit, or reserves for specific purposes such as the replacement of equipment.

Mr. Lewis: Such as what?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Such as replacement of equipment. The total of such balances in the college system at March 31, 1975, was approximately \$25 million or nine per cent of the total college expenditure in 1974-1975.

In addition, the college financial statements include among the reserves a sum calculated to meet specific unavoidable expenditures; these expenditures, as reported at March 31, 1975, include such items as retroactive salary increases and accrued sick leave credits which would become payable at any time. Finally, it is obviously necessary to have funds available to pay the day-to-day bills due to the colleges' creditors. These liabilities reach a combined total of \$36 million in the college system.

Since it is prudent to carry reasonable funds in excess of immediate needs, it is equally prudent to invest them. At March 31, 1975, a total of \$58 million was invested by the colleges. Effectively it consists of two packages: All the \$25 million in working balance is invested; \$23 million of the funds required to meet the \$36 million liability is invested because not all of the liability is immediately payable.

Reference has been made in the press to college investment portfolios. These are not portfolios as ordinarily understood; it is merely the result of keeping money in interest-bearing deposits until it is actually needed. The personal equivalent is putting one's money into a savings account which one transfers into a chequing account when one wants to spend it.

[2:15]

Turning specifically to Seneca College, the college's own investment schedule at March 31, 1975, shows a total of \$3,026,000. This was available because: 1. The college's surplus and reserves amounted to eight per cent of the year's expenditure compared with the nine per cent average of all colleges, and that amount was \$1.6 million.

2. There was a time lag between the college receiving its revenues and the actual payment of \$2.3 million liabilities anticipated on its March 31, 1975, balance sheet. This permitted the college to maximize its reserve by investing cash not immediately paid out, amounting to \$1.4 million.

Further to my reply to the initial inquiry about Seneca's investments, I reiterate that the present level of reserves is quite acceptable. As I said in the House on March 17,

1976, I would like to stress that I would not want to criticize a community college for building a reserve if this can be achieved through good management. There is every reason for such funds to be used appropriately for purposes for which they were designated.

However, I must express my concern over the nature of the investments chosen by Seneca for its reserves. I have been assured that the other colleges have invested their reserve funds in short-term notes. Seneca College, however, holds a combination of short-term notes and long-term bonds. I disagree with the college maintaining its reserves in long-term bonds. Consequently, I have directed Seneca College's board of governors to provide me, before the end of this month, with an acceptable plan for bringing Seneca College's investments into line with those of other colleges.

Once again referring to the overall college system, I would repeat that the general level of reserves maintained across the system is not inappropriate. However, we are aware that one of the smaller colleges has accumulated a level of reserves disproportionate to its needs. The new formula will permit us to correct this anomaly and the new investment guidelines will prevent its recurrence.

I will also forward to the critics of the parties opposite the details of the investment funds of all 22 community colleges.

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of privilege, I hope appropriately so, if we are not televising is it necessary that we have the additional lights?

Mr. Lewis: We are televising. It is most important.

Mr. Bullbrook: Is that right? I'm glad I made it.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: There is the cameraman up there.

Mr. Deans: Is the member for Hastings-Peterborough the dealer?

Mr. Reid: What time does the game start?

Mr. Martel: It's even blue.

An hon. member: Tory blue at that.

Mr. Cassidy: Are you selling those?

Mr. Rollins: A dollar and a quarter.

Mr. Lewis: You just saw "California Split," did you, and it turned you on? I'm glad something does.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Lewis: May I address a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities? First, do universities, as distinct from community colleges, have public money—not private endowments but public moneys—which they use for the investment purposes, short- and long-term, that he just outlined for community colleges?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: As the member is well aware, the universities have quite a different responsibility in reporting those funds from that of the community colleges. I do not have those details here but there are funds in the system—

Mr. Lewis: Public funds?

Mr. MacDonald: Surplus from our grants?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Similar to the kinds of funds any institution, any business, would need whether it's for cash flow or payment of debt. Those types of funds obviously are there and are required in short-term investments. Now whether they have similar long-term investments I can't answer, but I will.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. By way of supplementary, can the minister give a broader rationale or can he explain the appropriateness of what amounts to a channelling of public money to private boards in the community college system to invest in the long term? How does the minister justify that use of public money?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: It was a long statement, but I tried to say very clearly that I disagree with long-term investments of public funds.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm wondering, relevant to the statement that was made, could the minister disclose the name of the community college which now has, in his opinion disproportionate reserves?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: One of the smaller colleges, Lambton, has a very large number of dollars relative to its budget.

Mr. Bullbrook: One additional supplementary: Could the minister tell me what the reserve position of Lambton is at the present time and where its investments are made?

An hon. member: Because Lorne's from there.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's exactly the college I thought it was. My college.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I can give the hon. member the number of dollars. I cannot tell him at this precise moment, although that information is readily available, where the investments are made. The combined surplus is \$2,102,000; the short-term investments were larger than that, \$2.3 million. However, I'm advised that because of some of the requirements for settlements, as I suggested in my statement, that reserve is reduced now to some degree. I would also repeat that we intend to establish guidelines, that the new funding method will take into full account that this reserve is in excess and that we will deal with that problem in the future years of funding.

Mr. Bullbrook: If I might be permitted one final supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I think the hon. member has had two.

Mr. Bullbrook: One more, Mr. Speaker. You recognize it is my community college—

Mr. Speaker: Sorry. I do appreciate that.

Mr. Bullbrook: —and it is their obscene reserves I've been talking about over the years.

Mr. Foulds: I thought it was Lorne Henderson's community college.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may ask another question in a moment.

Mr. Lewis: I have a further supplementary. In the light of what the minister is revealing today, with some obvious discomfort, is it not time to end the practice of these accumulated reserves, other than the short-term cash flow requirements, which we all understand? Isn't it time to end the situation where \$25 million of public money builds up, perhaps inappropriately invested in Ontario this way?

An hon. member: Give Lorne a sabbatical

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Again, I refer back to my statement where I say that we are establishing guidelines, and by May of this year we will—

Mr. Lewis: We don't need guidelines; just end it.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I agree; I'm not disagreeing with that position at all, but we have these two studies and we intend to consider them. Prior to this date, the Council of Regents

were asked by this ministry to advise on that matter; and as soon as their April meeting is over I hope they will be able to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Sarnia wish to ask a further supplementary?

Mr. Bullbrook: I just want to ask if the minister would agree with my characterization, made over the years, of the reserve position of Lambton College, especially in the context of the need of restraint, totally as far as the government is concerned, that those reserves are obscene.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Oh I would caution the members of this House to use one community college out of 22 to draw conclusions that are unjustified against the other 21.

Mr. Bullbrook: But they're under your ministry!

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I agree with the member opposite that the investment dollars of one college were in excess and we intend to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary on this question; the member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response to the original question on Seneca, but may I ask the minister if he would give some direction to the Council of Regents to take into consideration the complaints of the faculty and the students that in fact that reserve fund was built up because annual operating needs were not being met? Their claim is that, in fact, equipment purchases in the last two years have not been made—not just replacements, but new equipment. That's one of the things we're against. Would the minister give such direction?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I would think the member would expect that the board of governors would use their funds in the most appropriate fashion, not only to renew the facility itself but indeed to keep the educational process at a very adequate level. I believe that institution is doing that, and this year's funding mechanism recognizes that there are, indeed two components to the system: one, the plant operation; and two, for lack of a better word at the moment, the educational process. We recognize that was perhaps a weakness in the previous funding method. This year was the first attempt, and it will be improved. There is a review mechanism established in that process for the various colleges and we think, given another year's experience, that the member's request will be honoured.

STUDY OF ONTARIO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

Mr. Lewis: A question to the acting Minister of Health if I may. Back on Jan. 20 I wrote to the Minister of Health asking for the rationalization study of the psychiatric hospitals in Ontario and have raised it since. Is it possible for the acting minister to table that study in response to the question?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the study. I shall find out if it is possible to do so.

ASBESTOS PROBLEM AT HEDMAN MINES LTD.

Mr. Lewis: A separate question, Mr. Speaker: Back on Mar. 4 I wrote to Dr. Fitch, the assistant director of the occupational health protection branch, about a problem at Hedman Mines Ltd. around asbestos, revealed from the ministry's own information. Nothing was forthcoming. I wrote again on Mar. 26 and nothing is forthcoming. Can the minister get a reply for me?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall try.

ASBESTOS-CANCER STUDY

Mr. Lewis: One further question for the acting Minister of Health: What caused her to say that there was no link between asbestos and stomach or gastro-intestinal cancer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think the remark I made was that there is no positive correlation presently factually understood between asbestos and gastro-intestinal cancer. There is some incidence correlation which has been reported by certain workers, but this has not been borne out in other investigations. It is certainly something which is under study at the moment, but there is not a positive correlation.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, the minister surely realizes that Dr. Charles Stewart, at the Workmen's Compensation Board, and Dr. Ritchie, pathologist at the University of Toronto, are at this very moment about to produce a paper, through her as the minister I guess, to demonstrate whether or not there is this link, and isn't it a bit premature to make these judgements in advance?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I was not making a judgement, I was simply reporting on current medical knowledge in this area. That paper has not, as yet, been pro-

duced. I shall be interested to see it, sir, when it is.

Mr. Foulds: Is the minister making a distinction between medical and scientific evidence? I ask that in view of the research done by Pontefract and Cunningham with regard to cancers caused by asbestos in experimental animals like rats and baboons.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I was really talking about medical scientific research and reports, and there is a difference. There are certainly some differences in sensitivity between certain laboratory animals and human beings.

DON BERE HOMES LTD.

Mr. Lewis: One last question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if I may: Is the minister aware of the Don Bere development on Admiral Rd. in London and the problems the tenants in that development—Fairhaven is the name it goes under—have experienced since rent control legislation was introduced?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: To the best of my recollection I haven't heard about that particular situation, no.

Mr. Lewis: I believe correspondence has gone to the minister. Could I, by way of supplementary, ask him to look at it? Apparently there is a major conversion under way to sell all the properties, with considerable problems for the tenants involved, and I wondered whether the minister could respond to their anxiety?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of situations of that nature, and I will certainly search out the correspondence which the Leader of the Opposition mentions and give him a reply as quickly as possible.

RENT INCREASES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Housing: Could the minister explain why one of his officials, Mr. White, in the Hamilton Housing Authority, has confirmed that tenants there are being asked to sign leases three months in advance of the commencement of the lease and, in fact, for rents in excess of the eight per cent increase? Apparently Mr. White feels these are instructions he received from OHC.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment on that. I will certainly look into the matter and get the information for the hon.

member. I think, though, I should point out that it may be an official of the Hamilton Housing Authority, not an official of the ministry, who is making this statement. I will certainly look into that for the member.

[2:30]

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: Has the minister spoken to those people in his ministry who indicated to us they do give instructions to the Hamilton Housing Authority? Can he tell us whether he has instructed the housing authorities to inform tenants fully of their rights under the Landlord and Tenant Act?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the housing authorities have been advised that the Ministry of Housing, or Ontario Housing Corp. rather, will abide by the regulations laid out in the rent review legislation. We are not to be treated any differently nor are the tenants to be treated any differently from any other tenant in any accommodation in this province. If those directions are not being followed, we will certainly see that they are.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you. That's the situation in Hamilton and I will be grateful to the minister if he will look into it.

TRUCKERS' BLOCKADE

Mr. S. Smith: To the Minister of Transportation and Communications: In view of the traffic blockade by some Detroit teamsters at the Windsor border, which has piled up 50 trucks on this side and caused quite a problem for Ontario business people, particularly in the farming industry, what action has the minister taken to ensure that Ontario goods can move freely at the border? Has he been in contact with the Michigan government or does he intend to do anything about it?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this problem but I will certainly look into it.

ANAESTHETIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Mr. S. Smith: To the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: As a follow-up to my question of March 16, I wonder if the minister has had some time to think about the regulation of hospital anaesthetic systems, which at that time he promised to look into, regarding its inclusion in the Ontario Building Code? Has he looked into it and can he now report to us on that situation?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all of the details at my fingertips but I have looked into it and we find that there was not only consultation but almost complete direction from the Ministry of Health in the establishment of the standards. The hospitals were also involved in providing input and we understand that the situation is very well in hand. They are all accepting these and the coroner's report gave a great deal of guidance as to the method of installation of this kind of equipment.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Is the minister aware that although the regulations are excellent, the difficulty is in their application—which presently falls under the Ontario Building Code and consequently is a municipal responsibility—in this highly specialized and dangerous area? Would the minister consider, for administration, bringing it under a provincial body which could have one expert who could look after the whole province instead of leaving it to chance in each municipality? That's what we are worried about—that there not be a repetition of the Sudbury problem.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to consider any suggestion which would improve the service and I would be quite ready to take it under advisement.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has the answer to a question which was asked previously, I believe.

LICENSING OF LAY PREACHER TO PERFORM MARRIAGES

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, March 29, the member for Fort William (Mr. Angus) asked me a question regarding the licensing of a lay preacher, Mr. Sanadius Fiddler, to perform marriages in native communities in north-western Ontario.

I would like to inform the member and the House that I have now written to the chairman of the personnel committee of the Cambrian Presbytery of the United Church of Canada informing him that registration is being granted to Mr. Fiddler.

Mr. Speaker: Questions. The hon. member for Wentworth.

WENTWORTH TEACHERS' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Deans: Thank you, I am sorry; I was dreaming. I have a question for the Minister of Education.

Is the Minister of Education aware that the negotiations between the Wentworth Board of Education and its secondary school teachers have reached an impasse and that there has been little if any negotiation taking place in the last short while? Is he also aware that there have been two mediators involved now and there has not been any real progress made; and that the Wentworth county board has refused to negotiate with the elementary teachers until after the secondary school contracts are completed?

Will the minister personally review the situation with regard to the Wentworth county's attitude toward its teachers and its responsibility to the public; and whether or no the teachers' requests are reasonable or otherwise; and use whatever influence he might have to try to avoid what will ultimately be a strike?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, of course I would be very happy to become as familiar as my friend is with exactly what's happening in Wentworth. I might point out to him that—I am sure the teachers in that area know it—that if they feel the board is not negotiating in good faith they can make such a charge before the Education Relations Commission which will be happy to hold a hearing and attempt to bring whichever party is not negotiating in good faith back to the bargaining table to do so. I'd be happy to find out exactly what's happening. I know things aren't moving as smoothly in the Wentworth secondary bargaining situation as they should be, but we're always hopeful.

Mr. Deans: One supplementary question, if I may: Does the minister feel it proper that the board should refuse to negotiate with elementary panel representatives simply because it has been unable to reach an agreement with the secondary school teacher representatives? Does the minister not feel there is something terribly wrong with that board?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I have learned from long experience in these matters that I'd like to familiarize myself completely with the details of what's happening before I make any comment on a statement such as the hon. member has made. Not that I doubt what he's saying but I'd like to know exactly what both sides feel.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, given that the date in the school year is somewhat late and the public school teachers are also working without a contract—I think it's the only board in Ontario which has neither a contract for the public school teachers or the secondary school teachers—would the minister

be willing to intervene personally this week so that a strike could be avoided?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated a few minutes ago that certainly if what the previous hon. member indicated is correct—that the board refuses to negotiate with the elementary school teachers because it has not got a contract with the secondary school teachers—I think those elementary school teachers should now or should have a few weeks ago put a case of bad-faith bargaining before the Education Relations Commission. Certainly that is the place that should go and the commission should make some determination.

Mr. Foulds: Could the minister indicate how many charges of bad-faith bargaining have been laid before the Education Relations Commission and the disposition of those charges?

Hon. Mr. Wells: From memory, as I recall, there was a charge of bad-faith bargaining made against us by the provincial school teachers and I believe the commission's finding was that we were not bargaining in bad faith.

There is a charge of bad-faith bargaining, I think, on the table regarding the Central Algoma situation, which has not been heard and which is presently part of the total process which is going on to try to bring that dispute to some finalization.

I think there have been some other charges—I think there was one in Peel—but I think they were withdrawn before any hearings were held.

Mr. Moffatt: Somebody intervened.

CLEANING CONTRACTS AT QUEEN'S PARK

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of Labour, if I may. With all of her duties, is the minister aware of the problems surrounding the Portuguese women cleaning under contract at Queen's Park?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am.

Mrs. Campbell: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If that is the case, does she not believe she should ensure that such contracts incorporate scrupulous adherence to the provisions of the Employment Standards Act legislation on prohibition of sex discrimination by job classification?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I was under the strong impression that sex discrimination by job classification was, if not totally eliminated, almost completely so at this time.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, that not being the case, I wonder if the minister would look into the matter? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Solicitor General has the answer to a question asked previously.

POLICE USE OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS' FILES

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 2 of this year, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) asked me a question concerning police investigation of psychiatric unit records at Toronto Western Hospital.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, 1975, two members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police proceeded to the Toronto Western Hospital psychiatric unit. They sought information as to what patients, if any, were absent from the unit during the evening of Nov. 7, 1975. This information was being sought as part of the investigation into the murder of Marion Peters. The officers were informed that this information would only be provided under the authority of a search warrant. On Friday, Dec. 12, 1975, the officers, armed with a search warrant, returned to the hospital. As a result, they were provided with the names of seven persons who were absent from the psychiatric unit on Nov. 7, 1975. The officers subsequently sought information as to whether or not the patients in question would be capable of committing such an act. The reply was in the negative.

I understand that the officers had no further contact with the staff of the psychiatric unit of the Toronto Western Hospital, no files were seized or examined by the officers. I have a report from the Metropolitan Toronto Police and I would like to table that, Mr. Speaker, if I may. It's a little fuller.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary: The minister is saying quite definitively that they did not look at the files at all. They were simply looking at attendance. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: That is my understanding from the report I have received.

Mr. Breaugh: How do we balance the statement of the man who supposedly ran that unit, who said they did have the files, with the report the minister just read to us now which says they really didn't look at

files at all, that they simply wanted to know whether the people were there or not? There seems to be quite a conflict there.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I can't account for any conflict of that nature. There might be. I have tabled a fuller report, and I suggest the hon. member for Oshawa should look that over and then, if he wants further information, I'll try to get it for him.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Ms. Sandeman: A question for the Minister of Labour and/or the acting Minister of Health: Could the minister please report on the progress of negotiations with 35 groups of public health nurses across the province? At least one of these groups has been without a contract since June of last year and many of them without contracts since Jan. of this year.

Hon. B. Stephenson: In company with the deputy ministers of both Labour and Health, I met about two weeks ago with the Ontario Nurses' Association, representing the public health nurses and two groups of VON nurses. Last week we met with the representatives of the association of boards of health for the Province of Ontario. I am pleased to report that I think for the first time we made some progress and, hopefully within the next two weeks, I shall have further news to report about this situation.

Mr. Good: Supplementary: Could the minister inform the House whether or not a complaint of not bargaining in good faith has been laid by the nurses in the Peterborough area, where I believe there have been words to that effect bandied about?

Hon. B. Stephenson: To my knowledge, no such complaint has been laid before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

SLUDGE STORAGE

Mr. Reed: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Does the minister consider there is sufficient storage to hold sludge from sewage treatment plants in Ontario during the months the contractors are unable to spread it on the land, and does he consider the standards for that storage to be sufficient?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think the hon. member is talking about a disposal site in his own riding,

not too far from his farm, as a matter of fact where there is an abandoned—

Mr. Reid: How does he get it to his farm?

An hon. member: Oh, he wouldn't be asking about that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Tell us it is not true.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —an abandoned quarry, I believe, that is being used by the contractor hauling sludge. There is no question that right about now the quarry is filling up, and as the warm weather comes along they will be able to get rid of that sludge, including at the hon. members own farm, which I'm sure is one of the recipients. I have had that request this morning from the mayor of Halton Hills and I promised him I would look into it. Hopefully we can get rid of the problems as far as that neighbourhood is concerned very shortly.

Mr. Reed: I wonder if the minister could tell us what standards his ministry has for those holding basins? Is he aware that the particular storage facility in question is not a quarry but an old sand pit, which is quite porous and open?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member is right, it is a pit; but I believe there were certain pouring operations there a few years ago. We have to satisfy ourselves that the site is safe from the point of view of contamination of the water tables and that has been done. The man has a permit to dump the sludge there; and from that point of view it is satisfactory. However, from the neighbourhood point of view, at this point it isn't satisfactory, and the hon. member knows why.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final supplementary.

Mr. Reed: What standards does the ministry impose before granting a licence to hold that sludge?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As I indicated, it must be environmentally safe in every way. It should be located in an area where it won't be a nuisance to the neighbourhood, to the people adjoining the pit, for example, or the site. There should be a reasonable distance so that the smell, particularly, won't aggravate the neighbourhood. That is the main reason. As to the question of traffic to that site, spillage is a problem, for example. These are all the things we look at.

Hon. W. Newman: It grows good crops, though.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy has the answer to a question asked previously.

PICKERING NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa) asked me questions on Friday following my statement on the Pickering No. 4 unit. I can now give some additional information in response to those questions and inform the House of the current status in this regard.

Unit 4 at Ontario Hydro's Pickering nuclear generating station will be back in service within one week if repairs which are now in progress prove to be successful. Hydro has been able to plug a hole in the damaged generator conductor and is now in the process of replacing the insulation which is around it.

If, however, tests prove the work to be unsuccessful, the unit is not likely to return to operation for up to several months. Hydro will then be forced to dismantle a large section of the generator in order to gain full access to the damaged area.

The total cost of repairs will not be known until the unit returns to full power. The cost of replacing energy from the No. 4 unit with electricity produced in fossil-fired plants has been estimated by Hydro at up to an additional \$5,000 per hour.

The damaged conductor is a very large hollow piece of copper. It is cooled by circulating water and it is located in the conventional or non-nuclear section of the unit.

The work was done under Ontario Hydro's supervision, partly by its own forces and partly by workers from the generator manufacturer, Howden-Parsons.

At this time it appears that it will be almost impossible to determine who left the threading tool in the unit.

ACCOMMODATION FOR CARLETON FRENCH-LANGUAGE STUDENTS

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Education: Is the minister aware of the urgent need for a statement from his ministry regarding accommodation for 900 francophone students under the Carleton board's jurisdiction? Is the minister aware of an urgent request from the advisory committee to the Carleton board for a meeting

with the minister before April 12, when they have to make a decision?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just as background, perhaps I might tell the hon. member that I met on Feb. 23 with both the Carleton board and the Ottawa board about this problem and asked our regional director to work with the boards. The Carleton board would like the Ottawa board to sell them or lease them one of its schools. The Ottawa board is not so inclined.

The Ottawa board is providing the education for those francophone students from the Carleton board at the present time, and I saw no indication that the education being provided was in any way inferior. The Carleton board, however, has indicated it would like to have those students under its own jurisdiction in its own school, which is a commendable thing. But I think it has to be also pointed out we could find no indication that the education that those francophone students are receiving is in any way inferior.

I have asked our regional director to work with the two boards to see if we can't help them come up with some solution.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: Is the minister saying no, he will not meet with the advisory committee to the Carleton board? Is that my understanding? Am I correct?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I might say that my friend, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) has been in touch with me daily about this particular problem—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Including Sundays.

Mr. Foulds: Even while you were away in Florida?

Mr. Yakabuski: He has been on top of the problem from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: In fact, he has made some suggestions to me about how we should handle the matter—

Mr. Lewis: I am sure.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —but they are not really acceptable to some of the Ottawa people. We do have a problem here; but if the advisory committee would like to meet with me some time, along with the boards, this could be arranged. I just want to assure them that I'm very much aware of the situation and the problem. At this point in time, if they would meet with our regional people there, I think

that's the way we can try to get some solution to the problem.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the Carleton board will be meeting on April 12 to decide what accommodation they will have next year for 900 francophones and that it is very urgent for that board and the francophone advisory committee to know the provincial stand when it holds that meeting and takes decisions at that meeting?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I haven't had any indication from the Carleton board, although I understand they were talking to some people last week; but if they'd like us to indicate some particular stand we have on this matter, I think I can give it to them by April 12. I have to tell them also, though, that there is not any money available for the building of new schools at the present time.

Mr. Cassidy: In the same vein, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister: What steps is the minister prepared to take in order to ensure the commitment to provide a French secondary school, which was made by the Essex County Board of Education, will be fulfilled—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a supplementary to this question.

Mr. Cassidy: Very much so, Mr. Speaker.

RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, a question to the acting Minister of Health: Is she prepared to assure this House that the results of the testing going on in Port Hope for radon gas levels will be made public?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the testing going on at the moment is being carried out both by the Ministry of Health, on occasion and by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada. If it is possible to get all of the results from the Atomic Energy Control Board, I think we might seriously consider announcing to those individuals who are affected directly, and to those individuals who are living in areas close to the areas where there has been radiation, the specific levels which relate to their particular domicile.

Mr. S. Smith: Why the secrecy?

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: Could the minister tell me why this information will not be made public for general consumption so that all the people in the town and other

citizens of this province know of the potential problems in this kind of a situation? Why the secrecy in this matter?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There isn't any real secrecy in that I think the reports have been made public; all of the tests that have been done very recently have shown marked improvement except, I think, in one or two specific areas. We will be discussing this with the people from the Port Hope area very shortly, and I really would like to consult with them about their feelings about whether all of the report should be made public or not.

Mr. Moffatt: Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister, since she said in her original response, "if the information is forthcoming from the Atomic Energy Control Board," is there some reason to suspect the Atomic Energy Control Board would not give information to the Ontario Ministry of Health?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry if I misled the House with that remark. There is no such doubt.

DESIGN FOR ONTARIO LAND-USE PLAN

Mr. MacDonald: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the firm of Hedlin Menzies on an ongoing contract for consulting work with the ministry or with the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development? If not, what payment was made to that firm for the production of the draft statement of policy on agricultural land use?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roger Schwass was retained by my ministry to do some work about three weeks ago. He's a man with a great agricultural background, in case the hon. member didn't know that.

Mr. Lewis: It was a last-minute appointment.

Hon. W. Newman: He worked on "The Challenge of Abundance" as research director for 2½ years. He's had 20 years' experience in the agricultural field. He's done work on the Lambton-Sarnia—

Mr. Lewis: Three weeks before the final report.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: And he is willing to produce the kind of political document you want.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: He knows more about agriculture than the hon. member will ever know, I tell him that right now.

Mr. Lewis: Certainly more than I'll ever know.

Hon. W. Newman: As far as doing ongoing work is concerned, yes, he has done work for other ministries, and I know he has for this ministry in the past too.

Mr. Good: When in doubt, shout.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: But as far as I'm concerned, since I became minister, this is the first time we had the opportunity and pleasure of having him do some work for us, a little bit of work for us.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: His total cost will be somewhere around \$4,000.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: For that statement?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: That's \$200 a page.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Rainy River with a supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute, please. We've had a very good question period up to now, I think everyone will agree, so let's keep it that way.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Do you think I should sit down, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Yakabuski: Don't blow up.

Mr. Mancini: The Minister of Agriculture and Food spoiled it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable time by these interjections. The hon. member for York South may have a supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald: I would agree that Roger Schwass may know more than I do, and cer-

tainly than the minister, on agriculture. However, will the minister answer my question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: About you there is no doubt.

Mr. MacDonald: Right, equally no doubt. My question is, was that \$4,000, paid three weeks prior to the production of the statement on agricultural land use, for that statement alone?

Hon. W. Newman: He hasn't even been paid yet.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Rainy River, a final supplementary.

Mr. Reid: I would like to ask the minister how he justifies, in these days of restraint, paying an outside consultant for a study when he has people in the Resources Development Secretariat—

Mr. MacDonald: They wouldn't give the right answer.

Mr. Reid: —and TEIGA, and also in his own Ministry of Agriculture and Food? How does he justify an outside contract like that?

Mr. MacDonald: He provided the right answer.

Hon. W. Newman: I justify it very easily. I have been working with our own staff for some time on the preservation of agricultural land.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: You blew it.

Hon. W. Newman: No, we had all the facts and figures together on a lot of it.

Mr. Reid: Why did the ministry pay somebody \$4,000 then?

Hon. W. Newman: Does the member want an answer or doesn't he?

Mr. Reid: I am not getting one. If the minister had the facts and figures, why did he hire him?

Hon. W. Newman: If the member wants an answer, he should sit there and listen.

Interjections.

An hon. member: They don't want to hear the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister take his seat? We want fewer interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: Who is "we"?

Mr. Reid: We want more answers.

Mr. Speaker: I think I am speaking on behalf of the assembly generally. The hon. minister may complete his answer.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Roger Schwass was brought in some time ago to do some preliminary work for us on this. I'd just like to tell members one thing, that the final copy, which will be dealt with at the appropriate time, was not even seen by Roger Schwass or Hedlin Menzies. It was done by myself and my own staff working late at nights.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I announced that as a final supplementary. The member for Quinte.

Mr. Lewis: This one isn't over yet, not yet.

Hon. W. Newman: You bet it isn't.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Quinte wishes to ask a question.

Mr. Lewis: It was \$4,000; just three weeks before the design plan for Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOSPITAL CUTBACKS

Mr. O'Neil: Could the acting Minister of Health tell the House why officials of the Belleville General Hospital have been unable to get a rationale for cuts ordered by the ministry in their hospital and why they have been unable to receive supporting information on how this decision to cut approximately \$564,000 from their budget was made?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The officials of those hospitals in which cuts have been recommended or requested have been given information by the ministry. They have also been informed that if they have questions about this they may appeal to the ministry for a discussion, and in almost all instances in which there is question about the cutting of hospital beds or the decrease in budget, that kind of discussion is taking place. If the Belleville hospital wants to have this kind of consultation with the Ministry of Health, it is at perfect liberty to request it.

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary: I don't believe that information has been supplied for the Belleville General Hospital; I would ask that if it hasn't it now be conveyed. I would also like to ask were not mathematical cal-

culations made to determine the nature and severity of cuts in the hospital; and is the ministry able to provide this information to members of this Legislature?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The regression analysis was most certainly made available to all of the hospitals involved in this programme.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Did the minister know that her regression analysis is in every instance wrong?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I would question that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Okay.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Very definitely.
[3:00]

KIRKLAND LAKE AREA BUILDING FREEZE

Mr. Bain: In the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier), I would like to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and to the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Is the government aware that a building freeze, administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and in effect since 1962 in the Kirkland Lake area in the townships of Lebel, Pacaud, Otto, Marquis, McElroy, Boston and Marter, is causing the people of these communities a great deal of difficulty? Is it aware that originally when the freeze was put on, people were told it was going to be temporary and that the government would introduce a development plan that would allow for reasonable and rational development in these townships? What and where is that development programme and when can we expect it?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the actual plan that the member is speaking about, but I will certainly draw the matter to the attention of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) who, I believe, would be the people who would be involved in such a plan.

Mr. Bain: Supplementary: The plan I referred to was described as a development plan to replace the blanket freeze. I was wondering if the provincial secretary could also inquire within the Ministry of Natural Resources about a promise that was made to set up a committee on which would be local people to investigate what would replace

the freeze. Could the provincial secretary also report on the status of that committee and when it is to be set up?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Natural Resources and to the other two ministers, as I said before.

RENTAL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Givens: I would like to ask the Minister of Housing what has been the tempo of construction of rental residential accommodation in the urban areas of Ontario since the imposition of rent controls?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member any figures on that. As the hon. member I think knows, there have been tender calls put out for proposals to provide rental accommodation. When they terminate we will be able to have some general idea as to what sort of reaction we are getting from the builders as to the possibility of what rental construction will be carried on this year.

Mr. Givens: Supplementary: I am not talking about low-rental housing. I am talking about the general market. Is it not a fact that construction of rental accommodation has come to a virtual standstill in this province?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I can properly answer that, to say it has come to a virtual standstill. I have had indications that the building industry is backing away—yes, indeed—from the construction of rental accommodation. But I would like to have an opportunity to attempt to get the correct figures to present to the hon. member.

Mr. Lewis: They were not building any units before the legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that commencing Wednesday, April 21, and until further orders the House will not sit in the chamber on Wednesdays.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this motion carry?
Carried.

Mr. Reid: Will you amend that to include Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a comment on that motion before it carries, before it is considered by—

Mr. Speaker: The motion has already been carried.

An. hon. member: Sit down.

Mr. Cassidy: I was rising to my feet.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't hear any objections.

Mr. Cassidy: I did and I was rising to my feet.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will withdraw the carrying for a moment and I will hear the hon. member.

Mr. Cassidy: I don't want to indulge in a long debate, I just want to say that the question of Wednesday sittings of the House is something which has been under study by the select committee of the Legislature studying the fourth and fifth reports of the Camp commission. For those members of all parties who are from the vicinity of Toronto, they are probably aware from discussions with their own caucuses of the disparities, one might say, between out-of-town members who cannot return to their ridings on Wednesdays, and who therefore find it difficult to spend an idle Wednesday here in Toronto—not completely idle—

Mr. Reid: You should try researching your speeches.

Mr. Cassidy: —as opposed to those members within commuting distance of Toronto who return to the ridings in order to do some constituency work. There are real difficulties, which I know we will discuss later on when the select committee's report comes forward, which are caused by that difference in condition between the out-of-town members and those closer to town.

It is my understanding from what members of cabinet have said that in fact the cabinet does most of its business on Wednesday mornings, and therefore the Wednesday sittings are not required to be vacated because of the cabinet's own work. I just don't think the motion should pass without that being remarked, although the question is going to come up later in time. I don't think it should be accepted that all members of the House are happy with the fact that for the past three years, at the whim of the cabinet, we have not been sitting on Wednesdays.

Mr. Deans: Just a comment on this matter. I agreed with the House leader of the gov-

ernment that this motion would be put, and that it should say "until further notice." I assume now, as I did then, that that means at some future date we will discuss it again. We were waiting for the report of the committee in order to do that. Though my colleagues and many other people may feel some change should be made, it can't be made until we fully understand the implications of the committee's deliberations.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's the best lecture you've given.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Johnson moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, this bill would permit weekly newspapers that go to press on Tuesday, which constitute a majority, to accept election advertisements. The wording of the present section creates many unfortunate difficulties.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

ARBITRATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Arbitrations Act.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly on Bill 1, An Act to amend the Arbitrations Act. It was introduced by the hon. minister on the opening of the assembly as a bill with a minor amendment. I simply want to say to the minister that the amendment would in fact contradict an amendment which was made to the bill at a recent time.

In 1973, schedule B to the bill was replaced by a provision providing that the Lieutenant Governor in Council could establish maximum and minimum fees which could be charged under the provisions of the Arbitrations Act. Consistent with that, the bill, as it was then drafted, provided for a maximum fee. It provided, of course, that the parties to a submission could agree otherwise, but it put an upper limit on the maximum amount which an arbitrator could charge for his services.

I simply want to say to the minister that the provision which was amended in 1973 states quite categorically that the Lieutenant Governor in Council can make regulations prescribing the maximum and minimum fees chargeable by arbitrators under the Act. It seems to me to be totally and quite inconsistent. It'll provide, by this amendment, that the parties to a submission to an arbitration could agree to provide higher fees than are permitted under the statute by regulation.

I would draw to the attention of the minister that the fees are by no means negligible. For each day's sitting, consisting of at least six hours, there is a minimum fee of not less than \$150 and a maximum fee of \$250. If, for any reason, a sitting takes place but there's no actual reference proceeded with but it's simply for the purposes of a postponement, the minimum fee is \$40 and the maximum fee is \$80. Then, for additional hours that are spent, there is a minimum of \$20 and a maximum of \$30.

I'm simply saying to the minister that he cannot now so amend the bill, by this amendment, to provide that the parties to a submission can agree to a higher fee than is fixed in accordance with the statute by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as the maximum as well as the minimum that may be chargeable under the Act. For that reason, simply because the bill is inaccurate, we would have grave reservations about supporting it.

Mr. Breithaupt: The comments made by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) are, I think, quite complete. I would appreciate hearing from the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) as to the reasoning behind this circumstance which apparently would now allow the rates which had otherwise been agreed upon to be changed after the Lieutenant Governor in Council may have fixed certain figures.

While this bill was used as the traditional minor situation upon which to allow the procedure of the House to develop after the bringing in of the Speech from the Throne, it would appear that a somewhat more important principle flows out of this bill than is normally the case with the usual Bill 1 which we've seen in the various legislative sessions. If the Attorney General could give some explanation as to this matter it might complete our remarks on this; otherwise, of course, it could go to committee for further detail back and forth.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, perhaps to recapitulate what my colleague has said in this regard—in any event, to straighten out the matter as I understand it so we'll get clarity in the wording. By chapter 2, section 2, in

1973, an amendment was made to section 18 of the Arbitrations Act. Taking that particular amendment, which knocked out the words "that provided by schedule B" in the seventh and eighth lines and substituted "the maximum prescribed therefor," the section, with the new amendment being proposed here today, would read as follows:

The parties to a submission may agree by writings signed by them or by making such agreement a part of the submission to pay to the arbitrator or to the arbitrators, if more than one, such fees for such day's attendance or such gross sum for taking upon themselves the burden of the reference and making the award, as the parties see fit. And no arbitrator shall take or receive from either party to a submission any greater fee than that agreed upon or, in default of agreement, the maximums prescribed therefor and the receipt of any greater fee may be regarded as a misconduct justifying the setting aside of the award.

My question comes down to the situation—without sending it into committee I don't think—if the minister removes the reference to schedule B but nevertheless retains the wording of "the maximum prescribed therefor," where is the prescription set out? What reference is made within the statute as to where this may be found?

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the amendment which has been proposed in Bill 1 is, in my view, simply to rectify an omission that occurred in 1970 with respect to the revision of the statutes. My information, in looking into the history of this, is that this was simply a printer's error; in other words, it is to conform with the way the section read in 1960.

It's true that obviously there are fees prescribed in the regulations but in certain instances—these may very well be relatively few instances—the parties to a dispute simply cannot persuade or obtain the services of an arbitrator in a matter which is of a highly complex nature.

As a matter of fact, it would appear that section 22 of the bill as amended in 1973 confirms by implication that the omission was not intentional. For example, it provides that the taxing officer shall not tax fees higher than is prescribed by the regulations and then come the words, "except as provided in section 18." It is my view that this is a reference to the omitted words. Furthermore, it's quite obvious that for very valid reasons the Act provides a penalty or indicates that receipt of any greater fee may be regarded

as misconduct justifying the setting aside of the award.

It's my information that many parties to disputes—I can't give particulars—have regarded the 1970 revision as an omission and certainly have been conducting themselves according to the principle that was laid down in the 1960 bill; namely, that the parties to the dispute could agree to a larger fee than that prescribed. As I've already said, in certain arbitrations where a great deal of expertise is required, in this day and age one simply cannot get an arbitrator for the maximum fee of \$250, as difficult as that might appear to many people.

We're also concerned that this amendment should be made retroactive to protect past awards as there is a possibility that there may very well have been a technical contravention of section 18. When one looks at the history of the legislation and how the section read in 1960, I'm firmly of the view and totally satisfied that what we are attempting to do is simply to rectify what was, in effect, a printer's omission.

With great respect I don't see any contradiction to the amendment as provided in 1973. I don't see that it is inconsistent, namely, that although the fees are those as prescribed by regulation, the parties can, in certain circumstances in special cases, agree to a higher fee. Not to amend the legislation, in my view, might make it very difficult for parties to complex disputes to obtain the type of arbitration which is not only in the best interests of the parties but, of course, in the best interest of the public who are often affected by these disputes.

I don't think there is really anything further I could say to assist my hon. friends other than what I've just outlined.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. Renwick: To committee.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered? We will turn it over to the committee of the whole House?

Agreed.

REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1975.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, as far as we are concerned we feel that this is a good move. I think both members concerned are willing that this should be done and are anxious that these name changes take place, and we are quite willing to pass it as far as this reading is concerned and have it referred directly to third reading.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, it has been a traditional ability of members of the House to involve themselves if the name of the riding they represent may be changed from time to time because of particular local circumstances. It is a courtesy which is afforded to the members, and certainly if it is the decision of the members and of the areas they represent that they wish to have the names of these two ridings changed to make them more acceptable and more factual in the areas which they represent, then we certainly agree with it and would acknowledge that this bill can immediately go to third reading.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, as the member representing one of the ridings I rise to support this bill. The change will give recognition to the facts as they exist, that the riding of Welland is now comprised totally and solely of the cities of Thorold and Welland. It recognizes that Thorold has been, in fact, elevated to a city as of last July 1, and therefore has a new prestige and a new prominence in the Niagara Peninsula. I just point out, too, that of course Thorold plays a key part in the Niagara Peninsula. For instance, St. Catharines and Brock riding get many of their facilities from our area, including their water system and they take our sewage away from us. So I have to say that we look down from Thorold a little bit on St. Catharines and I think we should recognize, in our riding name, being a bit above that municipality.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill, and I want to say that I do appreciate the efforts on behalf of my own government and all the members in the House to let this legislation come forward at this time. As you know, about half of my riding is in the regional municipality of Durham, half of my riding is in the regional municipality of York, and, of course, when it was named Durham North the residents in the York part of the region felt that they had been neglected by not having it called Durham-York and I rise to support this bill to rename the riding Durham-York.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have only one comment. I want to know whether the

minister understands that the name Gwillimbury was the maiden name of Lady Simcoe?

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further discussion on second reading of the bill?

The motion is for second reading of Bill 3.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 3, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1975.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Snow, moved second reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is it wise to proceed with a bill that has been the subject of controversy—

Hon. Mr. Welch: He is coming.

Mr. Renwick: Oh, he is coming? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the minister is coming immediately.

Mr. Sargent: Come on, Jim, You are holding up progress.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have any statement on second reading or shall we proceed with the debate?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would just like to say, before we start the debate on Bill 4, that it is my proposal that after second reading this bill be referred to the appropriate standing committee of the House so that we could have the opportunity of having different segments of the industry which are interested, and the public as well, make their points known on this bill.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement that it will be referred to committee is a welcome statement and we feel that such an action is appropriate. The amendments in

1973 to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act have aroused a certain amount of concern among those in the business and it is only right that the people be given an opportunity to express these concerns and have these points of view heard and examined.

We support the principle of the regulation of leasing. The member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) has brought the need for regulation to the attention of this government on a number of occasions and for a number of years. Those legitimate business operators in the business, I am sure, have also brought their concerns about the need for some form of regulation to the attention of the minister.

It is regrettable that the government has waited so long to bring about some form of regulation. We, on the other hand, have a number of anxieties about the bill. It appears to tar all the leasing truckers with the same brush. The bill appears to us to be somewhat simplistic and we look forward to the deliberations. Thank you.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat surprised at the reaction of my colleague who just spoke on behalf of the NDP. I gather from his remarks that, in effect, they are supporting the government on this bill and will vote in favour of the bill in second reading.

Mr. Philip: That is not what I said.

Mr. Reid: I find that somewhat surprising but I guess they have to do what they think is best. This party is going to move an amendment; in effect, I believe it is what we generally refer to in the House as a hoist motion. Members will find it on the notice paper and I would like to read it into the record. Our reasoned amendment reads:

That Bill 4, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, be not now read a second time but be read a second time two months hence and that during the interval the subject matter of the bill be considered by the standing committee on resources development and that the committee report by May 31, 1976.

We don't believe in the principle of this bill as stated and outlined in Bill 4.

The effect of the bill obviously will be to put a number of people in the leasing business and the trucking industry in the Province of Ontario out of business. The effect of our amendment will give everyone involved in the trucking business in the Province of Ontario time to prepare briefs and submissions to the committee which will be looking into the matter.

My friend from the NDP indicated that he thought those people operating under PCV licences were legitimate operators. I assume he meant by that that those who didn't have PCV licences were illegitimate. This party does not hold with that stand and I find the NDP twisting and turning on this particular issue somewhat strange to say the least. Obviously they're not supporting these small independent people in the province who are trying to make a living.

Mr. Wildman: That's not what he said.

Mr. Reid: We feel that the OTA has indicated that there are up to 15,000 people in the leasing business in the Province of Ontario. The minister has indicated that there are a fair number; we don't know exactly how many. The effect of this bill, if passed through second and third reading by this House in the next little while, would be to put very many of these people out of business.

The bill provides, as members know, in section 3(a) that, in effect, a leased truck could only go one way and would have to return empty in many cases. In other words, if one leases a truck in Toronto for a trip to Windsor, the truck would have to be returned empty from Windsor to Toronto.

[3:30]

It's obvious in the transportation business that one cannot operate efficiently or economically that way and the effect of the legislation is to put these people out of business. We can't agree with that.

The Liberal Party represents the individual in this Province of Ontario and we can't see that happen to small entrepreneurs who are trying to make a living. The minister has indicated that there are perhaps some illegalities in the present situation. If so, this bill is not going to do anything really but put a lot of hard-working people out of business.

Perhaps if there are amendments to be made they should be made under section 2 of the Act, dealing with leases, if there is something there which doesn't meet with the minister's approval. To bring in a bill which, in effect, says one can continue in business as long as one continues to drive standing on one's head and with one's hands tied behind one, does not make sense to this party.

The OTA has indicated that it is losing a great deal of business to the independent truckers in the province but I think it's a case which hasn't really been proved. If there are problems, and we agree there are problems

with the Public Commercial Vehicles Act as now constituted, this kind of ad hoc-ery or patching up is really not going to solve the fundamental problems involved. It is not going to solve the situation and we can't support the bill. We feel it's bad legislation. I would be interested to hear the remarks of the member for Riverdale, who is very good on this sort of thing, and hear what he has to say as to the efficacy of this particular bill.

What our amendment will do is to give people time. That's what we want to do primarily—to buy time for these people who are directly affected so that they can at least continue to operate and to give their legal staffs or themselves time to prepare submissions and briefs to the board.

I think it's high time that the whole Act, the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, was looked at in total. A lot of the independent truckers are in business and have operated under the Act in the way they have because they could neither afford the time nor the money nor the expensive lawyers to go before the Highway Transport Board and prove public convenience and necessity. So many of them have gone the other route into the leasing line because they couldn't afford it or were turned down for one of many reasons by the Highway Transport Board. I don't think anyone who knows anything about the trucking industry wouldn't agree that when somebody applies for a PCV licence all the others in the industry are there to oppose anybody else getting into the business.

Their rates, which are filed under the Act, are somewhat similar and one wonders where the element of competition is. The OTA and those people who operate under the PCV Act do have a point in that they are much more regulated than the people under lease. All the people whom I have talked to who operate leased trucks are quite willing to accept any regulations which are reasonable from the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Surely, to put them all out of business—or 95 per cent of them—to put out people who have operated legitimate businesses for a number of years—by one piece of legislation to put them out of business overnight—is just not fair. I would think it's not even anything approaching natural justice.

Again, we admit there are problems. This bill is not going to solve them. We would ask the NDP to join with us in supporting our notice of motion which we think will go some way in giving people time to make their submissions, both the people who operate under

the PCV licences and those who operate under lease. We're not against the OTA or the organized truckers—they have a valid point of view—but we do not feel that this bill is going to solve any of the problems related to the present Act and we would ask the minister to reconsider. We would hope the bill would go to committee without passing second reading in the House and that the committee can redraft the bill so that it will be fair and equitable to all.

Mr. Young: The minister will be answering later on I guess. I am rather interested in the speaker who has just brought his bit of wisdom to us, because it is not very many weeks ago that we had the dump truck industry facing a problem. At that time we united in order to bring the dump truck industry under regulation. To bring them, as a matter of fact—

Mr. Reid: But you aren't putting anybody out of business, which is what this bill does.

Mr. Young: We brought them under a regulation which had existed before 1966—

Mr. Reid: It will be debated.

Mr. Young:—and we all voted that they should apply for entry into the business. In other words, we limited the number of dump truck owners who could come into the dump truck industry.

We are now facing a problem of whether or not we are going to have the same kind of philosophy applied in continuity to the whole transport industry.

Mr. Bullbrook: You are putting guys out of business.

Mr. Young: We already have the regulations for the transport industry.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's not correct.

Mr. Reid: That's not right.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. Mancini: I would ask you to ask the members of this House, since this is such an important piece of legislation and since it concerns so many jobs for so many people, to try to keep their remarks on the bill please.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yorkview was doing a little historical background pertaining to the second reading and the

principle of the bill. Would the hon. member for Yorkview continue and keep his remarks to that?

Mr. Young: I might quote from the letter, which I think all of us received, signed by Cecil Green, chairman, committee on policy, the Organization of Independent Truckers. He says: "It will be supported by every person who still believes in free enterprise and unrestricted competition."

I think nobody, literally nobody, in this House believes in unrestricted competition and complete free enterprise. We give these phrases a lot of lip service, but years ago I think civilization came to the place where they realized that unfettered free enterprise, unfettered competition, only resulted in chaos, and so in industry after industry after industry and profession after profession, through the whole facet on our civilization, we have brought in regulation.

I don't need, here today, to go over the industries that we have regulated in this way; the doctors, the lawyers, you name it. In industry after industry, we have found that unfettered free enterprise and unbridled competition just did not pay, and as a civilization, to bring order out of chaos, we have had to bring in regulation.

This happened with the trucking industry years and years ago—a couple of generations ago as a matter of fact—and gradually out of the chaos that industry found itself in, the PCV Act resulted. So those who wanted to get into the industry had to submit to certain rules and regulations. We wanted to make sure that we had a living for those who were in it and we had to regulate as far as distance is concerned, and we had trade unions who organized the drivers and other employees, and we had certain rules and regulations about safety of trucks, about loading and overloading, and all these things came under regulations.

I think, most of the people in the transport industry accepted the necessity of the thing, including the dump truck industry at that time. So class F licences were issued, but then in the mid 1960s the dump truck operators, for some reason or other, wanted to get out from under and this Legislature did agree that the dump truck operators should be exempt from the regulation. We know the chaos that resulted there. Finally, after all kinds of disruption and demonstrations, a commission was appointed. Mr. Rapoport made his report and at least some modicum of regulation was reintroduced into the dump truck industry, and we have that

now. It is being modified a bit, as the minister announced the other day, but the fact is that we had to bring back regulations into that industry.

As far as the transport industry is concerned, I might indicate that there are I suppose four modes by which goods are transported. First of all, many companies own their own fleets of transports—Eaton's, Simpsons, these people. As far as I am concerned, they own their own delivery trucks and so on. They operate those, they hire their own drivers, they maintain the fleet, they have mechanics, shops and so on. A great many industries do it that way and they are not concerned as far as the PCV is concerned but, of course, the Teamsters and other unions do organize their drivers and their workers in certain respects.

Then we have the leasing firms, firms which own equipment. They own the rigs and they will hire out those rigs to certain people and certain industries who want to transport their own goods in the same way. In other words, the business decides that it doesn't want to maintain the mechanics, the machine shop and all this, so it goes out and hires the rigs from the company which owns them and which maintains them and it pays them a fee for that kind of service.

In addition to that, we have the whole transport industry with which we are concerned here today, the industry which owns rigs, sometimes single individuals and sometimes fleets. That industry has over the years transported goods from one place to another across this country and particularly across this Province of Ontario. That's where our concern is right now. Those industries, those single-driver industries or multi-rig industries, come under the PCV Act.

They have to establish a need; they have to establish that by entering this industry they are not going to create havoc in the industry. They have to buy their licences. They have to abide by the regulations as to where they can transport, whether it is from Toronto to Montreal, Toronto to Hamilton or Windsor or wherever it may be, clear across the province. It is wide open but within certain limits. They have to make sure that the goods are insured, their rigs are insured and their drivers are properly looked after, and all of this kind of thing is there. These are the people who come under the PCV licence.

But in later years there have been people, owners of single rigs and companies, some of which are very large companies, that have sort of operated in the province without the PCV licence. They go to a company that may

want goods transported from here to Windsor and they say: "Because we operate more cheaply, we don't have to come under the PCV Act and our expenses aren't as large, we can give you a better rate." So they give a better rate and they transport the goods for those people. Many business firms do it this way.

Mr. Reid: There's a little more to it than that.

Mr. Young: Well, this is fundamentally what happens. They are escaping the rules and regulations of the PCV Act. The result is that we are simply saying that there must be regulations if these people are going to operate, if they are needed—and I am willing to grant that since there is such a big demand for this kind of service perhaps the so-called regular trucking industry is not providing all the services that should be there. I don't know, but this is what we can look into when this bill is referred to the standing committee where we can hear representations from all people who are concerned with this whole deal. But the fact is, if we are going to have an industry which is viable, it must be an industry which comes under the regulations, which obeys the law and which from time to time has to be looked at.

[3:45]

Now these people who operate outside the regulations are people who many of us have looked at for a long time; there's been a lot of concern about it. I just want to say that the statement here is hardly correct. That is, these people are not all little guys and the regular transport industry is not all big guys. Out of the 2,000 or so regular transport firms and individuals, we have, according to my figures, something like 827 single owners in that group out of the 2,000. It's not quite half, but very close to it. The average holding is about four rigs per company.

On the other hand, among the pseudo-leasers or whatever you want to term them, you have some very large companies. Some very large American companies have come in and are pounding our roads here in Ontario without the benefit of regulation. They go where they wish; they simply move where they want to go. They are not restricted as far as rates are concerned and many of their rigs are operating without cargo insurance because many of them can't get it. Some of these, of course, have been brought before the courts on many occasions because they are in violation of the law of Ontario.

So it seems to me that if we are going to believe in a society of law we must say that

all the people who are operating in business or as individuals should be brought under the rule of law. That's all we're saying here today.

Mr. Bullbrook: The bill doesn't do that, that's the very point.

Mr. Young: All right, we have no objection to that happening. And so if these people are willing to get their licence and come—

Mr. Bullbrook: It's a dishonest piece of legislation.

Mr. Young: —under the law or if, on the other hand, we should amend the legislation so that there's more latitude for this kind of operator—

Mr. Reid: That's not what the bill does.

Mr. Young: —then that's the kind of thing—

Mr. Bullbrook: The principle of the bill doesn't say that.

Mr. Young: All right. This is the fundamental thing which we are looking toward. I think all of us have to recognize there is something wrong here and that the operators of trucks pounding the roads in this way are operating outside the present regulations and the present legislation.

That's why we're willing to support this legislation. We'd like to see it come to the standing committee so that everybody can make his representation, then we'd come back to the House and perhaps there will be amendments at that time which should be considered and considered seriously.

Mr. Cunningham: I'd like to speak briefly in favour of our reasoned amendment to hoist this legislation.

To say as the member of Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) did just recently, that this legislation was somewhat simplistic is really an understatement from my point of view. Clearly, to me what it does is legitimize what I perceive to be some direction by some senior civil servants who feel that this is in fact an illegal activity. I would ask if they could justify this by demonstrating to me whether all these people who are going to be affected—in fact put out of business—have in fact been placed before the courts at any time.

What I see this legislation doing in essence is putting a large number of small independent truckers out of business and very quickly—overnight in fact—into bankruptcy. The ramifications of this, at least from my point of view, I'd like to share with the members of the Legislature, through you, Mr. Speaker.

I think, first of all, thousands of gallons of fuel are going to be wasted because people are going to have to return these large trucks from their place of business empty. To run any kind of business that way, especially when we are suffering fuel shortages, to me is ludicrous.

Mr. Bain: Footnote your sources.

Mr. Cunningham: I would, as well, like to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that the higher transportation costs for the people of Ontario would be inflationary. The first people to scream whenever the Consumer Price Index increases are my friends in the NDP. I would ask them at this time what effect they think this is going to have on the cost of goods if, in fact, people are going to have to transport their goods and be subject—the manufacturers of Ontario at least—to the mercy of the Ontario Trucking Association, which is, they are quite right, uniform and non-competitive.

The service aspect is another point I would raise in favour of not putting the legitimate—I repeat, legitimate—leasing operations out of business. Many of these people operate in very close union with various manufacturers throughout Ontario, and they have a kind of relationship that our Ontario Trucking Association and the established companies which fall under the purview of the PCV Act, do not enjoy and cannot facilitate.

I find this type of legislation to be *ex post facto* in nature; I find it to be arbitrary; I find it to be unfair; and, to tell the truth, I don't find it particularly typical of a party that would espouse the essence and the principle of free enterprise. We are not only going to affect all the people—the families, the people who drive these trucks, the people who hold mortgages on them, many of which I am sure are secured by their houses and personal chattels—but also a number of companies that rely on these companies for lower transportation rates so that in fact they can stay competitive.

Increased fuel costs, increased hydro rates and increased wages in Ontario are slowly putting many companies in this country either out of business or in a non-competitive position as it would relate to the United States or to other companies. I think that to further increase the cost of their business is not only inflationary, but it's going to cause severe dislocation, it's going to put people out of their jobs and I think it's going to be excessively unfair.

Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you a few remarks here put forth in a letter to all of us by Mr. John F. Bulloch,

president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. On April 2, 1976, in a release to us, he strongly urged that the members of the Legislature oppose Bill 4 when it is presented to the Legislature for second reading on Tuesday, April 6. Mr. Bulloch said:

The purpose of this bill, in our judgement, is to put private truck-leasing companies out of business by preventing return-lease arrangements. If this legislation is passed, a small manufacturer in, say, Windsor, leasing a truck for a trip to Toronto, would have to return the truck empty. This would increase the cost of leasing substantially and waste scarce fuel. At present, the truck can be left in Toronto at a depot and a separate lease agreement can be made by the lessor with another small business.

One-way leasing is very adaptable to the needs of small firms, since it provides a degree of speed, flexibility and, more importantly, economy that large trucking firms cannot provide. Bill 4 is an example of big government working closely with big business to the disadvantage of the consumer and the small business community.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business represents 32,000 Canadian owner-managers, 16,000 of whom are located in Ontario.

In addition to the support of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the independent truckers also enjoy the support of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the Canadian Industrial Traffic League, the lumber companies of our north, more recently the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association and obviously—by the participation today of the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) and myself as well as, of course, the other members of my party—the Liberal Party in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, through you I would suggest, possibly to the minister, that we might take a more universal approach to what I perceive to be a real problem in Ontario—and I don't think there is anybody in the Legislature who would argue against it—and that is, transportation and the relationship of it to the trucking industry in Ontario. I would say to the minister that possibly the time has come when we should have a select committee, not only to examine the possible ramifications of Bill 4 in terms of putting people out of business in this particular industry, but to examine the entire industry across Ontario.

Maybe there are, as the hon. member pointed out, violations in the area of insur-

ance; and certainly there are some members of the lease-holding operation who clearly aren't operating in good faith and could be termed to be pirates. But again, to use this shotgun effect, in essence to put a number of people out of business overnight like this, is grossly unfair.

The hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Bullbrook) indicated it was a dishonest piece of legislation. I think I must share his point of view in that I don't think the government is being straightforward with these people. I don't think they have made any attempt, before introducing this legislation, to solicit some meaningful feedback from that community and the community that is affected by it. In essence, I think if the minister wants to put these people out of business, why doesn't he just table a piece of legislation to say "We want you out of business". To fool around in this way and say they can go only one way and regulate it by poundage I think is fallacious and, at the very least, dishonest.

In concluding, I would ask that the members of the Legislature not only in the Liberal Party but all members of the Legislature who favour private enterprise and who would be inclined to support the little man in Ontario who is trying to make an honest buck—certainly I think that for the most part, that would be most of the people who are involved in the independent truckers' association—I would ask the NDP and other members who would look upon this in a favourable, fair and compassionate way to support our reasoned amendment.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, in the words of the last speaker, I want to look at it in a very compassionate way. I want to look at it in terms of the little man. I want to talk in terms of the man who, for 20 or 25 years in this province, has probably had to carry a heavier burden of technological change, economic change and social change on his back than anybody else. That is the line driver for a regular truck company. Let me just add to that; let me talk about some of the unsung people. Let me talk about the men who go down and work on the loading docks at night and load those trucks.

They have been working a long time in this province. They haven't asked anything from anybody. They organized themselves a union. They got themselves the right so that they didn't have to drive all day and all night and on the loading docks they won for themselves the right so that they didn't have to do this or that and get a NSF cheque. I

love these free enterprisers with their independent businessmen, I really do.

I want to talk about those so-called little men and I want to say something about compassion. It's all very well for a Legislature to come in and to take a look at legislation and say, in the light of 1976, to bring some immediate or short-term or even weekend benefits to a certain segment of business, therefore we will cut away the standards, the rights and the conditions that other people have had to work for 25 or 30 years to obtain.

Mr. McEwen: And control.

Mr. Drea: I very seriously question the concept that this is the legislation which will help the little man. The little man, after all, goes to work at 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning and he doesn't expect anything more than that he will be paid the prescribed hourly rates and that his cheque will be cashed.

Mr. Cunningham: He is going to lose his job.

Mr. Drea: He also asks one more thing and I don't really think it's very much in terms of our society today. That is that when he leaves work on Friday, he can be reasonably assured that there is a job on Monday. I realize that there are a great number of—

Mr. Cunningham: Not with you guys.

Mr. Reid: Not if he works in a hospital, he can't have that assurance.

Mr. Cunningham: Not if he is a social worker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Drea: I don't really think it is very much for a man to ask and it may not be much in terms of all the free enterprisers. It may not be very much in terms of all those who have never worked and I don't think it is very much for this Legislature to recognize that there are people who have a very solid requirement for their job. They went to work under certain terms or conditions; they have done those and now it turns out, because of economic or social or technological conditions, that we are about to say, because it benefits one segment of the industry—we stand here and we beat our breasts on behalf of free enterprise and the little man. I will tell members that far too often today, the only reason the little man in free enterprise gets started is because he's trying to undercut the pensions or the con-

ditions or something else that the working man has fought a long time for.

[4:00]

Mr. Cunningham: You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Sweeney: In other words, close the door for anyone else to start.

Mr. Drea: I say that very seriously, and maybe they should take a look at it.

Mr. Cunningham: You are not even talking to the bill. You are not even speaking about the bill. I'd like to know where you think you have licence to ramble on like this. You are not even speaking to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Drea: I am talking to the bill. You raised it with your compassion. You raised it—your compassion, your little man, your independent man, but I am setting the record straight.

An hon. member: Don't get mad. Keep your cool.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bill. I think it is high time we try to rationalize many of the innovations that are coming into highway transport. I think it is high time we took a look at the companies that have pioneered transport across this province. It is high time we looked at the people who have paid wages, who have developed road routes, who have developed traffic patterns in this province. I suggest that nobody gets a more friendly reception in this House than somebody who is talking for small business. But I suggest this is the first time that Mr. Bulloch—and I received exactly the same thing as the members did and I looked at it more in sadness than anything else—

Mr. Cunningham: Did you read it?

Mr. Reid: Did you have somebody read it to you?

Mr. Drea: He has been massively misadvised. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, a vote against this bill—

Mr. Riddell: That has nothing to do with the bill.

Mr. Drea: —is a vote to turn trucking and highway transport, and all the ancillary services that are with it, back to where they were before the war.

Mr. Cunningham: That's nonsense.

Mr. Drea: I suggest very seriously that members who want to vote against this should think of the little man. It's about time they thought of the little man's pension, the little man's job security, the things the little man has been able to bring home to his family through a combination of his own efforts to organize and the regulation of this industry in the province.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill although I have some reservations, as had the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), and I am glad that the bill will be referred to committee so that we can hear the representations of the people involved.

Mr. Reid: That is not what you are voting for. Do you understand the parliamentary system?

Mr. Foulds: You people should talk about understanding the parliamentary system and process.

Mr. Reid: The principle of the bill is not to debate it in committee. The principle of the bill is putting people out of work.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon member from Algoma will continue.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, the gentlemen beside us here want to put this whole thing off and we are going to face more chaos in the system if we continue to put it off. We will have more and more people coming into the business unregulated.

Mr. MacDonald: The Liberals are always in favour of unregulating things.

Mr. Wildman: They bring out this red herring of free enterprise and helping the little man—and I agree with the last speaker, what about the little man who has been under the PCV and has been working under this? They are not helping him any when they say let's put it off and let more of those operators come in unregulated.

Mr. Cunningham: How does this relate to the bill?

Mr. Wildman: I don't know.

Mr. Nixon: You are voting for it.

Mr. Wildman: I don't know that this is the answer, but to put off any control of these people for four months or two months is not going to solve anything. Why not get it into

committee, hear the representations of everybody and get it solved as quickly as possible?

Mr. Bullbrook: Because you can't amend the principle of the bill then.

Mr. Wildman: How can we, as they are suggesting, support the principle that we have unfettered competition? That's ridiculous. None of the truckers wants that.

Mr. Reid: That's not what the bill says. Have you read the bill?

Mr. Wildman: Yes, I have read the bill.

Mr. Reid: Did you understand it?

Mr. Wildman: This bill will not allow for two-way leases, right?

Mr. Reid: And what's the effect of that?

Mr. Wildman: These people here want to allow pseudo lessors to come into this business and take business away from legitimate operators who have been operating under regulation for so long, because they don't want to control these kinds of leases. I can't support their reasoned amendment because I think it is just going to continue a chaotic system. I think we should pass this bill and control the entry into the industry, as has been suggested by many speakers previously, both on this side and on that side of the House.

Mr. Reid: The reasoned amendment doesn't say that either.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, we are opposed to the bill as it stands now because of the basic principle of this bill. We are not sure what the intent of the government was in bringing it forward. In the short time I've been in this Legislature, I have disagreed with bills the government has put forward but at least their intent was clear.

I have to agree with two of my colleagues who have said that this is basically a dishonest bill. The government surely knows that what will happen if this bill goes through is that upwards of 5,000 independent truckers will be put out of business. It can't be any other way.

Mr. Wildman: Why don't they apply for PCVs?

Mr. Sweeney: In 1973, only three years ago, this Legislature—I have to assume with the support of the entire House—passed another piece of legislation which, in effect, said to these same 5,000 truck owners, "Yes, go out. What you're doing is legitimate.

There is enough room in this province for different ways of serving the people."

Even the member of the NDP earlier stated that there are different needs for the transportation business in this province and that different forms of transportation have arisen to meet those needs. If we believe the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), we have closed the door forever. We are now fixed forever—in this day of change, surely not—and no new methods can come forward. Everything that is now fixed is going to be fixed forever and we're not supposed to touch it because of the people who are already in it.

Mr. Wildman: Let them apply for a PCV.

Mr. Sweeney: Surely, we can't do that. What we're saying here in effect—and what I think the government is saying—is that over the last three years the government has realized there are some problems with what's happening here. Okay, we can agree to that but what, in effect, the government is doing is saying that because there are some problems with some lessor-owners, it is going to crucify all of them.

Mr. Mancini: That's what you're doing.

Mr. Sweeney: That's the same thing as saying that because some people who walk into a bank will rob it, the government is going to convict everyone who walks into a bank—because someone might rob it. That's what we're against. We're against the overriding principle of this bill which will, in effect, destroy small businessmen who are meeting a recognized need.

Mr. Wildman: If there's a need for them.

Mr. Sweeney: If the government can demonstrate that there are specific problems with the way this is operating now, let us deal with those—but not with this. This isn't dealing with the problem; this is crucifixion. There are other truckers in this province who have difficulties, too.

As my colleague has said, let's look at the industry but don't let's destroy a piece of it. Let's not cut off one of its arms. That's what we're opposed to and that's what the principle of this bill is. That's why we must oppose it in principle. That's why we must bring through a reasoned amendment.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak for a few minutes about the bill because it's obviously a difficult one from the comments which have been made on both sides of the House. I don't pretend for a moment to be able to speak with the emotional depth of feeling with which my col-

league, the member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) or, on this particular occasion, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), spoke about the problems which are involved in a bill such as this.

I'd take this bill to be the addition to an already complex section of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act of a couple of additional items which, if found to be the case, will invalidate what would otherwise be construed or could be construed as a valid lease of a commercial vehicle for the carriage of goods.

I think the reason we would support the bill—particularly when the minister has indicated, as we wished him to indicate, that it would go to the standing committee on resources development for serious consideration—is that we support the proposition that the business of the common carriage of goods on the highways of Ontario must be subject to regulation and licensing—in the interests of the public, the interests of the drivers and in the interests of the owners of the vehicles.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's very meritorious but this bill doesn't do it.

Mr. Renwick: If we do not support the principle of the addition of these particular items to the section of the bill which is being amended—it's the addition of two items to a very long list of items—then we are, in substance, saying that we must allow a method by which persons can engage in the common carriage of goods on the highways of Ontario without a licence. It's just that simple.

What we are saying to the minister, and saying very clearly, is we do support the bill. We think it is essential that what has become a very awkward section of the bill, section 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, has got to have a hard look taken at it to see whether or not there is room for what will be construed as illegal activities to be brought within a legal framework. It would be our hope that somewhere out there in the committee, with the representations and comments which are made, a different method can be devised that will not make illegal what many people probably consider to be, from their own point of view, a legal method of carrying on business. I think that's what we've got to search for and that's what we've got to find.

The problem was placed very simply in a number of cases; and of course the ministry, to uphold the principle of the common carriage of goods in the province, had to do something to deal with the legal cases that were coming before the courts by way of prosecu-

tion under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. I want to refer briefly to the one which came before the courts in 1972 and which led, the following year, to the amendments we made to sections 2 and 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act to try to deal with the problem.

In retrospect, I think it's fair to say that if we had all known at that time of the difficulties that this was going to occasion, it may well have been that at that time it would have been wise to have had the matter thrashed out and dealt with in a standing committee of the Legislature or in some other proper form so that we could have arrived at a better solution.

In any event, in the case to which I want to refer, *Regina vs Tobias*, it's quite a simple case; it's very clear as to what took place. Mr. Tobias owned a tractor and several trailers. He was picked up one day on the highway in the city of Windsor when he was driving the vehicles described in the charge; that is, a tractor unit and several trailers. He was then charged with operating without a licence under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

The actual factual situation was not difficult. The vehicles were carrying steel, which had been picked up at Hamilton from the Steel Co. of Canada and was consigned to Namasco, a company doing business in Windsor. Namasco was the owner of the steel listed as consignee on the bills of lading which were produced when the vehicle was stopped. It is clear that a commercial vehicle was being operated. The question is, was the accused the operator?

At that point, I want to make this distinction: It was again stated very early in the history of this particular form of licensing of common carriers, that the interest and purpose of the Act is to regulate the use of a commercial vehicle in the business of transporting, for compensation, goods for the public generally. I think that's a fair statement of the principle of the common carriage of goods.

The Act in no sense was to affect a vehicle used exclusively for the transportation of the goods or materials of the owner of the vehicle. It was very clear that if a person owned his own vehicle and he carried his own goods in it, it was never the intention of the Legislature to license that vehicle. On the other hand, if he was not the owner of the vehicle in which his goods were being transported, it was the intention of the legislature to license the vehicle for the common carriage

of that person's goods as a member of the public generally.

That was the situation which the county court judge, His Honour, Judge Zuber, was faced with in the Tobias case, and he put it very simply. He said:

Now in general terms if the accused, Mr. Tobias, operated as a carrier and carried the goods of Namasco, he would have to be licensed under the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. If, on the other hand, Namasco was simply carrying its own goods, using its own trucks, I think it's equally obvious it did not have to be licensed as a public commercial vehicle.

[4:15]

The defence which Mr. Tobias gave, of course, was to produce an agreement which purported to be a lease of the vehicles to Namasco on a net basis so that, for all practical purposes, while he went through the form of leasing the vehicles, all the substance of the obligations remained on Mr. Tobias. The result was that the court simply said that that was not a valid lease and it was a sham.

In 1973, we tried to deal with it in the Legislature by stating very clearly that, if certain incidents occurred in an arrangement between the owner of goods and the owner of a vehicle, it could not be supported as a valid lease and would be ruled out. We listed a series of them—I think eight altogether—which would invalidate and require a court to hold that it was not a valid arrangement for the leasing of the vehicle to an owner to escape the responsibility of having a public commercial vehicle licence.

It was quite interesting to look back at that debate which took place in June, 1973. With varying degrees of misgivings, the members of all the parties in the House agreed with the passage of the bill, including the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid). I think the member for at that time Essex-Kent (Mr. Ruston) spoke on the bill. Certainly my colleague, the member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa), spoke at some length on the bill. I made a couple of, as usual, irrelevant and innocuous comments about the bill.

Mr. Nixon: Just like today.

Mr. Renwick: That's quite true.

Mr. Reid: You are consistent anyway.

Mr. Renwick: When I read what I said in 1973, I chose those particular adjectives quite appropriately. They were quite innocuous and quite irrelevant. They seemed to have caught

the attention of the House on that occasion. I am trying to make amends on this particular occasion for my lack of knowledge of the depth of the problem.

If the problem, which had been created by the series of court cases in the legitimate effort of the government to regulate the common carriage trade in the Province of Ontario, had been raised at that time, we might have made a lot of progress because the various items which rule out an arrangement as being a valid lease are now already lengthy and there is nothing to indicate that the arrangements which are covered by these additional items wouldn't also have been ruled out under the existing provisions that are set out in section 3 of the bill.

For reasons which are obvious to the ministry and to us, it appears that these relatively large tractors and trailers were driving their way through the statute and upsetting and disrupting the very sound principle of the regulation by government in the public interest of those engaged in the common carriage of goods.

So we support the bill because we support that principle, but we are very much concerned that the actual details, as presently set out in the existing Public Commercial Vehicles Act in sections 2 and 3, to which this present bill simply adds one or two additional items and an additional section, require very serious and careful consideration to see if there isn't some other way in which it would be possible to bring within the ambit of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act a number of persons who likely consider that their operation is legitimate and that they are just subject to unnecessary harassment by the Ontario Provincial Police to enforce the provisions of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

The amendments which we passed in 1973, while they touched upon some of the problem, did not really come to grips with it, and I do hope that at this particular time, when the bill goes to the committee, we will come to grips with it. I want perhaps to labour it slightly by pointing out, so that the record will at least show it, the kind of difficult problem that we have got ourselves into in trying to itemize at great length the kind of arrangements which are not to be considered valid arrangements.

Section 3 of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act, as presently worded, in substance says that, subject to subsection 2:

Where a commercial vehicle is used for the transportation on a highway of goods

that are owned by a person other than the owner or lessee of the vehicle and are being transported pursuant to any arrangement or agreement between the owner or lessee of the vehicle and such other person under which the owner or lessee directly or indirectly receives compensation or consideration of any kind for the use of the vehicle, the goods shall be deemed to be transported in the vehicle by the owner or lessee of the vehicle unless such arrangement or agreement constitutes a valid lease of his vehicle to such other person by the owner or lessee of the vehicle.

In subsection 2, we went on to list a series of items which, if they are contained in a particular agreement, shall deem that agreement not to be a valid lease. We provide that it must be in writing, that it must have exclusive possession, it must provide for the payment directly of the driver of the vehicle, and a number of these other items, which makes it for practical purposes a legal conundrum to decide in any particular instance whether an agreement made between the owner of a vehicle for the lease of that vehicle to a person who wants to use that vehicle for the carriage of goods is or is not the kind of an agreement which would be upheld as a valid lease and, therefore, not require the provision of a public commercial vehicle licence, or, on the other hand, that it is not a valid lease. It is our wish in this party—while continuing as we always will to support the principle of regulation of the common carriage of goods trade on the highways, through the device and mechanism of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act and the correlative federal statute under which joint jurisdiction is exercised by the Ontario Highway Transport Board—to see whether or not we can't get away from this extremely legalistic way of dealing with this problem and yet, at the same time, preserve the inherent and essential ingredients of the common carrier principle of such common carriage trade being subject to provincial regulation.

Therefore, we in this party see no need to support the recent amendment put forward by the Liberal Party. We will not support that. We rest assured that when the bill does go out to the standing committee we will have an opportunity to come up with a much more adequate, reasonable, sensible and satisfactory solution than that which is presently incorporated in the legislation, regardless of the additional items which are being added by this particular bill.

Mr. Nixon: The member for Riverdale is anything but ill-informed or irrelevant. As

usual, his comments have added a good deal to the understanding on all sides of what's been said. I don't agree with his conclusion, and I am sure, under other circumstances, he could convince himself as readily that in the circumstances of this bill it is essential that before approving it in principle we have a much more thorough examination of the alternatives available to us. We are all aware that whenever the power of this Legislature, the administration of government, is used to regulate commerce or business, then there are those who are meeting all of the requirements, playing by all the rules, obeying all of the regulations, each one of which costs time and money, and who are reasonably well satisfied. We might say they are the ones who are in. Whatever the business or the commerce, if it is lucrative and if there's a profit in it, if it is a good way of life and if it is possible to make money at it, there will be those who want in. It doesn't matter whether it's the highway trucking business, the common carriers, the licensing of premises that sell alcoholic beverages, the right to be a milk producer or a tobacco grower, or whatever it is, there are those who are in and who have paid the price, who have applied for the licences and who abide by the rules, and those who either want in or want to take advantage of loopholes in the regulation.

Because of the statutes which we have passed and amended year by year—which have been described in some detail, particularly the more recent and applicable amendments, by the member for Riverdale—there has grown up a leasing business and it's described by those on the “in”—that is, those people who are using all of the applicable regulations for an orderly trucking business—as pirates, among other things. Maybe they are, in the particular viewpoint of those directly affected, but as far as I know they have not broken laws or, in fact, they could have been regulated by the laws which we already have.

Under the provisions for leasing there has sprung up a business; and however we regard it, it's got to be considered a legal business, otherwise there would have been some procedure to regulate it or keep it down for the benefit of an orderly trucking business. According to my colleague, there are about 5,000 people involved in this business. Whether they're little men or not may be of importance, but certainly the passage of this bill, according to those people—and they're the ones who are deeply concerned about it—will put them out of business.

When we are discussing this—and we have discussed it among ourselves of course—we looked at the point that this is not an extensive amendment to the legislation. There is really only one significant part to it; that is, if you have a leasing contract, the truck must be leased to the return point from which the truck began. In other words, you've got to go back empty. The minister shakes his head, and I know what he is referring to, but it simply says in the explanatory notes that the lessee does not have to return the vehicle to the place where he receives it from the lessor as an exclusion. Now he's indicating that there is some further information that would be available, but on reading the bill it appears that if a truck is leased then the carriage will take place to the distant point with the load on it, and in most cases there will not be a load from the same company to return in the same truck.

This, of course, is a matter, that can be cleared up, but from the information available to us from the independent truckers and others it is very clearly a way either to increase the costs of that carriage or perhaps—and this is what I expect—to force a large number of those people out of this competitive business. Many people feel they should come directly under the PCV requirements—and that may be so. But, in my opinion, for the bill to receive approval in principle—in fact, the principle as I view it is simply to put these independent truckers in their place, which is out of business; that's really all it is. For that to get approval in principle and then to go to committee, well, I don't know what we're supposed to do. Sure, we can hear submissions from all sides, but if in fact we were to decide not to report the bill, it would mean that the principle of the bill had been negated and this House would have already approved the principle. Maybe we would think they could drive halfway back or three-quarters of the way, but under those circumstances I don't see that additional clauses to amend the principle, which is a very simple one here as I understand it, would be forthcoming.

In a House composed as this one is, surely it is possible to make use of the rules as the hon. member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) has attempted. It appears that it will not be successful, Mr. Speaker, but I simply bring it to your attention that while we in this party understand the development of the PCV regulations and we believe in regulated highway commerce, we think that this is essential for an orderly trucking business. We have heard all the arguments from individual truckers; we've heard the debates in this House; and we've heard from the Ontario Trucking Asso-

ciation, the very able people representing that group, on many occasions.

We know how important it is to have a regulated trucking business, and it is possible through regulation to build at least some competition in it. We have observed with care the findings of the Ontario Highway Transport Board, and certainly there have been very few valid criticisms of what they have done. But we in this Legislature are the ones who, through our enactments, have opened up the trucking business, at least to some extent, to the legal leasing business as it has been construed.

For the minister to bring in this bill, and with the provisions in subsection 3(a), according to those people directly affected, it is going to have a tremendously bad influence on their business. Maybe they're exaggerating when they say they're all going to be forced out of business, but certainly that is the position they have taken. We in this party feel that is a remedy for a situation that we cannot and should not support. We do, however, believe in a regulated trucking business; and we believe it is possible to come up with a statute, if not a regulation, which will meet the requirements for all people concerned. We believe this can be done before the bill is approved in principle because we suspect this remedy is not the best nor the only one. We don't believe we can support it in principle and that's why we moved that the bill be not read a second time but be read a second time before this House rises for the summer recess sometime in June.

[4:30]

We say that in the intermediate time the whole matter should be put before a committee of this House so those people directly affected can appear before that committee and express their objections in the presence of the other side. That's the only way, surely, to get at the truth. We can retain as much expertise as we wish; we can even hear the experts who sit under the gallery and wonder sometimes at the efficacy of the arguments put before them here. We can even hear their views which, I think, would be useful.

Surely, this could be done before we approve this little wee section, this 3(a) section, in principle, because according to the people who have come to us it is a very serious principle indeed. It is one way to correct what the government may feel was a mistake made back in 1973 but we are not prepared to be a party to it. We believe that, on the face of it at least, it is unfair and to approve

it in principle and expect it all to be repaired in committee is a very naive approach to the democratic process indeed.

Mr. Bullbrook: It can't be done.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to all the points made by the hon. members. I think we all realize from the discussion that there are some problems in the trucking industry and I assure members that since I became responsible for this ministry, no area of responsibility which is mine has received as much attention and time as the trucking industry.

The hon. member for Rainy River has stated that I am trying to put all the lessors of trucks out of business. I emphatically say that this is absolutely wrong.

Mr. Reid: I didn't say all.

Hon. Mr. Snow: This is not my intention at all. I feel the truck lessors are playing a very important role in their way of supplying truck transportation to the industries and the public of Ontario but I do feel that we have to define further the role of the trucking company in the business of for hire trucking.

There is no need, as has been stated—I know in principle this will happen—for leased trucks to be returning empty. I think someone quoted to me—and I won't vouch for the figure—that 40 per cent of the licensed carriers return empty in many cases—I guess in all cases—because there are no appropriate loads for them on their return trip.

Mr. Nixon: That is a different thing. We don't want government restriction.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The Liberals seem to think it's all right for the licensed carrier to return empty but not the lessee.

Mr. Reid: What about LTL loads and all the rest of it? It all balances out.

Mr. Bullbrook: Don't you realize that is why their rates are so high?

Mr. Good: It is time you changed your policy to reverse it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everyone has had an opportunity to participate in the debate. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I listened very intently to their discussions and I didn't interrupt them once.

I assure members that the committee will have ample time. It is my understanding that the committee hasn't any other items before

it at this time. I would hope that the resources committee, if that is the appropriate committee for this bill to go to, would take ample time to hear the views of the different associations.

I have met with the Canadian Industrial Traffic League, with the Ontario Manufacturers Association, and with the independent truckers, with the OTA, and I know they all have a viewpoint to put forward. My officials and I feel this will assist greatly in defining a solid black line dividing for-hire trucking from leasing. I want to bring about more order and more stability in the trucking industry, both for the lessors and for the licensed carriers. To do that we have to have a very clearly defined and distinguishable separation between leasing and for-hire trucking.

I don't think there is any doubt as to the area between private trucking which has been so ably explained by the member for Yorkview (Mr. Young) during his contribution to the debate. That is the purpose of this amendment. It may be that during deliberation in the committee after hearing the input which I'm sure I have heard a lot of privately and a lot of which will be repeated—and there will be a lot more come forward to the committee—that we may get some very excellent alternative recommendations or viewpoints come forward in the committee.

Mr. Reid: But the principle of the bill can't be changed in committee.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The principle of the bill is that we have a licensed trucking industry in this province.

Mr. Reid: It's in the Act. You have that right here. It is not in the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Snow: We're dealing, as far as I am concerned, with an amendment to the Public Commercial Vehicles Act. The Public Commercial Vehicles Act is the Act that controls the trucking industry. I think we would all agree there has to be some control in the trucking industry, as there does with the Public Vehicles Act in dealing with buses and as we have under federal regulation in dealing with the licensing of air carriers, the railways and other communications facilities.

I think this is one of those industries which would be complete chaos without regulation. With this new type of transportation that has come about in the last number of years, we need amendments to the Act to define and to separate the duties and the area of business to be covered by the private carrier, the

licensed carrier and the lessor. I'm sure when this bill is referred to committee, given full study and reported back here, that it will serve that purpose.

Mr. Cunningham: Would the minister entertain some questions?

Mr. Speaker: As I understand it, it will be referred to a committee and there will be opportunity for questions then, unless it is a very brief question that the hon. minister might reply to.

Mr. Cunningham: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I just wondered if the minister would indicate to us, and through us to the truckers, just how many leasing operations would be allowed to exist and what form of leasing endeavour would be allowed to exist should this legislation be passed.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be more appropriately put at the appropriate time.

The House divided on the motion that Bill 4 be now read a second time, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Belanger	Breithaupt
Bounsall	Bullbrook
Breaugh	Campbell
Brunelle	Cunningham
Burr	Eakias
Cassidy	Edighoffer
Davidson	Ferris
(Cambridge)	Gaunt
Davis	Givens
Davison	Good
(Hamilton Centre)	Hall
Deans	Kerrio
di Santo	Mancini
Drea	McEwen
Dukszta	Mckessock
Eaton	Miller
Evans	(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Ferrier	Newman
Gigantes	(Windsor-
Gregory	Walkerville)
Grossman	Nixon
Henderson	O'Neil
Irvine	Peterson
Johnson	Reed
(Wellington-	(Halton-Burlington)
Dufferin-Peel)	Reid
Jones	(Rainy River)
Kennedy	Riddell
Kerr	Ruston
Lane	Sargent
Laughren	Smith
Lawlor	(Nipissing)
Leluk	Smith
Lupusella	(Hamilton West)

AYES	NAYS
MacBeth	Spence
MacDonald	Stong
Mackenzie	Sweeney
Maeck	Worton—31.
Makarchuk	
McCague	
McNeil	
Moffatt	
Morrow	
Newman	
(Durham North)	
Norton	
Parrott	
Philip	
Renwick	
Rhodes	
Samis	
Sandeman	
Scrivener	
Smith	
(Hamilton Mountain)	
Snow	
Stephenson	
Taylor	
Timbrell	
Warner	
Welch	
Wildman	
Williams	
Wiseman	
Young	
Ziemba—60.	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 60, the "nays" are 31.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

[5:15]

Mr. Speaker: I understand the bill is to be ordered to the appropriate standing committee.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The standing committee on resources development, please, Mr. Speaker.

Agreed.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 39, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

COMMODITY BOARD MEMBERS ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 5, An Act respecting Members of Commodity Boards.

Mr. MacDonald: There were some facetious interjections across the floor of the House a moment ago drawing a parallel between marketing boards and the legislation we have just debated. As a matter of fact, they are not quite facetious. There is more truth in them than fiction.

One of the problems when one decides to achieve more orderly administration of any sector of human activity is that you have to lay down rules and regulations. The principle of this bill is coming to grips with something which has become a bit perplexing in the area of commodity boards, namely certain people on occasion—strange as it may seem even people who happen to be on the board—who do not live by the regulations that presumably they are obligated to respect and to share in their administration.

As I understand this bill, unless there is some sleeper in it that the minister will enlighten us about so that we can be clearly aware as we pass it, the purpose of this bill is merely to cope with the kind of situation that the minister found himself faced with in the instance of the egg board, where we had two or three members of the board who were in violation of the quota regulations in connection with the board and yet presumed to continue in that conflict of interest in pursuit of their responsibilities as members of the board. The minister was faced with the rather strange and Draconian act of abolishing the whole board and then reappointing those who were willing to live up to their obligations.

I presume that the minister hopes, through this amendment, to correct that kind of situation so that henceforth any member of the board who doesn't live up to the regulations laid down by the board through their collective action, will immediately sort of dis-

qualify himself or at least they will empower the minister to see that he is removed. Obviously this is not only necessary, it is sensible. Indeed, what flows from it is the added addendum to the principle, namely that anybody within that commodity group, if there has been a majority decision made in accordance with acceptable procedures in order to achieve orderly marketing, they too, have to live by the rules, at least until those rules are changed by agreement.

I think this is a bit of tidying up of an Act which perhaps had an unwitting flaw in it, and as far as we can see the purpose of the Act, we are in support of it.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, as was just indicated by the former speaker, the purpose of the bill is really to give the Farm Products Marketing Board some authority to dismiss members of commodity boards who in any way act in contravention of the various commodity plans or the Farm Products Marketing Act.

This probably came about because of the problem that existed in the Egg Producers Marketing Board last year, which resulted in the dismissal by the minister of the entire board and then the reappointing of those members who were prepared to live up to the legislation. I am just wondering if perhaps this bill goes far enough, or if we should be taking a look at some of the board members who do have a conflict of interest. Going back to that Egg Producers Marketing Board, we know full well that one member on that board was not only a large producer but he also made quite an income in marketing eggs, and not just those eggs which he produced himself. It is my feeling that this particular board member had a conflict of interest, and to my way of thinking he should not have been permitted to sit on the board in the first place. I can't see that this bill in any way does not permit such a member to sit on a board.

I would appreciate the minister's comments on this, but certainly we support this amendment. The Farm Products Marketing Board is an agency of government, so therefore we feel that the minister, through the Farm Products Marketing Board, should have some authority to dismiss elected members who in some way are acting in contravention of the legislation.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I naturally support what the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) said in that we will support the

principle of the bill, but I did want to raise with the minister on second reading a couple of matters in the bill which are of concern to me so that when the bill goes to committee, as we propose that it would, the minister might have an opportunity to give consideration to it.

Basically, the bill provides two prohibitions or creates two possibilities under which a member of any of the local boards under either the Milk Act or the Farm Products Marketing Act can be disqualified. My concern is that even though a person is sitting on one of the local boards and the commodity board may have knowledge come to it which would lead it to believe that a contravention of the Act had occurred, nevertheless if it doesn't act within six weeks after it receives the knowledge about a person, even though the person after that date continues to sit on the board, it is precluded from dealing with any application which may be made to determine whether or not the person should or should not be disqualified.

I would have assumed that that six-week period during which an application must be commenced would have extended to the six weeks at least up to and including six weeks after the person ceased to be a member of the particular board. Otherwise, we would have the anomaly of a producer or the board being in possession of knowledge which would lead them, on reasonable grounds, to believe that there may possibly have been a contravention of the prohibitions set out in the Act, and yet no application could be brought because the six-week period would have elapsed and the person would continue on, even though there had been an undetermined issue of whether or not there had been a contravention of the Act. That's the first point and it does seem to me that the Act is unduly restrictive with respect to the duration of that six-week period.

The other matter which concerns me is the \$300 and the conditions under which it can be returned by the tribunal. We have the strange provision that a person might very well be found to have been in contravention of the Act but in one of the circumstances, if it turns out that that contravention is inadvertent and, therefore, the person is not disqualified by the tribunal, nevertheless the person who had put up the \$300 would have that \$300 forfeited because there would not have been a disqualification.

It would seem to me to be appropriate, rather than penalizing the producer in such

a situation as that—I would assume he would have acted in a bona fide way in bringing the application given the prospect of forfeiture of the deposit up to \$300 that he may be required to make—that the tribunal should, when it makes its decision, have the alternative option not simply of returning it in one case and forfeiting it to the government of Ontario in the other case, but should have the option to exercise its discretion if it has found a contravention, even though inadvertent. I would seem to me that the producer should not be penalized and lose the \$300 he's had to put up in order to bring the application in the first place.

I simply make the two points and hope that before the bill comes to the committee the minister might have an opportunity to consider whether or not some flexibility couldn't be introduced in the Act in those two respects.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. minister.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill, as was outlined by both the member for York South and the other member, it is quite true is to allow, under legislation, the Farm Products Marketing Board or the Milk Commission to hear cases of violation against the regulations of the local boards. There is a judicial appeal, of course, from this decision if necessary.

I must say that I had occasion to call all the boards around the province to a meeting at which we discussed the principles and the ideals of the bill. Since the bill has been tabled in the House, I think I'd be safe in saying that the various marketing boards of the Province of Ontario concur with the contents of the bill.

Mr. Nixon: Why wouldn't they?

Hon. W. Newman: They are very honest people. What we're saying, coming down to the six weeks which was brought up by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), under section 4(1), is this is merely to say an accuser must, in six weeks, make up his mind on whether or not he wants to start proceedings. He must make up his mind in six weeks.

The other thing, on the \$300 deposit, it says up to \$300. This is to stop vexatious or frivolous appeals. That would be the maximum deposit they would have to make. That's the reason it was put in there and I doubt very much, if it was a sincere effort

that it would have to be that; that's up to a maximum of \$300.

Somebody talked about a conflict of interest. I suppose we might say that all commodity boards are producer boards. There are occasions when producer boards are price-setting entities and one might suggest they might be in conflict of interest but, by and large, they have to answer for their various commodities, their operating costs and the total costs of their commodities.

I think the point one member brought out about any specific person is covered in one of the sections. I believe it is section 2 sub (1), in which a prohibition applies to somebody who is a senior officer of or has a controlling interest in any particular company from sitting on the board.

Really, as was said, this is a tidying-up piece of legislation. I think, after talking to the various boards, if the members wish it to go to committee of the whole House, I'm quite agreeable, but certainly the boards have had a chance to go over it in detail. Their legal people have and I feel it's a good piece of legislation.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

[5:30]

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be referred to committee or ordered for third reading?

Mr. Renwick: Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Committee of the whole house?

Agreed.

DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Drainage Act, 1975.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, this is even more so just a housekeeping bill, as I understand it; indeed, the explanatory note in section 1 states that it simply removes a section of the bill so as to make it conform with what is the regular practice. Again, I'm always hesitant on these housekeeping bills in case there is a little sleeper in there. On more than one embarrassing occasion in the past we have had bills go through which were presented as housekeeping bills; but it seems to be rather an innocent tidying effort and, unless I'm being deceived, is worthy of support.

Mr. Laughren: You wouldn't deceive us, would you, Bill?

Mr. Worton: Not unintentionally.

Mr. Riddell: In connection with Bill 6. I must say that at first I didn't understand the intent of the amendment and I tried to have this matter cleared up by the Minister of Agriculture and Food some time last week. Strange as it may seem, at that time he wasn't too sure what the intent of the bill was. He thought the purpose of the bill was to prevent the type of situation in which one member of joint ownership of property could prevent the others from signing so that a project could go ahead. That's really not the intent of the amendment as it was explained to me. The amendment will simply clear up an infringement on what has been common law in the past.

The Drainage Act states that only one such person may sign the petition but the law has always been that in cases of ownership of property, all owners must sign and rightfully so. In other words, if there happens to be four owners of a property, I would think, if they're joint owners of that property, they should all be required to sign before any decision is made as to what is going to happen.

We're talking about drainage and I would think that all four owners should be required or obliged to sign a petition for, let's say, a municipal drain to go through or any kind of a tile drainage programme.

The phrase was originally included because the government wanted to count all concerned owners as one property but adding the phrase "only one such person may sign the petition" went against common law which, of course, has applied through the years. Really, it's a case that now all owners of joint property have to sign a petition. The nice part of Bill 75, of course, is that the properties are taken into consideration, not the owners of a property, so when all four owners sign it is really considered as one signature. It pertains to that particular property and it doesn't involve other properties, so if 50 per cent of the representatives of the people want the project to go through, it will do so—the others can't stop it—or 60 per cent of a land area will permit a project to go through.

Really we support the amendment. I will say again that it was certainly vague when I first tried to understand what the intent of it was, but now that it's been explained by the legal adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and Food—

Mr. Nixon: That's the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson).

Mr. Riddell: —I'm sure that both the minister and I are now enlightened on this particular amendment, as is the member for Lambton, who didn't seem to know what it was all about, either, when I first approached him.

Mr. Nixon: Surely not, after all the money we've spent educating him.

Mr. Ferrier: I would like to say a word on behalf of this bill and to say that I am sure the member for Lambton knows very well what this amendment is all about.

Mr. Ruston: No, he didn't.

Mr. Ferrier: The select committee recommended that only one such person should be able to sign a petition; I think this was an effort to expedite a petition and to cut down in the delays that sometimes prevail in getting all the owners together to sign a petition to represent their property.

I wonder if we are perhaps catering a bit too much to the lawyers at the expense of the average farm person. It seems to me that a husband or a wife could very well sign without both having to sign the petition. I am not so sure that it is much of an advance. I think the select committee, in proposing the legislation that was there, perhaps was more representative of the general feeling of the farm community than is this amendment.

I notice the second amendment allows a practising solicitor to become the drainage referee, rather than requiring that the referee should be a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the county court. I don't know whether there is much significance in that or not. I suppose, if a lawyer is well qualified in drainage legislation and drainage practice, that he could perform the role just as satisfactorily as the judge. I don't object very much to that, but in the other matter I think maybe we are playing too much into the hands of the lawyers and not sufficiently considering the average farming citizen.

Mr. Renwick: My colleague has just played into my hands. I think, as a matter of fact, that the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) was quite right before he consulted the ministry, and thereafter I think he was as confused as the ministry is. I think that the recommendation of the drainage committee was the correct one and that this amendment shouldn't be made. But that's by the by.

The point that concerns me is the point that my colleague has just raised about a barrister of 10 years' standing being appointed as a referee under the Act. I don't object to that; it looks to me like a lucrative field of practice.

Mr. Nixon: Look into it.

Mr. MacDonald: The judges are already overburdened anyway.

Mr. Renwick: But what I am concerned about, and I ask the minister to seriously look into it, is that there is a prohibition in that Act which says "that no referee or acting referee shall practise as a solicitor or barrister in any matter arising under the Act or act as legal agent or adviser in any such matter."

I take that to mean that that prohibition only applies during the period of time under which he is either a referee or an acting referee. I think that is much too wide open to abuse by a bar which may very well have a certain expertise in the system. One day they are acting as a referee and another day they are acting and practising before another referee or advising in connection with matters arising under the Act.

I think it is quite wrong that there is not some prohibition that if a barrister chooses to be appointed as a referee or as an acting referee, that when his appointment ceases he should be precluded for a definite period of time thereafter from practising in that particular field and giving the kind of advice which is required under the Act.

I say this quite advisedly, because if the minister will look at the very important powers which a referee has by way of original jurisdiction under section 105 of the Drainage Act, he will see that the function to be performed by the referee is a significant and important function and carries with it immense powers.

If it turns out as I said—and I repeat myself—that the particular barrister wants to accept this appointment to be a referee or an acting referee he should be precluded for some period of time after he ceases to be a referee or an acting referee from practising in that so-called field of this Drainage Act. It's extremely important.

Anyone can see by the listing of the various items set out in section 105 that the referee performs a most important judicial function. To have him one day acting as referee and the day afterwards not acting as a referee, or one day acting as an acting referee, and when that particular job for which he has

been appointed acting referee ceases to find that he can immediately step back into the practice involved in this whole procedure which has been set up, to me is quite wrong. I would ask the minister when the bill is in committee seriously to consider adding some further restriction to that provision.

Mr. Eaton: I just wanted to mention as a member of that committee that in section 1 one of the other members of the committee mentioned he didn't feel we were carrying out the intent. We are carrying out the intent of the committee report. The intent was that, no matter how many owners there were of the property, that property would only be considered as one when it came to petitioning, and that was carried out when we brought in the new Act. This amendment still maintains it that way, except that if there are four owners, they must all sign for that property even though it represents one on the petition because there might be disagreement amongst those four owners and one of the owners could bind the other three to something they didn't agree with. So they must all agree and sign to represent that property, and it does carry out the intent of the report of the select committee.

Mr. Breithaupt: I just wanted to comment upon what was said by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). As I recall, the small claims courts, formerly the division court system, had in their operation the opportunity for the county court judge to appoint from among members of the bar that had 10 years experience someone to act as his deputy and to sit in the division court from time to time. This practice has continued and, I suppose, is of use when a barrister of some experience is available to sit in for a county court judge who, because of the pressures of other activities, perhaps in an area that has only one or two judges available to it, requires this kind of assistance. As a result, I presume that's how the 10-year standing term came into this legislation, since that appears to be the basis for this kind of an approach.

What the member for Riverdale has said, I think, bears some serious concern, because it would appear that, while one might sit in division court—or now in the small claims court—as a judge and then return to it and appear before that court the next month or so, very little harm may have been done. There are a great variety of cases that might come forward; and to sit in judgement on one's fellow man or woman, I suppose, is something that a barrister might like to do

at least on some occasions before he or she considers seriously whether this is the way of life that they might more permanently enjoy.

However, in this circumstance, as has been pointed out, we are dealing with a particularly narrow expertise which may only involve a small number of barristers within the province. As a result, it could well be that a barrister sitting as a referee on one occasion with, shall we say three other lawyers appearing before that tribunal situation, might the next week around find the same four people involved but some one of the others might be the referee in that case. Indeed it might become rather difficult to draw the line between the person sitting as referee and the people who are involved before the courts. This difference of decision-making and presentation to the system might indeed become somewhat smudged and blurred if persons are moving back and forth almost on a weekly or monthly basis.

I would agree that some consideration should be given to requiring a choice to be made, if not for a lifetime situation at least perhaps for six months or for a year, so that it would be clearly understood that during that time the person involved was available to be a referee but would stand aside from the actual presentation of cases before other situations.

[5:45]

I think the point raised has some merit, and I hope the minister will consider some kind of a pattern so that this possibility of difficulty could be avoided.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I want to say now that I have the experimental farm of Ottawa in my riding I feel qualified, as I wasn't qualified before, to talk about agricultural problems. I don't want you to forget that I have some of the most valuable farmland in all of Canada in the middle of my riding.

Mr. Renwick: They grow marijuana too, don't they?

Mr. Cassidy: That's right, it's also got the best marijuana plants in the country and we have other specialties there as well. If anybody wishes samples I'll make private arrangements.

Mr. Renwick: That's right.

Mr. Cassidy: I just want to say that it has come to my attention that there are some serious potential problems arising with the cost of some of the land drainage schemes

which are taking place in my region of the province, and perhaps elsewhere as well.

I am tabling, in a couple of days, written questions on this matter with the minister, which I hope he and his department take the trouble to answer. The allegations, which I believe will stand up, are that a large number of land drainage projects being proposed in rural townships are coming in very substantially over the estimated costs; both the cost of the consultant's fees and also the cost of the projects themselves. As a consequence, the people who agreed to these drainage schemes are being put, not just to inconvenience, but to obviously severe financial loss. If they knew in advance what the ultimate cost would be, I suspect in many cases they would not go forward with the scheme, or they would reconsider the scheme and look for something that was more modest and more within their means.

So long as there is provincial funding given to these schemes in the form of low-interest loans and other kinds of subsidies, it seems to me the province has a direct interest, as well as its indirect interest in ensuring that the farming community is not abused by city slickers who come out and sell them a bill of goods. If these allegations prove to be correct, I would hope the minister would agree to take early action in order to stop it and in order to ensure that people in the townships are fairly treated.

The problem is that if there is a serious cost overrun, as has happened in a number of cases, it only happens once or twice in a particular township over two or three or four years, and then it goes somewhere else. So people don't detect a pattern, and don't realize that it wasn't an accident but that it was more by design. Not realizing the pattern, they don't take action and, therefore, it's possible for this abuse to continue. I hope the minister will look into that situation.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, dealing with section 1, in order that I can explain it to you, prior to this amendment, if there were four joint owners on a particular piece of property they all counted in the petition, so that actually a majority of owners could actually control a majority of the land. What I'm saying under this amendment is that each parcel of land, no matter how many owners are on that particular parcel of land, would be dealt with on an individual basis, so that we couldn't have four owners signing here and only one over here. We would look at it from a property point of view—50 per cent of the owners or 60 per cent of the acreage.

One of the problems in the past was that one individual could sign and represent 100 acres, while four individuals could sign and have the same amount of representation on 100 acres. This is to clear this up.

There were a couple of other points brought up under section 1. I think the member over there brought up the matter of the husband and wife. I'd just like to clarify this point. Where there is joint ownership of property, in many cases in the past the husband has signed on the drainage situation and the wife has not signed and that's gone through. Members know the law as well as I know the common law, and if there is joint ownership of the property they both have a responsibility.

In most cases the husband has signed—I have done so myself—in anticipation that there is no problem. Certainly, when there is joint ownership one can't have one person signing away the rights of another. I want to make that point very clear to the House.

Talking about section 2, members were talking about the referee. The reason for this amendment to the bill is that we have had difficulties in getting a judge who is knowledgeable in this field to act as a referee. The one we had, who is deceased, did an excellent job for many years; he was appointed. We have a judge appointed on a temporary basis now but it is the practice and has been the practice for many years that when a referee is appointed he is appointed and acts in that capacity for many years; as this one judge acted in that capacity for many years.

Mr. Nixon: Was that Judge Clunis? Who was that?

Hon. W. Newman: That's right, and he did an excellent job. What we are asking for here is the right to appoint a senior lawyer, who is properly knowledgeable, as a referee; who would act as a referee for a period of time—assuming a long-term period of time would be our intention—providing he is prepared to act in that capacity. I suppose, when he is not acting in that capacity at sometime in the future, it's possible he could be acting in the courts. I think it's very important to note—

Mr. Breithaupt: The minister wouldn't preclude that person from acting during the term of his being a referee? In other words, so long as he is serving as a referee for two years or five years or whatever, he would not be able to appear in matters such as this. Is that correct?

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, that is my understanding. That's correct.

Mr. Renwick: And for one year thereafter?

Hon. W. Newman: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Renwick: And for one year thereafter?

Hon. W. Newman: No, I don't think that's in the bill.

Mr. Renwick: It's not in the bill but I am just asking.

Hon. W. Newman: No. Certainly, as long as he is acting as a referee he would not be able to act in any other capacity on drainage.

The member mentioned the cost of drainage and I am looking forward to his giving me some information on the problems to which he has referred with drainage. I assume he is talking about drainage contractors, I don't know, but certainly I will look forward—

Mr. Cassidy: And engineers.

Hon. W. Newman: If there is anything wrong anywhere in the Drainage Act, we are only too glad to look at the situation. I look forward to the member's statistical material. I think I have covered—

Mr. Cassidy: I want the minister to get the material and look into the allegations which the member is prepared to bring forward.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Speaker: Committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

TERRITORIAL DIVISION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough, moved second reading of Bill 7, An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, this bill is, as far as I can see, a housekeeping matter, bringing the terminology up-to-date and extending boundaries. As far as we are concerned we

agree with the bill and are willing for it to go to third reading.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, we are agreed on the need for this bill in that since no townships exist any longer in the area covered from Toronto to Hamilton, under regional government, the boundaries of the former townships which formerly went out to the international boundary now have to be referred to as existing boundaries in other municipal structures. We have no objection to this bill.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 7, An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough, moved second reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act.

Mr. Renwick: Perhaps the parliamentary assistant would give us a word of explanation. We can see no reason for not supporting the bill, but we would like a word of explanation about it.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the amendment that is proposed in this bill is directed particularly at the situation where municipalities would be dealing with local improvements along boundary lines or boundary roads and where they might enter into joint undertakings. It allows for the introduction of greater flexibility in terms of the options available to the municipality under those circumstances so that they might, within a given municipality, opt either to permit the residents to pick up their share on the basis of local improvement or, as a municipality, to pick up the residents' share. It merely allows that additional option to be introduced under those circumstances.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, I think one matter that should be mentioned about this bill is that it now eliminates the age-old problem in-

volving a boundary between two municipalities that wanted to have some local improvement. Previously, it was necessary for both municipalities to come to agreement; and it was very cumbersome to carry out work where one municipality wanted to charge it to local improvements and the other municipality wanted to pay it out of the general revenue.

Now, as I understand it, according to this amendment, one municipality can make the application for the local improvement and look after the complete procedure; then, by agreement with the other municipality, it can collect their portion directly from that municipality. It eliminates the red tape involved in two municipalities co-operating on one project. One can look after it and, simply by mutual agreement, collect the fee from the other one; and the other one then can get it as they see fit, either from their general revenue or by charging their taxpayers. It's supposed to streamline the procedure considerably, according to municipal officials.

Mr. Cassidy: I've got a comment here, Mr. Speaker. Since the statement was so ably supplemented by the member for Waterloo

North, we would certainly support the bill. It obviously does induce added flexibility and it makes sense.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further discussion? Does the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands wish to respond.

Mr. Norton: No, I think I have nothing to add, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: You have passed that baptism of fire.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 8, An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, April 6, 1976
Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

The House resumed at 8 o'clock, p.m.

Clerk of the House: Government notice of motion No. 1.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 1

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: I presume this is seconded by—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Premier (Mr. Davis).

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you'd better believe it.

Mr. Ruston: You're sure now?

Mr. Breithaupt: Don't look over here.

BUDGET ADDRESS

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in this parliament that I have taken part in a formal debate and I hasten to begin by congratulating you, sir, on your re-election as Speaker. I congratulate your Deputy Speaker and the chairman of the committee of the whole House. Both of those latter gentlemen, I know, will have their hands full and their brains tested by the estimates debate which will ensue from this budget. I know that those debates and those discussions in the committee will be under their firm and very fair control.

I want to thank my own deputy, Mr. Rendall Dick; the executive director of the fiscal policy division, Mr. Duncan Allan; all those who work each year in the preparation of the budget, and the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Auld) and his staff who bring the estimates together in one place.

We have with us tonight, sir, or will have with us, I understand, three former Treasurers of the province—Mr. James Allan, Mr. Charles MacNaughton and Mr. John White, and I'm very glad to have them here.

As this is the first chance I've had to speak formally, I do want to congratulate formally the leaders of the two parties opposite. I expect the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) will be with us this evening before we go too far along in this particular speech. I appreciate his taking valuable time away from his—how can I describe it—rather cool and calculated campaign to be elected the next president of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. That seems to be what he's up to.

Mr. Ferrier: Never, never.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I'm sure he would prefer to be in other parts of the province imparting yet more reassuring rhetoric to yet another somewhat sceptical audience. In fact, word has it that the Leader of the Opposition has officially replaced after-dinner mints as the sweetest thing on the Ontario banquet circuit.

Mr. Singer: The new joke writer isn't any good either.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people shouldn't talk about jokes over there.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: He has even gone further than that.

Mr. Martel: How much is this costing?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: He has taken to emulating other well-respected reasonable individuals in that he now actually smokes a pipe, and that's in some way fortunate for him, because it gives him something to clench his teeth on while he desperately lunges for power.

Mr. Moffatt: You are desperately lunging for words.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Oh, just wait for it over there. Speaking of power—

Mr. Makarchuk: Don't blow the fuses.

Mr. Cassidy: Is this part printed in the budget?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I owe a personal debt of gratitude to the leader of the third party for—

Mr. Breithaupt: Run that though again, Darcy.

Mr. S. Smith: Anything I can do for a nice guy like you, Darcy.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I owe a personal debt of gratitude to the leader of the third party, the member from Wimbledon. He has made it personally possible for me to be here tonight and I do want to thank him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And probably for quite a while to come.

Mr. Breithaupt: So far.

Mr. S. Smith: Your last budget got me elected. I want to hear this one.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It was only a few short days ago that the leader of the third party broke the dizzying tension at Queen's Park to announce that he would defeat this government, and I'm quoting, "only if the budget was the worst in the province's history."

Mr. Nixon: You are the one person who can do it, too.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: As a show of gratitude for his support last evening, I am pleased to reciprocate and assure the hon. member that he'll be spared both the embarrassment and the actual physical strain of any further, frantic flip-flops, as the budget I'm about to table this evening—

Mr. S. Smith: Is only the second worst.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —can only be described as responsible and the best.

Mr. Breithaupt: We are doing all right so far.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The 1976 budget I am presenting tonight reflects the determination of this government to keep the province's finances in good order.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It sticks to our plan for slashing the growth in provincial spending. It reorders priorities, trims government costs and reduces the number of civil servants. And it raises taxes in selective areas.

Mr. Martel: We only have to wear an extra shirt this year.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: With this plan of purposeful fiscal restraint, Ontario will achieve a large reduction in its cash requirements,

maintain its financial integrity and set an example for others to follow in the fight against inflation.

Reducing the rate of inflation remains the No. 1 objective for economic policy in 1976. The national Anti-Inflation Board has now been in operation for some six months, and I believe it is working.

Mr. Lewis: You have to believe it.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We must persevere to make sure that it continues to be effective. Controls will be necessary until Canada's cost and price performance is brought back into line with that of our trading partners, particularly the United States.

The lesson from 1975 surely must be that Canada cannot escape from the discipline of international economic forces. Continuing high inflation in Canada is our responsibility, hence we must devise our own remedies. One of those remedies must be to reduce government spending rather than borrowing more, or printing more money. The government of Ontario has made the hard choice to cut back its spending and borrowing, and I am confident the people of Ontario will support that decision.

Before proceeding with the policies and prescriptions of this 1976 budget, I would like to call attention to the supporting documents to this statement. My overall budget presentation includes appendices dealing the tax changes; six budget papers which discuss the economy, health financing, expenditure restraint, the labour market, property tax reform, the auto pact; and a separate document on Ontario's financial assistance to local governments. These papers provide extensive documentation and perspective on the economic, fiscal and financial policies of the government of Ontario.

The Ontario economy ended 1975 on a firm recovery note. Members will recall that a year ago at this time we were experiencing a significant slowdown as the forces of world recession spilled over into our province.

Mr. Renwick: And a provincial election.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The government responded with immediate and powerful fiscal measures. We introduced temporary tax cuts and incentives amounting to almost \$600 million to reinforce purchasing power, to encourage home ownership and to stimulate the automobile industry.

These 1975 fiscal initiatives worked and they worked well. Sales, production and em-

ployment bounced back vigorously in the second half, erasing losses in the first half and building the momentum for renewed economic expansion in 1976.

Let me outline the economic returns from our bold stabilization actions in 1975, the full details of which are presented in budget paper A.

Mr. Cassidy: That's John White's version.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The temporary reduction in the retail sales tax caused a surge of buying by consumers and businesses, the benefits of which spread rapidly through the economy. Retail trade in Ontario accelerated by 17.8 per cent in the July-December period, nearly double the rate of the first half of the year. For the year as a whole, retail sales in Ontario outperformed the rest of Canada by almost two full percentage points. This major gain not only generated increased production and employment, but also created a climate of renewed optimism and confidence.

The \$1,500 grant to first-time home buyers was an overwhelming success. In its nine-month duration, 90,000 families took advantage of this incentive to acquire their first home. In 1975, first-time buyers accounted for fully 54 per cent of total housing sales as compared to about 30 per cent in a normal year. This large influx of new buyers into the housing market quickly impacted on housing starts. Whereas at mid-year urban housing starts were down by 14,000 units, more than 10,000 of this loss was recovered by the strongest second-half house-building performance in Ontario's history. And this resurgence of housing starts continued in the first quarter of 1976.

[8:15]

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The tax rebate on new car purchases also was a runaway success.

Mr. S. Smith: For Japan, Germany, Italy and France.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The people in Oshawa should be grateful.

Mr. MacDonald: It didn't catch the votes in Oshawa.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nearly 200,000 tax rebates were paid out under this six-month

incentive. This direct bonus to private spending turned the car market around in 1975 and propelled it to a record year of sales. Sales in Ontario ended the year at 14 per cent, versus a small decline for the rest of Canada. Production of cars exhibited a similar turnaround in volume and this strong recovery in production has carried over through the first three months of 1976.

These are welcome economic facts. They demonstrate the effectiveness of Ontario's expansionary policies in 1975 and they prove that direct and immediate incentives to the private sector are the best way to get economic results.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am forecasting a good year for the Ontario economy in 1976.

Mr. Foulds: Very good.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You guys in Oshawa should be down on your knees thanking him.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The internally generated surge of activity in the second half of 1975 has built momentum for continued expansion throughout this year. This will be reinforced by the recovery in the US economy and the strong external demand for our exports.

Overall, I expect Ontario's real gross provincial product to grow by 5.3 per cent, a somewhat higher increase than is expected for Canada as a whole. Price increases should moderate to nine per cent or less, permitting real income gains both to labour and to business.

In 1976, employment is expected to increase by 3.2 per cent or 116,000 jobs. Parallel expansion in the labour force, however, means that we cannot confidently expect any significant improvement in the unemployment rate. The province is monitoring this economic indicator closely. For an in-depth analysis of the Ontario labour market, I would refer members to budget paper D.

To sum up, the Ontario economy is back on trend. So this budget is based on the underlying strength and growth capacity of our economy during 1976. In the budget tonight, I have designed what I believe to be an appropriate fiscal policy and a responsible financial plan for the province. Again this year, I engaged in extensive pre-budget consultations with representatives of the labour, business, consumer, farming, professional and financial sectors of the economy. Their advice and that

of various economic research organizations assisted me materially, and for that contribution I would like to express my appreciation.

My conclusion is that the Ontario economy does not require government stimulation at this time. Rather, my colleagues and I believe that the thrust of provincial policy should be to rely on private sector expansion to generate growth and employment.

Mr. Singer: Along with Krauss-Maffei, yes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Applaud, come on.

Mr. Reid: That's a pretty weak response.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: This does not imply a purely passive role for the government. It requires an active role in ensuring that the necessary resources flow into private activities and are not usurped by government spending and borrowing.

Mr. Reid: What are you going to give us now?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The expenditure policies I will now outline have been designed to accommodate this essential shift of resources into private incomes, profits and investment.

The first element in my 1976 fiscal plan is control of spending. In October, 1975, the Ontario government announced that it would limit its expenditure growth for the fiscal year to 10 per cent. The actual 1976 estimates to be tabled by the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Auld) come within a half of one per cent of that objective. Total spending for 1976-1977 is held to \$12.576 billion, which allows for an increase of \$1.185 billion or only 10.4 per cent over last year's level. This represents a sharp reduction in spending growth, a 15.9 per cent increase in 1975-1976 from the 24.7 per cent increase in 1974-1975. Every minister in this government knows first-hand what this has meant in terms of the public programmes for which he or she is responsible.

An hon. member: Yes, people get hurt.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: There have been loud objections from almost every interest group in the province to this necessary spending restraint. Not unexpectedly, the government has been commended for restraint in general but castigated for the specific applications where restraint grips in. However, there can be no escaping a shift in priorities, a trimming of costs and a reduction in staff if spending is to be controlled. The government has taken

these tough decisions because we are convinced that the size of the public sector must be decreased.

The spending policy of the government provides for the essential needs of our citizens. It also recognizes that new needs are emerging that merit funding. The allocation for the administration of justice has been increased by 19.1 per cent, support to post-secondary education has grown by 15.4 per cent, and spending on social development generally is up by 12.1 per cent.

On the other hand, there is an absolute cut in our provincial roads budget. The savings on our programmes allowed the province, for example, to increase its contribution to the Spadina subway from \$38 million in 1975-1976 to \$73 million in 1976-1977. The Ministry of Housing budget includes a new initiative, the downtown revitalization programme. It also extends for one year the OHAP incentive grants and loans to municipalities to increase the supply of serviced land. The 1976 budget of the Ministry of the Attorney General makes provision for the appointment of 46 additional judges and justices of the peace.

The estimates of every ministry, though restrained, make room for progress and advancement in our range of public services. For a complete summary of 1976 spending trends and the distribution among programmes, I call members' attention to budget paper C accompanying this statement.

It would be appropriate at this time to state that legislation will be introduced changing the GAINS residency criteria which is presently five years in Canada. Effective April 7, 1976, new applicants for GAINS must meet the same 10-year residency criterion that is required for federal OAS and GIS benefits.

Mr. Lewis: Shame.

Mr. Renwick: You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: A key element in Ontario's policy of expenditure control is a further reduction in the number of civil servants on the provincial payroll. We are convinced, and the evidence of the past year confirms, that it does not require a growing bureaucracy to maintain and improve public services.

By the end of 1976-1977, our complement of civil servants will be reduced to 66,537—a drop of more than 4,200 from the 1974 level.

Mr. Reid: How many do you have on contract? You have 19,000 on contract.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: By contrast, since 1973 the federal government will have expanded its bureaucracy by some 39,000 bodies.

Mr. Reid: Tell us about Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Lewis: What's this stuff, "bodies"? People aren't just "bodies".

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Local governments are sharing the burden of restraint in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, they are bearing the burden.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Our 1976 estimates provide for an increase of \$225 million in grants to municipalities and school boards, a growth of 7.8 per cent. In previous years the province could afford to go over the Edmonton commitment and provide generous increases: \$291 million in 1974-1975 and \$558 million in 1975-1976. In retrospect, these large financial transfers from the province may have stimulated some local spending that wasn't absolutely necessary. I am encouraged, however, that local governments are co-operating with our restraint programme—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —and setting realistic budgets. While on the subject of local government, I would like to inform the members of two important developments.

First, I propose to establish a committee of provincial and local officials to study the scope for deconditionalization and simplification of provincial grants. This is in response to requests from individual municipalities, the Municipal Liaison Committee and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. It is my hope that this committee will be able to report back by this autumn, so that our 1977 grant structure can be modified to allow greater freedom for local priority setting.

Second, in budget paper E, the government is advancing proposals on how the property tax structure can be reformed to accommodate reassessed property values. This paper outlines 15 proposals as the foundation of a new property tax system based on reassessed values. It is the government's desire that there be afforded the widest opportunity to participate in the development of a new tax system. A commission, including people knowledgeable in municipal and education finance, will be appointed to receive submissions and to make recommendations on the

new property tax system. The government's timetable calls for the commission to report back this fall, new legislation to be prepared by the spring of 1977, and a new property tax system using market value assessment to be in operation in 1978.

Mr. Renwick: We will see about that.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: To complement expenditure control, the second element in my 1976 fiscal plan is to increase taxes to reduce the province's cash requirements.

The expansionary tax cuts we implemented in 1975 necessarily required a sharp increase in our net cash requirements. Though final figures are not yet in, I estimate that net cash requirements reached \$1,889 million for 1975-1976. This is down \$87 million from the \$1,976 million—

Mr. Renwick: That's what we refer to as a deficit.

Mr. Reid: What about your supplementary estimates in the fall?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —estimated in "Ontario Finances" three months ago. The last quarter improvement was due to rigorous in-year spending control enforced by Management Board and to stronger revenue yields at year-end.

The improving economic situation permits the province to secure a substantial reduction in its cash requirements for the coming year. Holding expenditures to 10.4 per cent while revenues expand at 15.9 per cent would go part way toward this objective. Without tax increases, I estimate our 1976-1977 net cash requirements would amount to \$1,560 million, or \$329 million below the 1975-1976 level.

I believe a further substantial reduction is desirable. Accordingly, I am proposing a package of tax actions which will raise an additional \$330 million in revenues.

One hundred per cent of the revenues from these tax increases will be applied directly to reduce the province's cash requirements. Thus, my budget calls for net cash requirements of only \$1,230 million in 1976-1977, representing a fiscal swing of some \$659 million from the 1975-1976 level. I am confident that the province can achieve this significant improvement in its finances without in any way dampening the buoyant economic expansion now under way.

I come now to the vital matter of tax policy. I am proposing a balanced and equitable package of tax changes which will raise

\$330 million in additional revenue this year. Let me affirm again that none of this additional revenue will be used to finance increased spending; every dollar will be used to reduce our cash requirements.

Mr. Lewis: Debts, that's what it is called; deficits.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Renwick: In the English language it is called a debt. You people are the experts in debt.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for Riverdale.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The government has embarked on a long-term programme to reduce the cost spiral for hospital and medical services, including actions to eliminate surplus hospital beds, rationalize laboratory services and control the volume of laboratory tests. On the Medicare side, the Ontario Medical Association has agreed to a fee increase of 8.1 per cent, effective May 1, 1976.

Mr. Renwick: Very nice of them.
[8:30]

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) will be bringing forward legislation to ensure that these economies and other constraints on health insurance spending are realized for fiscal 1976-1977. Complementary action is also necessary on the financing side.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, right.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Ontario must take action now to restore an appropriate and equitable balance on the financing of OHIP. I am proposing three complementary measures to achieve this objective: an increase in OHIP premiums; increased charges for semi-private and private accommodation in hospitals, and enriched premium assistance.

Mr. Lewis: Just ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The current OHIP premiums of \$11 and \$22 per month finance only 23 per cent of the cost of insured health services. They yielded \$68 per capita in 1975-1976, while costs ran in excess of \$300 per capita. By contrast, in 1970-1971, per capita costs were \$162 and premiums amounted to \$81 per capita, or 50 per cent of costs.

To re-establish a better balance between the charges for health services and the cost of these services, I propose to increase OHIP premiums by \$5 per month single, and \$10 per month family, effective May 1, 1976.

Mr. Renwick: Unbelievable.

Mr. Lewis: Regressive taxes become the core of your party.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Budget paper B provides a detailed analysis—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Budget paper B provides a detailed analysis of the trends in health insurance costs and financing. It also shows that Ontario's health premium system contains three large elements of progressivity. For most people the employer pays a large part of the health premium.

Mr. Lewis: That is utter nonsense.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The employer contribution is a taxable benefit under the progressive personal income tax.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: That is not so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Low-income families, welfare recipients and all pensioners receive free coverage.

At present 88 per cent of group premiums are paid by employers.

Mr. Renwick: How many are not?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Accordingly, the impact of the premium increase on most working individuals and families will be modest. Of the total new revenues of \$228 million to be raised through the premium increase, I estimate that \$164 million will be paid by employers, \$22 million by employees, and \$42 million by pay-direct subscribers, such as professionals, businessmen, and the self-employed.

Mr. Lewis: Until they renegotiate their contracts.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The second measure I am proposing strengthens the link between utilization and the costs of health services. It involves the per diem charges for semi-private and private accommodation in hospitals. Currently hospitals levy user charges on such accommodation averaging \$7.50 and \$12 per day respectively. Effective May 1,

1976, these charges for privacy will be increased to \$11 per day for semi-private rooms, and \$22 per day for private rooms. This will raise an additional \$20 million directly from those people who receive these extra benefits. This extra revenue will be retained by hospitals and offset against their approved operating budgets.

The federal government intends to limit its financial participation in medicare and hospital services, leaving a heavier future burden of financing on the provinces. The OHIP premium increases and the increases in per diem charges I have proposed, in conjunction with the cost-cutting efforts of the Ministry of Health, will ensure that our health insurance plan does not consume an ever-increasing share of the government's general tax resources.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, everyone in Ontario is enrolled in OHIP and is protected for the full range of medical and hospital services. Our premium assistance provisions ensure that the highest quality health care is accessible to all, regardless of income or financial circumstances. Presently more than 1.4 million persons, including all pensioners, welfare recipients and low-income families, enjoy free premiums, and others are subsidized for half of the premium.

Effective immediately I propose to broaden OHIP premium assistance and to strengthen further this progressive element of our health financing system. All persons currently entitled to free coverage will continue to enjoy this benefit when the higher premiums come into effect. Free coverage will be extended to single persons having taxable incomes of \$1,534 or less, and to families having taxable incomes of \$2,000 or less. Half premium rates will be available to single persons having taxable incomes between \$1,534 and \$2,000, and to families having taxable incomes between \$2,000 and \$3,000. This generous enrichment in premium assistance means that an additional 363,000 people, to a total of 1.8 million, will receive free or subsidized OHIP coverage. That's nearly one in four Ontario residents.

This enrichment of premium assistance will also lower the premium actually paid by many families, even after the \$10-a-month increase in the premium rate. For a family of four, for example, the broader assistance criteria will result in a net saving of up to \$132 where gross income falls below \$8,225 annually. The value of our broadened pre-

mium assistance will be no less than \$279 million in 1976-1977.

Mr. Speaker, the second area where I propose to secure additional revenue is from tobacco and alcohol. Effective April 20, 1976, the gallonage tax on beer will be raised by 7½ cents per gal., and the markup on spirits, wine and imported beer will be increased. This will mean approximately 30 cents on a 25-oz. bottle of spirits and 15 cents on a case of 24 bottles of beer. These increases will generate \$50 million in additional revenues for 1976-1977.

Effective midnight this day, the tax on cigarettes under the Tobacco Tax Act will be increased by five cents per package of 20 cigarettes. I estimate this will raise \$50 million in 1976-1977. In my consideration of the tobacco tax, I have concluded that some compensation for collection costs is warranted. Accordingly, I am also proposing that tobacco tax collectors receive compensation paralleling the vendor remuneration arrangements which apply under the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker, the insurance premiums tax has remained unchanged at two per cent since 1956. Effective midnight this day, I propose to increase the rate to three per cent. The additional tax of a half of one per cent applicable to property insurance will continue in effect, over and above the new base rate of three per cent. I estimate this measure will generate an additional \$20 million in this fiscal year.

Let me turn now to some selective areas where tax cuts will yield positive and concentrated benefits.

I have decided to deploy our limited capacity to finance tax cuts by providing stronger incentives to Ontario's small business corporations. In this province of opportunity, the small businessman has a large role to play—as an employer, a supplier of goods and services, and an innovator.

Effective with fiscal years ending after April 6, 1976, the general 12 per cent rate of tax for corporations will be reduced to nine per cent on income eligible for the federal small business deduction. This preferential tax rate is a simple and straightforward incentive which will be readily understood by small corporations. As well, the benefits will be widely distributed to 50,000 Ontario companies. They will replace our present tax credit provisions, which proved to be too complex for many small businesses and reached only 20,000 companies.

The new low rate of tax for small business income will cost the province approximately

\$30 million in 1976-1977, about equal to what the tax credit would have cost. In addition, I am proposing transitional rules allowing small businesses to carry forward for one year unused credits accumulated under the previous incentive. This transition bonus will represent a one-time cost of \$8 million.

As a second incentive, I intend to increase the tax threshold at which small corporations are required to pay tax by instalments. At present, corporations with estimated tax liability of \$300 or more annually are required to pay the tax in six instalments over the course of their fiscal year. I propose that effective April 7 this limit be increased to \$2,000—thereby exempting an additional 5,000 small corporations from the necessity of remitting the tax by instalments. This simplification will cost the province \$2 million annually.

In the 1974 budget, Ontario proposed the creation of venture investment corporations. This proposal was designed to increase the supply of risk capital to small businesses and to provide much needed managerial assistance. It involves a tax deferral as an incentive to invest in venture investment corporations, and these new entities in turn would channel the funds into small business ventures. In my 1975 budget, I reaffirmed Ontario's confidence in the VIC concept as a viable instrument for stimulating investment in small businesses. The province's position is reinforced by the great interest for the proposal which has been shown by the private sector and at least two other provinces. Therefore, I will table legislation tonight, for first reading only, providing for the creation of venture investment corporations in Ontario. It is my hope that the interest created by this legislation will prompt the federal government to recognize the merits of the programme.

I am also proposing changes to the paid-up capital tax to assist Ontario's non-producing mining corporations, effective with fiscal years ending after April 6, 1976. I estimate the revenue loss from this change to be about \$1 million.

In summary, these four proposals will substantially assist small business in Ontario by improving after-tax earnings, increasing growth potential and reducing the complexity of tax compliance.

I would now like to discuss the status of the government's review of Crown charges. In announcing the doubling of the Crown dues in the 1974 budget, the government stated that this action was an interim measure pending a complete review of this rev-

enue field to be conducted by a task force under the joint direction of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Treasurer. This review has been completed and the "Report of the Timber Revenue Task Force" was made public in December, 1975, for comments by interested parties. The recommendations of the report and the comments received from the industry are now being considered. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) will be introducing amendments to the Crown Timber Act before the end of 1976 to be effective Jan. 1, 1977.

I am also proposing three changes under the Retail Sales Tax Act to provide relief in selective areas, effective midnight this day. Together, these changes involve an estimated revenue loss of \$12 million annually:

The exemption level on prepared meals will be increased from \$4 to \$5; insulation materials used in existing residential units will be exempted; the value on which sales tax is calculated for mobile homes will be reduced in order to put them on the same basis as on-site construction.

I also propose to increase the fee for drivers of uninsured motor vehicles, from \$60 to \$100 per annum, effective Dec. 1, 1976.

Mr. Singer: Why don't you just take the fee off and make it compulsory?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Before concluding my discussion of tax actions, I would like to report briefly on progress made toward tax simplification as promised in the 1975 budget. My colleague, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen), has identified many areas for streamlining which will be incorporated in upcoming legislation and in improved administrative procedures. Some changes, such as those relating to succession duties, have already been announced. Other improvements, such as the lower tax rate and the exemption from tax instalments for small corporations, are contained in the legislation to be introduced tonight.

To summarize, I am proposing tax increases amounting to \$353 million, as well as several reductions costing \$23 million. The net result will be \$330 million of additional revenue in 1976-1977. These necessary tax actions, along with spending restraint, will substantially reduce our cash requirements and strengthen our long-term finances.

Mr. Lewis: What happened to that liquor tax concession in the Throne Speech?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Ontario's fiscal restraint programme will make a vital contribu-

tion to the attack on inflation, but our long-run prosperity will depend on our ability to come to grips with other fundamental economic issues. In this regard, I believe that Canada is suffering from an economic malaise which goes deeper than the immediate problem on inflation.

[8:45]

In the last two years, Canada has been confronted with the economic challenges of energy, world recession and inflation. The government of Ontario has developed direct and positive response to these issues. But, with the exception of the national anti-inflation programme, we have been disappointed by the failure of the federal government to take effective economic leadership. It has failed to develop a realistic national energy policy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) knows it well.

Mr. Mancini: The same old story.

Mr. Cunningham: Same old stuff.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Last year it left the burden of economic stimulation policy to Ontario and other provinces, and it has been unable to control its own spending growth. This failure to come to grips with basic economic issues is disturbing in light of the rapid deterioration in Canada's international competitive position. In manufactured goods, our trading deficit has reached a serious level. Our industrial productivity growth has become dangerously sluggish and important investment decisions are being postponed. This is reducing the nation's potential to ensure an adequate level of employment and income growth for our people.

To confront this situation, we need nothing short of a fresh start on developing a national economic policy for Canada. This must include a recognition that it is the free market economy, not bureaucratic regulation, upon which our present standard of living was achieved.

Mr. Reid: After 33 years you are getting the message.

Mr. S. Smith: After a \$2-billion deficit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Come on, the member for London North (Mr. Shore) knows it's true.

Mr. Reid: You have been reading Galbraith over the weekend.

Mr. Singer: What did Donald Macdonald say to you, Darcy?

Mr. S. Smith: The repentant sinners have discovered free enterprise.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It is the free market economy upon which our future economic growth must rely. While I want to reinforce our support for the temporary anti-inflation programme, we must also develop a hard strategy for a clean phase-out of the AIB when its goal has been accomplished.

I would like to propose a basis for the development of a policy for long-term, non-inflationary growth. It involves:

1. Even greater national efforts to cut down the rate of growth in government spending;

2. Development of a more realistic energy policy;

3. The development of an industrial strategy centred on productivity, and the maintenance of growth in our incomes, employment and the quality of our lives.

First, I would like to deal with efficiency in the public sector. If governments continue to expand faster than the private sector, I see no hope for either controlling inflation or solving other national economic problems. Too many of the talents of the nation are already locked up in government offices. The evidence is clear that our citizens do not want to pay higher taxes to buy more public services. They want higher real incomes and they want value for the taxes they already pay.

For many years, the level of government spending in Ontario has been significantly lower than in the rest of Canada. Our plan to contain provincial spending to a 10.4 per cent increase in 1976-1977 will further improve this performance.

Mr. Martel: That was last year.

Mr. Cunningham: The deficit is higher, though.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Looking at federal spending plans, I am quite frankly disillusioned with the national government's commitment to restraint.

Mr. Reid: That's what the municipalities say about you.

Mr. S. Smith: But you and your \$300 million—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Federal spending this year will grow at 16 per cent or by an additional \$5.7 billion.

Mr. Reid: How much did you ask for when you were there last week?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: If the federal government had held its spending to the same growth rate as Ontario, Canadian taxpayers could have saved almost \$1.9 billion.

Mr. Reid: That's exactly what your deficit is.

Mr. Lewis: How much did you ask for last week?

Hon. Mr. Davis: We don't want to upset you, but it's true.

Mr. Lewis: Darcy, you give it to them; they'll support you anyway.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In Ontario alone, the tax saving would have amounted to more than the \$740 million cost to Ontario consumers of the oil and gas price increases imposed by the federal government last year.

Mr. S. Smith: By your friends in Alberta.

An hon. member: No, your friends in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: One obvious way in which the federal government could achieve savings—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —is by improving its internal efficiency—

Mr. Mancini: You and Joe Clark in Alberta.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —and reducing the size of its civil service. Earlier in this statement, I compared Ontario's complement reduction programme with the continuing increase in the size of the federal civil service.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Right on.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: At this point, I think it is interesting to compare the relative efficiency of the two levels of government.

Mr. Singer: Yes, do that.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: While federal budgetary spending is roughly three times that of Ontario, its bureaucracy is five times as large.

Mr. Cunningham: What is this? Is this restraint?

Mr. Reid: That's why the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) hired somebody to do a report on the use of land.

Mr. S. Smith: Why don't you compare the provincial with the municipal budgets?

Mr. Reid: There are 19,000 on contract.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Darcy, hit them again. Remember they are voting for you.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's our problem.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It has been lack of fiscal restraint on the part of governments, particularly the federal government—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —which has made necessary the high interest rate and tight money policy of the Bank of Canada. While I cannot quarrel with the Bank of Canada's monetary policies, I would point out to members that high interest rates are playing havoc with homeowners, with businessmen and farmers. The Minister of Agriculture and Food tells me, for example, that the increase in interest rates has added four cents a pound to the price of beef.

There is one further disturbing aspect of this matter of government spending.

Mr. Lewis: They're supporting you.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Put briefly, our growing concern is that among governments in Canada there is a lack of clarity and accountability about who is responsible for what.

Mr. S. Smith: You are adding to the confusion tonight.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Competition for the delivery of services leads to needless public confusion, waste and inefficiency, and inadequate attention by governments to their basic responsibilities.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: As a result, and just as we are doing in our relations with the municipalities, this government is determined, on the federal-provincial front, to pursue a policy of disentanglement. From the initiatives of the 1975 Premiers' conference and the special programme review we shall, in the coming months, be putting forward for inter-governmental discussion specific proposals to merge, transfer, exchange and, yes, even reprivatize public programmes and areas of responsibility.

Mr. Singer: That's good. Now tell us the bad news.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Our objective will be to ensure that the taxpayers in our federation are served more efficiently and effectively by all levels of government.

I would like to turn now to the energy issue, the second element in my approach to a national economic policy. Some two years ago Canada's first minister met to deal with the serious implications of the dramatically changed world energy situation. Since that meeting, Canada has made some progress but much more needs to be done.

On the plus side, the Sarnia-Montreal pipeline, which will contribute substantially to national oil self-reliance, is expected to be operating this fall. We have made progress in ensuring future energy supplies for Ontario with our participation in the Syncrude project. We are closer to our objective of securing major supplies of Canadian coal for Ontario Hydro and thereby reducing our reliance on foreign sources.

On the other hand, there have been disappointments. At best, we are only marginally closer to developing Arctic oil and gas than we were three years ago. Over the past two years we have been confronted with much more pessimistic predictions of the national deficit in oil trade. Perhaps most disappointing, Mr. Speaker, has been the upward spiral of oil and gas prices. I need not remind members or re-emphasize the vigorous stand which Ontario has taken on this issue.

Mr. Sweeney: What about Hydro?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Next month, Canada's first ministers will again tackle the issue of oil and gas price adjustments. Ontario is concerned that such a meeting could once again produce ill-timed price increases from which far too much of the revenue will go to government rather than toward private exploration and development activities. Last year only 25 per cent of the additional crude oil revenue was turned back for private exploration and development.

I have already emphasized that our major economic priority must be to regain, hold and expand Canada's share of export markets. Yet further oil and gas price increases, which regretfully are looming on the horizon, could seriously damage our competitive position by moving Canada ahead of the American energy cost structure. The inflationary impact of the last round of price increases is still working its way through our economy, and our exporters are just beginning to win their way

back into US markets as the recovery proceeds.

Many of our industries are highly sensitive to energy price changes and, in addition, their productivity is lagging behind US levels, suggesting that with respect to energy prices they need a competitive edge.

I have included a table in this section of my statement which shows our energy cost position relative to US industries before and after a possible price hike. Clearly, Canadian energy policy must be highly sensitive to broader industrial priorities and not further hinder our export efforts at this crucial time.

I would now like to turn to the broader questions of industrial strategy, and highlight what I see as the main priorities to ensure long-run productive growth in this country. These include the development of new high-technology industries as well as other measures to improve our competitive position, a comprehensive planning strategy for the province and the strengthening of our manufacturing base, particularly the automobile industry.

Productivity growth through the development of high-technology industries is an objective which is actively pursued by the governments of all of the industrial countries of the world and a surprisingly large number of underdeveloped nations. Canada appears to be the exception. We have, at the federal level, a massive concern for industrial intervention and regulation where there should be a concerted and national drive for scientific and industrial research backed by joint public and private development of emerging high-technology industries.

The Canadian market is limited. Exports are crucial to the successful survival of our technology. The competition from other national governments with low-cost loans and subsidies is intense. Frequently, these subsidies and cheap loans are blended with a foreign aid package. What Canada needs is a national effort in developing and marketing Canadian technology.

As one example, Ontario has, in the past two years, assembled, through the Urban Transportation and Development Corp. and with the co-operation of the Toronto Transit Commission, a first-rate design and development capacity in urban transit systems.

Mr. Cassidy: Krauss-Maffei?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We have supported new modes of transit such as the GO system and successfully developed and marketed mini-buses and a radically improved streetcar

which will be operating on TTC routes next year. What can be done now is to transform this capacity into a national industry producing national income and employment benefits through its exports to other nations. We urge the federal government to participate with us in such a venture.

Mr. Cassidy: We were telling you that a long time ago.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Turning to the question of our ability to compete in world markets, I am deeply concerned that Canada has moved too quickly to wage and salary parity with the United States in industries where productivity simply does not match the output standards of our major competitor.

Unless we can make substantial gains in our productivity performance, Canada's trade balance will continue to deteriorate and inflation will not be contained. Nothing we do, no manipulation of government spending or taxes or subsidies or job-creating programmes can ever escape that simple fact. You cannot sell government programmes in the export market.

Capital investment in manufacturing must be increased substantially if we are to achieve necessary increases in productivity. Much has been made of the significant capital investment requirements of the energy and natural resource industries. However, investment in secondary manufacturing has grown very little as a result of inflationary pressures and it is my feeling that this lack of investment has also been related to uncertainty about federal economic policy.

To confront this problem I would like to see a national effort in support of applied technology and research; a concerted programme to exploit the advantages of scale and size in industry; and a more positive and innovative attitude toward foreign investment and foreign technology which would not sacrifice our independence or our sovereignty.

[9:00]

Moreover, we must accept the fact that the international trading environment is changing. The province has traditionally supported high tariffs for manufactured goods, a policy which has generally operated to the benefit of Canada and Ontario. Unfortunately, some industries have relied on tariffs as a permanent shield from international competition rather than as a transitional measure. The current round of GATT negotiations will provide us with the opportunity to expand foreign markets but, at the same time, it will create the challenge and the necessity to improve pro-

ductivity at home. I believe we can rely on all elements of the private sector, labour and management alike, to meet this challenge.

I spoke earlier of the need to revitalize our manufacturing sector in order to improve our competitive position. In this regard, I believe we must start with the auto industry which supports, directly or indirectly, one in every six jobs in this province. For 11 years the industry has been operating under the Canada-US auto pact. While the agreement has worked well in facilitating the development of a more efficient, integrated auto industry on both sides of the border, we cannot count on past successes. In our view, fundamental problems have developed. They threaten the long-term viability of both auto assembly and parts manufacturing in Canada and the economic well-being of this province. An accompanying budget paper fully documents three major problems which exist in this industry. They are a widening productivity gap; a declining Canadian share of auto assembly; and serious losses in Canadian parts production.

In the course of the past three years, the country has gone from a virtual balance in Canada-US auto trade to a deficit of more than \$1.8 billion. Canada's deficit in auto parts trade with the US alone last year amounted to nearly \$2.5 billion. This is not just a temporary aberration. It is part of a fundamental shift in industrial activity between the two countries. We cannot be complacent, as so many seem to be, that economic recovery will restore the balance. It is clear that we must stop shying away from this growing problem and take positive action. In budget paper F, Ontario advocates a four-part action plan to revive the long-term health of the automobile industry.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Ontario must continue to pursue a dynamic strategy for economic growth in the future, which involves improvement in the quality of life and careful preservation of our natural resources. Also, all of Ontario must participate in our development to the fullest extent possible. Later this session, we will be tabling a set of documents which advance an economic and social planning framework for the province as a whole as well as selected areas.

Mr. Cassidy: We've been waiting for 10 years for that.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I would like to conclude this section of my budget statement

with this thought. The country faces massive economic challenges. I believe these challenges can be met and I have outlined a programme for doing just that. But to be successful, we must be determined and energetic in our creation of a national economic policy for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I have set before you and the members a strong and constructive budget. It provides for non-inflationary growth and private sector expansion in Ontario by controlling the use of public resources. It injects new confidence to sustain the momentum of economic recovery and it continues the record of sound financial management by the government of Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, come on!

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The cornerstone of the government's fiscal programme is expenditure restraint. As I have already said, Ontario's spending for 1976-1977 will rise by only 10.4 per cent and we are resolved to stick to this firm limit. I estimate this control on spending, by itself, will generate a \$329-million improvement in our financial position.

Mr. S. Smith: Precisely the amount that the property tax will go up this year.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The tax measures I have outlined will improve Ontario's finances by a further \$380 million. As a result, cash requirements for 1976-1977 will amount to \$1.230 billion—down \$659 million from the 1975-1976 level.

It is imperative that governments reduce their borrowing as well as their spending. Governments cannot live on credit indefinitely any more than families can, nor will future generations be any more able to pay the bills than is the present generation. Moreover, stable growth of the economy depends on increased investment by big and little businesses alike. No business can finance its essential expansion if governments crowd the financial markets and take all the money.

The government of Ontario will not, I stress, require any public borrowing in 1976-1977.

Mr. Peterson: Tell us where you're going to get it and whose money it is.

Mr. Reid: You are going to rob the pension fund again.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In conclusion, my budget is a declaration of confidence, confi-

dence in the dynamic economy of this province of opportunity, confidence in Ontario's workers, its farmers, its enterprises and its institutions, and confidence, sir, in the solid record of achievement of this government under William G. Davis.

Mr. Reid: They are clapping only because you're over.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The member for London North (Mr. Shore) should come and sit over here.

Ms. Bryden moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: May we revert to bills, Mr. Speaker?

Agreed.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr. Lewis: That was the worst budget ever.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Minister of Housing please restrain himself?

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

VENTURE INVESTMENT CORPORATIONS REGISTRATION ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Registration of Venture Investment Corporations, 1976.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**RETAIL SALES TAX
AMENDMENT ACT**

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**ONTARIO GUARANTEED ANNUAL
INCOME AMENDMENT ACT**

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

**TOBACCO TAX
AMENDMENT ACT**

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, on Thursday we will continue with the consideration of legislation as set out on the order paper. Although it's a bit early, in order to provide the members of the House with an opportunity to reflect upon the progressive budget introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), I would move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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 Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Cunningham, E. (Wentworth North L)
 Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
 Ferrier, W. (Cochrane South NDP)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
 Lewis, S.; Leader of the Opposition (Scarborough West NDP)
 MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
 Makarchuk, M. (Brantford NDP)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
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 (Chatham-Kent PC)
 Moffatt, D. (Durham East NDP)
 Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 Peterson, D. (London Centre L)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)
 Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
 Rhodes, Hon. J. R.; Minister of Housing (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
 Singer, V. M. (Wilson Heights L)
 Smith, S. (Hamilton West L)
 Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 8, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, signed by her own hand.

Mr. Speaker: By her own hand, Pauline M. McGibbon, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 13, 1977, and recommends them to the legislative assembly, Toronto, April 8, 1976.

Statements by the ministry.

FUTURE GROWTH

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there are two statements that are related today. Mine will be relatively brief and will be followed by a more comprehensive one by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

My colleague, the provincial Treasurer, will lay before the assembly today, planning and development strategies that are critical to Ontario's capacity to manage the growth that will take place in this province in the years ahead.

It would be naive for anyone to believe that this Legislature, this government or, for that matter, any government can ever hope to prevent growth either in an industrial or population sense. More to the point, it is not the view of this government that we should attempt to stop reasonable growth in this province.

It has been and remains our view that moderate, well-managed growth is not just of great value to Ontario, and to sustaining and improving the quality of life of its citizens; it is a necessity. Therefore, the statement being made by the Treasurer today will indicate the clear priorities of this government, and is intended to elicit an open and public discussion of the assumptions, directions and priorities on which the management of growth in Ontario should be based.

Clearly, non-elected planners do not have the mandate to make decisions for the people of Ontario. Only the government and Legislature have that mandate. In consideration of the various approaches to planning necessary to cope with urbanization and with increased pressure on the environment, open space and food-producing areas, it is critical and basic to Ontario's way of life that local levels of government, and concerned citizens at all levels, be afforded a real opportunity for participation and influence.

In this regard, it is interesting to contrast the various planning avenues available to the people of this province. One approach is that of concentrated central planning, in which a provincial government develops its own plan and implements it, without any particular concern for local or private concerns or without reservations. That approach, in our opinion, is not acceptable to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Riddell: You're taking a long time to get around to it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sorry, I didn't hear that.

Mr. Nixon: He said it took you a long time to get around to that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will ignore the opportunity to reply in a way that might be misunderstood.

Mr. Nixon: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It might even be provocative.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As the Treasurer says, it might even be provocative. The one thing that the third party in this House doesn't understand is planning, whether it's in a political sense, a land-use sense or any other sense.

Mr. Nixon: Okay, boys, get ready.

Mr. R. S. Smith: We have been waiting seven years for the northeastern one.

Hon. Mr. Davis: A contrasting approach, Mr. Speaker, is that of no real planning, and no effort at growth management, at the provincial level. It is an approach that gives rise to planning problems, while overlooking the local, regional or provincial authority necessary to resolve these problems. Concern about the disappearance of farm land, expressed concurrently with an attack on regional or provincial planning authorities, is typical of this type of planning attitude. That approach is, as well, not acceptable to the people of this province, simply because it does not provide for any overview or direction related to the broad public interest.

The planning perspective to which this government does subscribe places the provincial government in a co-ordinating role, assisting local and regional governments to achieve their own planning and growth management goals within broad outlines which are of overriding importance to the province as a whole.

Through various development incentives, housing programmes, planning instruments and programme alternatives available to the ministries of the government, much can be done to reduce overcrowding and to spread the accepted benefits of growth yet preserve the particular qualities of local and community life which are important to the well-being and self-respect of Ontarians.

There are some realities that our province and local municipalities can and must face.

According to our estimates, close to four million more people will swell Ontario's population during the next quarter century. However accurate that forecast, in terms of either population expansion and/or time span, it does indicate that we must expect significant growth and we must be prepared for it.

For example, in direct terms, this government cannot allow Toronto or Metropolitan Toronto or any other area of southern Ontario to be the sole beneficiary or, in some cases, perhaps not necessarily a beneficiary, of such increased growth and the economic activity it will generate.

On the other hand, this government cannot tolerate or allow the quality of life of present-day Toronto or any other part of Ontario to be the victim of untrammelled growth caused by new inflow either from other sectors of the province or from abroad.

This must be a basic element of our growth management programme.

Mr. Cassidy: It hasn't been up to now.

Mr. Reid: It sounds like the speech you gave when you introduced the Toronto-centred plan.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Which has worked relatively well.

The increased development of the north, diversified development in the east, and the development of more efficient industrial and transportation centres throughout Ontario are, as well, of critical priority to the government. Managed development of this type will mean more jobs, more income and a higher quality of life for areas that aspire to this type of improvement.

The enlightened use of our natural resources, the development of strategies for careful use of mining and lumbering reserves, the provision of an adequate supply of recreational lands, the assurance of food supply through a continued increase in per acre productivity of our farmland, prudent management of energy resources, all of these are key elements of our programme that will serve generations of Ontarians in the future.

The continued importance of the private sectors in developing Ontario, at the commercial, industrial and economic level, is also critical to this government's view of Ontario's future.

Economic viability, in terms of importance to the livelihood of people of all areas of Ontario, is a basic planning concern for this government.

Mr. Speaker, what my colleague, the Treasurer, will be placing before the Legislature are some basic elements of a broad planning strategy for the province. Some are general while others relate to specific areas and regions. They are not, I emphasize, etched in stone. On the contrary, they are intended to offer general direction and to provoke constructive discussion and imaginative responses within the broad guidelines established.

Mr. R. S. Smith: So broad they wouldn't hurt anybody.

Hon. Mr. Davis: At the same time, however, they indicate our firm commitment to effective provincial participation because provincial plans without province-wide commitment are of little use.

In their totality, these documents deserve the careful scrutiny of all parties in this Legislature. Toward that end, the government House leader will be consulting with the other House leaders to provide adequate time in this Legislature for members to offer their comments on these papers and to debate

the question of what approach to growth our province should adopt.

I have every faith that local governments, regional governments, and private citizens understand the crucial importance of an Ontario that grows in a moderate fashion, based upon concerns for economic well-being, local quality of life and equality of opportunity.

I have every faith, as well, that whether it involves Ontario gaining a greater say in immigration policy, or securing more co-ordination with the federal government with respect to our planning goals, this government can expect fair-minded advice and comment from the other parties in this Legislature.

Now whether my good faith turns out to be justified or not, this government will continue to work with other levels of government in Ontario and with all other interests in this province to ensure for Ontarians the right to control and manage their own future to ensure the quality of life for future generations and, above all, preserve for the future the very best of life in Ontario today.

FUTURE GROWTH

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Today, I am tabling a document entitled "Ontario's Future: Trends and Options," which is a statement by the government of Ontario on provincial and regional development strategy.

[2:15]

In addition, I am tabling eight reports, all of which relate to the pattern of future life in Ontario. I recommend all of these reports to the attention of hon. members. The titles of the reports are as follows: Ontario's Future: Trends and Options; Ontario's Changing Population, volumes 1 and 2; Northeastern Ontario Development Strategy; and an Appendix: Durham Subregion Strategy, Renfrew Subregion Strategy, The Northumberland Area Task Force Report, The Simcoe-Georgian Area Task Force Report, Programme Statement on the Toronto-Centred Region and A Strategy for Ontario Farmland.

Mr. Lewis: Where is that document?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Trends gradually become evident in any changing society. The direction of the trends can change the options that are available and, obviously, must influence the responses.

The design of appropriate responses is what planning is all about. Planning is not undertaken for the edification of planners or of municipal or provincial governments; it is done to improve the circumstances of the people.

Mrs. Campbell: After 33 years.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Disraeli, that great British Tory Prime Minister, defined our approach to planning in Ontario when, a century ago, he said: "I repeat . . . that all power is a trust—that we are accountable for its exercise—that from the people and for the people, all springs and all must exist."

Planning, then, demonstrably must be for the people. It may be less obvious but it is equally true that it must be from the people.

Mr. Good: You made it for politicians.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Plans for the province—the designing of the personal lives of people—cannot be imposed by government. Equally, however, it will not result from the unplanned accumulation of unrelated decisions that are not influenced by one another. Successful planning is a joint undertaking of government and the people.

Planning is not a new concept in this province. Notwithstanding the importance of earlier initiatives, the most important document to that date was the white paper, *Design for Development*, released for public consideration by the then Premier, the Hon. John Robarts, in 1966.

This white paper was a response to the need for provincial government guidance in our changing and increasingly urban society. That report made explicit that the government must guide regional land use and economic development and ensure that all development in the province was correlated so that the interests of all would be served.

It recognized that government expenditures would have to be co-ordinated with provincial and regional planning objectives. It explicitly stated that the government proposed to attempt to reduce regional economic inequalities through the development of the special economic potential of each region. It challenged the pre-eminent importance attributed to exclusively economic considerations and argued the equal importance of social and environmental concerns. It established basic planning guidelines.

It noted the need to control random urban development in rural areas; it noted that unique natural features belong equally to all the people; and it noted the developing transportation needs in the Toronto region.

This last initiative led to the major provincial-municipal study that produced the important planning document entitled *Design for Development: The Toronto-Centred Region*.

This document, which has become known as the TCR, has become a fundamental part

of the planning strategy in Ontario. It included such principles as the confining of growth first to a broad belt along the shore of Lake Ontario from Hamilton to Oshawa, the structuring of this belt into a system of identifiable communities, the maintenance of an extensive area to the north as largely a rural and recreational green belt, and the encouragement of the growth of selected areas beyond this green belt and outside commuting distance.

The objective of the TCR was to relieve excessive development pressure on the main urban area along the shore of Lake Ontario. These planning principles have been applied to other parts of the province and have been elaborated in other programmes and reports. All have in common three broad themes:

Regional economic disparities must be reduced and the social and economic development of all of Ontario's major regions must be encouraged; urban growth must be managed; the protection of areas and natural features of unique importance must be viewed as a provincial responsibility.

We are not, sir, proposing any new plan today or any fundamental change in the themes, objectives or policies. The objectives and policies—

Mr. Cassidy: Same old one, eh?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —of Design for Development, 1966, are as valid today as they were when they were first enunciated.

Mr. Cassidy: Far from realization.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: At the same time, 10 years have passed and change continues. It is only prudent to pause and take stock and, as necessary, to refine and expand those earlier guidelines and objectives.

Over the past generation there have been great changes in Ontario. Housing developments, apartment complexes, shopping centres and industrial plants have sprung up. Networks of freeways and public transportation services were needed and were provided. Areas that were remote and rural are now the home of large populations employed in local industries. Immigration has increased population, and has broadened and changed the character of our people and made it more cosmopolitan.

Growth is not always good, but growth we shall have in Ontario because that is the nature of our developing economy. Our goal should be the proper management of that growth so it meets our needs and desires.

Like growth, change is not exclusively positive. The growing urban population has increased the pressure on neighbouring rural areas and has generated other concerns that called for an expanded policy response.

It is the preference of a large proportion of our citizens to live within the major cities located in a relatively small part of the total area of the province. This collective choice of the citizens of the province places intense pressure on important open land. This pressure is not limited to the densely urbanized southwestern part of the province. Even in the eastern and northern regions, where population as a proportion of the provincial total is declining, there is an increase in the proportion of the regional population living in the major cities. Let me cite some statistics.

In 1951, 36 per cent of the total provincial population was concentrated in the complex along Lake Ontario, through Hamilton-Toronto-Oshawa. By 1971 this proportion had increased to 43 per cent.

Mr. Good: Because of lack of planning on your part. How can you keep them away?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In the same interval the population of Thunder Bay grew from 44 per cent to 50 per cent of the northwestern region; the population of Ottawa grew from 32 per cent to 42 per cent of the eastern region.

A recent phenomenon has been the preference of many city people for a home in the rural areas, a fact that often has a negative component from the perspective of farm people, but the overriding trend is the relative growth of city populations. In 1951, 73 per cent of the people of Ontario lived in towns and cities. By 1971 the proportion had increased to 82 per cent.

Mr. Good: We have been complaining about it for 10 years.

Mrs. Campbell: They're slow learners.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The trend in the direction of urban living must be expected to continue, although the rate may alter.

We expect total population in Ontario to reach approximately 10 million in 1986 and to approach 12 million by the year 2000, which implies—

Mr. Eakins: That's an old speech, Darcy.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —a slower rate of growth than that of the recent past. This, coupled with public policy initiatives, may slow the rate of growth of the cities, but urbanization is a world-wide phenomenon and

it reflects the demonstrated preferences of people. Provincial planning that assumed a significant short-term change in the public attitude in this context would be unrealistic.

It is our expectation that Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor, which now collectively contain just over 60 per cent of the population of the province, will contain nearly 80 per cent by the year 2000.

The major employment opportunities will be in the heavily populated areas. The major increase in employment opportunities will be in business, financial, social and government services. Jobs in manufacturing will increase, but not as rapidly as in the service sector; and although production in agriculture, resource extraction and processing will increase, the high level of productivity in these sectors will mean that a proportional increase in the number of jobs cannot be expected.

The nature of the prospective employment opportunities will not tend to disperse population away from the growing urban centres. The major trends in our province are clearly set. They include: Increased urbanization; an increased proportion of the population in the heavily urbanized southwestern part of the province; increased pressure on open space, the environment and energy supplies. Total population will continue to increase, though at a somewhat reduced rate. Opportunities will expand and so will the need for future planning and management.

There is no reason to suppose that the people of Ontario want their future tailor-made by their government. It might be technically feasible to design the perfect plan and fit people into it, but it is certainly not a practical option. The fact is that government does not have and should not have a free hand in dealing with people's lives and plans. The existing pattern of urban development, which is nothing other than the implicit statement by individual people as to where they want to live, is nearly as intractable as the distribution of natural and physical resources, nor will the economic distribution and structure easily or painlessly shift from its traditional pattern.

If the people of Ontario are to enjoy democratic freedom, and no one would propose otherwise, planning must accommodate the free choices of the people who live here and who own this province. The role of government is to reinforce the chosen lifestyle. An important part of our lifestyle is to make our own choices, without arbitrary or dictatorial intervention by that very government.

Planning, then, is constrained on both sides by the fact that it must not be too much or too little. It must not transgress the right of a free people to choose the style of their own life; at the same time, it must direct and guide development to the extent required to ensure the optimum social, economic and physical environment. Failure to plan and to achieve this optimum may result in the preferred choices of many citizens simply becoming unattainable.

Within the constraints of the options that are open to government, I propose to restate and expand our planning objectives.

One constraint that I have not mentioned, and that must not be overlooked, is the financial constraint now applied to all areas of government. Not to put too fine an edge on it, there may be useful development opportunities that, at least at this time, we will not be able to afford. We still must prepare the plans and, within the constraints, put priority on those items which will assist in the achievement of our goals.

A primary objective will continue to be the reduction of persistent disparity in income and the access to services of the different regions in Ontario. We will seek to attain an even distribution of growth across the province. In many parts of the province this is made difficult because of the narrow local economic base. Policy will be directed toward attaining optimum local potential through the development of local resources and the involvement of local people.

We will reinforce our effort to conserve and protect our natural resources and will ensure that these resources are managed in the interests of all the people. We will continue to protect the rural and forest environment.

We will maintain the healthy and attractive urban communities that are universally recognized as a distinctive hallmark of Ontario. We will encourage the distribution of population growth, and so of urban development. We will ensure that the people of the province are all served by the best possible urban system. We will attempt to accomplish this purpose in a manner that avoids excessively rapid growth in major cities and will do so without destroying private businesses or ignoring the preferences and choices of the citizens.

We will be looking to the future of our province in the general context of our restated development strategy. As we progress, changes will be adopted that will reflect the expressed needs of the people to be served

by provincial and local development initiatives of whatever kind.

The achievement of policy objectives will be furthered through the use of two kinds of instruments.

The first includes the programmes and the expenditures of the government itself. Such government operational programmes as housing, services, industrial parks and the location of government functions will be co-ordinated with provincial and regional planning objectives.

We have established a regional priority budget whereby ministries can place special emphasis on activities of particular importance in helping to achieve the development potential of the economic regions.

The existence of restructured governments has been an essential aspect of the whole process of coherent development planning. Regional governments, particularly, are doing effective planning for their areas and are working with the province in the furthering of our mutual economic development objectives, something that was always a major purpose of regional government.

[2:30]

This relates, then, directly to the second instrument, which is the planning policies of the regional, county and local municipalities. Consistency with provincial policies must obviously be encouraged, but this does not imply dictating municipal planning. The clear definition of provincial objectives has been made to coincide with the withdrawal of the province in terms of the detailed overviewing of municipal plans. It persists, to a greater degree, in those cases where province-wide interests are involved or where it is necessary to ensure that the plans and programmes of both levels of government are consistent.

Policies and programmes can be divided conveniently into three areas: economic planning, rural and resource planning, and urban and demographic planning. I propose to initially discuss them under those three headings.

The basic objectives of economic planning will be to reduce income inequalities through the stimulation of economic growth in slower-growth parts of the province, especially in eastern and northern Ontario. The key principle will be to build upon the resources native to the area in question. Rather than attempt to import foot-loose enterprises that lack local roots, experience and acceptance, we will encourage the diversification and expansion of the existing base.

We will, in other words, increasingly adopt a grassroots strategy. We will encourage resource-processing industries to locate near to the resources, rather than near to the markets, particularly in the case of forest and farm-related enterprises. Subject always to the financial constraints to which I made earlier reference, we will provide assistance for the location of new industries where a long-term resultant benefit to the community can be expected.

Natural resources and the natural environment are of central and growing importance and their depletion or deterioration is not to be tolerated. Environmental quality must be enhanced and resources properly managed in the interests of both current and future populations. This implies that we must correctly define what we have in terms of landscape, natural resource components and unique features. We must ensure that the highest and best use is made of these public assets through the definition and redefinition of environmental management, economic development and related social concerns.

Rural and resource policies relating to agriculture, recreation and tourism, forestry, mining and aggregate extraction, and fish and wildlife, will be refined and policy amendments will be adopted as our work proceeds. Today, I would like to comment particularly on agriculture and more briefly on some aspects of recreation.

No one doubts the key importance of food production. In Ontario we will continue to maintain a permanent, secure and economically viable agricultural industry as a source of food and, further, as a source of employment and livelihood for people, and as the basis of the rural community and the rural way of life.

To the extent possible, we should in future, as we have in the past, protect the integrity of the use of fertile land for food production.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: There is a strong base of agriculture and agricultural lands in this province and although, as in any other expanding community there is a greater use of fertile land for purposes other than food production than any would prefer, Ontario is now and will continue to be an important food-producing area with a valuable and protected base of fertile food-producing land.

Mr. Cassidy: Population is up and land is down.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: An intensified preferred-use approach to prime agricultural lands will be applied. This policy will be matched by complementary policies and programmes to ensure the economic viability and stability of the agricultural sector, to ensure the improved use of good farmland that is now held idle or in parcels that are too small to be operated economically, and to reduce the social, financial and environmental stresses to which urbanization exposes farming and the farming community.

We cannot, however, insulate these policies and programmes from the broad needs of the people of the province. Policies and programmes for the agricultural and rural communities must support regional planning objectives. They must be closely meshed with policies and programmes relating to other kinds of development and land use affecting the rural environment. And they must be tailored to the specific circumstances and needs of the different parts of the province.

The impression has been planted in the minds of the public that within a generation farmland will be gone and food production in this province will have virtually disappeared; that industrial plants, residences and concrete will blanket the fertile portions of the province. That simply isn't true.

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: It will be true if your government is around.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The fact is that in Ontario—and it is typical in other dynamic industrial communities—increases in population will be accommodated in an average of 40 persons per gross acre, which is 25,500 per square mile. We project that there will be an increase in Ontario's population of approximately four million by 2001, requiring for housing a grand total area of about 155 square miles. Some might argue that an average density of 40 persons per acre is unrealistically high. However, even if this density were to be cut in half, to 20 persons per gross acre, this still only requires a grand total of about 310 square miles for housing.

Applying the accepted requirements of the additional industry, roads and other demands on land that will result from this population increase, the best estimate is that the land requirement for the projected increase in population in Ontario to 2001 will be between 400 and 580 square miles.

In this province, the total of class I, II and III farm land is 25,500 square miles. If we include all soil that has a capability for

agriculture, the total is nearly 83,000 square miles.

Mr. Lewis: As specious a piece of writing as I've ever encountered.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We all regret that any land has to be diverted from food production, but homes and industries must locate, and some 400 or 500 square miles out of the total production acreage in Ontario is well short of destroying our food-producing capability. Even that assumes that all land used for essentially urban purposes will be suitable for agriculture and so overstates the loss of farm land.

Mr. Wildman: Are you going to force developers and industries to build on low-quality land?

Mr. Lewis: This is the most ridiculous statement you've made in some time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. I think fewer interjections would be better at this time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue.

An hon. member: Mathematically, it's very simple.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In order to assure that misinformation is corrected, and to reassure the people of Ontario of the future prospects of food production in the province, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is continuing to examine the whole question of present and prospective use of productive land, as well as related questions, and will be making periodic reports and recommendations. A progress report by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is included in the material I have tabled today.

Mr. Lewis: By Hedlin Menzies and not by the government.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you grow up and find out?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Recreational land is also important, because recreation and leisure account for an important part of the time of the people of the province, as well as our physical and mental health. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism is preparing plans and programmes dealing with the natural and recreational resources of the province.

The Ontario government has done a good job of providing public open space and we want to remove impediments, real or imagined, to the further development of private open space. There are literally thousands of locations suitable for cottages, for chalets, and for weekend retreats from city living. The government will encourage private and commercial developments, except where they might damage the environment or impinge on agricultural land.

There is and will continue to be a place for private and commercial recreational use and development, even in such locations as the Niagara Escarpment. It will be the objective of the government to maintain a balance between public and private involvement in, and use of, our provincial recreational resources.

Constrained only by what is possible and what will not contradict the choices and preferences of citizens, we shall attempt to gradually shift some population growth away from our major cities. The fact that the province's urban system is strongly focused on Toronto tends to encourage further concentration in the Toronto area and so perpetuate economic inequalities and disparities in the delivery of services.

Within central Ontario, the Toronto-centred region policy is reaffirmed but alternative ways of deflecting a certain amount of growth from the Toronto area will continue to be examined. However, we must of necessity have a concern as to how rapidly such change will be accepted or can be adapted to by our people, our business enterprises and government.

Growth will be encouraged in other areas. In three regions, subject to further examination and further discussion with local governments, London and Thunder Bay and the two eastern Ontario cities of Ottawa and Kingston may be encouraged to develop as regional centres. In northeastern Ontario there are now four main centres—Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Because of the economic and geographic circumstances of the region, a single regional centre may not be appropriate and, though Sudbury may come to assume a regional city role, it is too early to make a commitment to this as a policy.

The designation of places or areas for special forms of assistance does not imply an effort to restrain development elsewhere through the reduction of normal provincial programmes. It will, however, continue to be the policy of the government to employ its

programmes of housing, industrial development and transportation to support its urban and demographic policies and preferences.

The location of government offices can play a role in fostering or retarding urban expansion. The government is on record that no further major expansion will be permitted in the Queen's Park area. The move by the Ministry of Correctional Services to Scarborough is a direct consequence of this commitment.

Mr. Foulds: That is what decentralization means?

Mr. Cassidy: They jump for joy in eastern Ontario when you do that.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: To take this a step further, the Premier (Mr. Davis) has asked the Management Board of Cabinet for a report on the feasibility of moving offices outside of Metro Toronto entirely and, perhaps, for a start, to the Oshawa/Whitby area.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, Whitby, Mississauga.

Mr. Nixon: Are you going to move Agriculture from Bloor St.?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: A number of new principles, some of which are not specific to demographic planning will, none the less, have some impact on the location of people. These principles include basing economic growth on local resources and local potentials; the use of policy/programme packages devised specifically for each resource/environment area; the preferred-use system; the matching of agricultural support programmes to the preservation of agricultural land; the evolution of a pragmatic system of regional cities; the redirection of urban growth where and when we can, and the use of major provincial—

Mr. Lewis: Where and when you can!

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —programmes to achieve urban and economic development and demographic objectives.

Mr. Lewis: This is fatuous malarkey.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Guidelines and objectives must be matched by a process that makes things happen.

The government is already moving in a number of ways.

Mr. Lewis: Why are you reading this; you, an intelligent man?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: An important aspect of the Toronto-Centred Region, for example, involves the stimulation of growth to the east of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Good: It hasn't happened.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: As discussed in the Durham Subregion Strategy report, the government will assist the regional municipality of Durham to service 2,300 acres of industrial land and 6,400 acres of residential land by 1986, while still not restricting the access of the rest of the region to improve services and opportunities.

Among other programmes, the government will encourage the development and growth of economic activities suitable for expansion in the Oshawa area. This will include the diversification of transportation-related industry; the development of other kinds of manufacturing; and the stimulation of service activities, including finance, insurance, real estate, business services and public administration.

In the eastern part of the parkway belt, planning is proceeding in co-operation with the region of Durham. Hearings will begin on May 2 on the draft plan for the western portion of the parkway belt. Total land acquisition to the end of this fiscal year, for all purposes in the parkway belt, will cost about \$100 million.

The government has announced its intention of proceeding with the development of the new town of North Pickering. It is estimated that by the end of the century the population will be some 70,000 to 90,000 people.

Mr. Lewis: I should hope so. You have spent \$200 million—\$201 million, as a matter of fact.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We are determined to proceed, especially with the new housing components of North Pickering. We will use all available resources. One of the options that is being discussed is an expanded role for the private sector.

The expansion of growth to the east of Metro is expected to reduce growth pressures to the north. Further, as I mentioned earlier, estimates of the rate of increase in population in Ontario are down, and other second-tier urban developments contemplated in the TCR may not be necessary until well into the next century.

The population of the southern part of the York region, that which is serviced by the central York servicing scheme, will probably not exceed the capacity of that system in this century. That would imply a total population of up to 450,000. It is estimated that in the

rest of the York region the population will grow to about 100,000.
[2:45]

Another important objective of the TCR is to ease the pressure in the Toronto area through encouraging development beyond commuting range in Simcoe and Northumberland counties. In this context I have tabled today the reports prepared by two task forces that grew out of the TCR—groups made up of politicians and technical people from the municipalities concerned. The government accepts in principle the findings of both reports and will undertake a number of the recommended measures.

Northumberland county will be included in eastern Ontario for the purpose of the Ontario business incentives and industrial parks programmes. A doubling of the population is possible. The population of Simcoe county is expected to grow to 500,000 from the present 190,000, primarily in the principal urban areas of Barrie, Orillia, Midland and Collingwood. We hope that in both counties, county planning will play a role. The population increase will be tied to the creation of employment opportunities.

Mr. Nixon: That is not what the Toronto-centred region plan said.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In Haldimand-Norfolk a provincial-municipal task force will shortly complete a planning strategy, designed to guide the growth in the region that will result from large-scale industrial development. Planning for the new town of Townsend has started, although the timing of developments may influence the rate of progress.

The preparation of a plan for the Niagara Escarpment is proceeding under the direction of the Escarpment Commission. Responsibility for this commission is being transferred from the Treasurer to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, since this is an area where the co-ordination of the activities of several ministries is necessary on a continuing basis.

Mr. Cassidy: That is a licence to blunder.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, he is back in trouble again. The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) shouldn't let him deal this on to him.

Mr. S. Smith: There goes one retirement.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I previously referred to the need for a periodic review and assessment of the Toronto-centred region. In the review of the TCR we shall broaden the area of inquiry to include neighbouring areas

that are part of central Ontario, including Niagara, Waterloo, Peterborough and Victoria. The government is well aware of the continuing need for constantly improved co-ordination of planning at the provincial, Metro and regional and local levels in the Toronto-centred region. This, however may be significantly influenced by the report of the Robarts commission. Formal action will await the delivery of that commission's report.

The preparation of a draft planning strategy for northeastern Ontario is now complete and is being released today for public discussion and input, and for review by the northeastern Ontario Municipal Advisory Committee. Key recommendations relate to the resource base of the region. The report advocates stimulation of economic growth with initial priority given to the four main urban centres of the northeast. It advocates improvements in social services and amenities and some decentralization and expanded local participation in decision-making.

A provincial strategy was developed for northwestern Ontario five years ago and it, like TCR, is under review. The report growing from this review and recommendations for any necessary changes in strategy will be released before mid-summer.

A strategy for eastern Ontario is partly developed and work is continuing. This report will be completed and available for comment before the end of the year.

Mr. Laughren: It should recommend a new Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Ontario government undertook the preparation of a development strategy for Renfrew county prior to the completion of the eastern Ontario regional strategy. The proposals for Renfrew county are consistent with the regional approach that is now being developed. These proposals include the designation of the city of Pembroke—

Mr. Cassidy: Which we have been waiting for for six years.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —as the major growth point in the county and the establishment of an industrial park in the area, as well as developments at Renfrew and Arnprior. The government will encourage the development of industries for the processing of forest products and magnesium as well as metal processing and fabricating industries. We will seek an agreement with the federal government jointly to pursue these and other objectives. This will include long-term resource development and the creation of a major historical

tourist attraction based on the history of the lumber and forest industries.

A great deal of progress has been made and is being made in the direction of the achievement of the planning objectives of government.

Mr. Roy: Are you going to call it Maple Mountain?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Design for Development, 1972, announced a number of organizational changes in the regional development programme, including the consolidation of the previous 10 economic regions into five provincial planning regions. The Planning Act is being reviewed. The Niagara Escarpment Commission has been established and is preparing a comprehensive plan for the escarpment.

The adoption of the Toronto-centred region concept as the policy of the government was followed by a number of major actions. They included the proposal of the new town of North Pickering, the publication of the parkway belt west plan, the studies and reports of the two task forces set up to report on the Simcoe-Georgian and Northumberland regions.

The central Ontario lakeshore urban complex task force, made up of provincial civil servants and planners from the six regional municipalities in the inner part of the Toronto-centred region, has recommended further measures.

In Haldimand-Norfolk we are, with the county, proceeding with development planning. The Townsend site has been purchased. We have accumulated land at Cayuga which, though it may not be needed in the immediate future, is an important asset that will contribute to the orderly development of the region.

Mr. Roy: That's not what Henderson said.

Mr. Nixon: Your predecessor just had \$20 million lying around.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We have accumulated an important parcel of land at Edwardsburgh, near Brockville. This site is suitable for major industry; industrial location in this area will, concurrently, strengthen the economy of eastern Ontario and reduce the potential pressures on the more densely populated urban areas in the province.

Mr. Cassidy: That's not what they think up in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: You should be embarrassed.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Large-scale planning is also being undertaken by the various ministries of the government. I won't do more than give a few examples. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, for example, is moving towards all-mode transportation systems planning—

Mr. Nixon: Except floating on air.

Mr. Lewis: Say that again. Let that roll off your tongue again.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Ministry of Natural Resources is preparing a strategic land-use plan. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism, with other ministries, is carrying out its comprehensive tourism and outdoor recreational planning study.

Mr. Roy: Is Krauss-Maffei in there some place?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: A food lands planning group has been established within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; and the Ministry of the Environment is engaged in river basin planning.

Mr. Roy: Is there room for Krauss-Maffei over there?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The fact that ministries are grouped into policy fields facilitates the co-ordination of their planning and programmes. This is important because, if progress is to continue, there must be co-ordination of objectives and programmes in all ministries and at all levels of government—including the municipalities and the federal government—in relation to ultimate policy goals.

It must, however, be made quite clear that the prime responsibility for development strategies rests at the provincial and municipal levels of government. But the planning will prove irrelevant if it is simply a government exercise.

Mr. Roy: You have a lot of experience in that.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It must reflect the choices and preferences of the people. There must be planning at the provincial and at the municipal level and co-operative planning between the province and the municipalities. The planning continuum must extend from the municipalities, through the provincial government and include the government of Canada.

The municipalities and the province must initiate plans. All ministries of the govern-

ment plan within their own areas and, where these plans involve broad interests, the policy field committees of cabinet play a vital role in the co-ordination of related undertakings. Of none is this more true than the resource development policy field.

This co-ordination is absolutely necessary. Good planning is not a luxury. It is central to the achievement of the best use of limited resources.

Effective planning is inextricably involved in the proper management of the affairs of the public on behalf of the public. It is regarded by the government as a central responsibility, fundamental to the protection and improvement of the quality of life that we in Ontario have come to take for granted.

Mr. Nixon: You should have tabled that statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations would like to speak.

ACTION AGAINST VIC TANNY

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I rise to advise the House that extensive investigation by my ministry has resulted today in a proposal for a cease-and-desist order against all Vic Tanny health clubs in Ontario and their directors. The order states that false, misleading and deceptive consumer representations, including misleading advertising, the "bait-and-switch" technique and high-pressure sales tactics, were used to persuade consumers to sign long-term contracts.

Mr. Nixon: Going to send back their donation, Bill?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The order becomes effective in 15 days unless Vic Tanny either appeals to the Commercial Registration Appeals Tribunal or signs an assurance of voluntary compliance. My ministry usually insists that if a company complies voluntarily, it must ensure that complaints are taken care of to the satisfaction of consumers involved.

Vic Tanny advertisements had offered "summer special, \$5, one month, mini-memberships" for a limited time. Only 100 members were to be enrolled under this offer at each location. Our order specifies that this was only bait to attract new members who were then switched to longer contracts. This bait-and-switch technique was very well defined by the US Federal Trade Commission, which had the following to say, and I quote:

"Bait advertising is an alluring but insincere offer to sell a product or service which the advertiser in truth does not intend or want to sell."

Mr. S. Smith: Sounds like your last campaign.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We have here a classic case to fit that definition.

In addition, the Vic Tanny ad was misleading because the so-called limited time offer had no specific time limit and more than 100 members were signed up at various locations.

Further, the ads led consumers in Toronto to believe that squash courts were available in some locations when, in fact, the nearest club offering squash facilities is in London, Ont., more than 100 miles away.

An hon. member: How about tennis courts?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The order also states that the health clubs increased and decreased prices charged for various membership plans without full disclosure to consumers. Conviction under the Act can result in fines of up to \$25,000 for a company. A director may be fined up to \$2,000, imprisoned for one year, or both.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to creating and maintaining an equitable balance in the marketplace between business and consumer interests. We believe it's actions such as this which will enable us to achieve our goals.

Mr. Lewis: You will have to switch to your local "Y".

ROADS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Ministry of Transportation and Communications roads construction programme for 1976-1977.

This fiscal year, we are planning to spend an estimated \$205.6 million on road construction. This figure includes new work on a total of 659 miles of the provincial highway system, with most of it on two-lane highways.

Mr. Lewis: Between Milton and Peel.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Construction work will, as in the past, be equitably distributed throughout the province.

Mr. Reid: Oh, come on, how can you say that with a straight face?

Mr. Nixon: They are going to pave Highway 10 again for the summer.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Though our total roads budget is down this year—in keeping with the Ontario government's policy of fiscal constraint—my ministry has no intention of allowing Ontario's excellent road system to deteriorate.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please, order. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Thus, while our main emphasis, Mr. Speaker, will be on the maintenance of our highway system at its current high standard, we shall also give priority to the most urgent capital construction projects on a needs basis.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Philip: I rise on a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker.

In consideration of the remarks made by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) concerning safety in the gallery, and in consideration of the fact that there are residents of the riding of Etobicoke in the public gallery today, can you bring us up to date on the investigation of safety conditions in the gallery?

Mr. Reid: That was opportunistic.

An hon. member: That's grandstanding.

Mr. Speaker: I just wish to report we are keeping a very close eye on it, but the report is not quite ready yet. It's quite an extensive report and you will see what it is about shortly.

Mr. Ruston: It will probably be expensive too.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food if I may, Mr. Speaker: How does the minister reconcile this strategy for Ontario farmland tabled today—the re-write of the Hedlin Menzies document at \$250 a page—with the document which came from within his own ministry indicating that agricultural land was going out of production so quickly it could no longer be kept track of, and the absence of a policy to deal with it?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the document that was tabled today is the final document. Members did not see the final document the other day. There are 10 points on agricultural—

Mr. Mackenzie: You'll have to rewrite it today.

Hon. W. Newman: —use in the Province of Ontario in the strategy that we have planned. We have outlined it there.

Mr. MacDonald: Answer the question.

Hon. W. Newman: I am going to answer the question, but I want to make sure that the members understand it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

[3:00]

Hon. W. Newman: Today, Mr. Speaker, some controversy has arisen over the wording in the most recent ARDA report released by my ministry last October, and the contentious words were, I believe: "Land is being converted from agricultural land to other uses so quickly that keeping an accurate figure of the land in agriculture is an almost impossible task." As far as I am concerned, this wording is misleading because it implies that land being converted from agriculture to other uses is irreversible, and this is not true.

Mr. Cassidy: This is new land, yes.

Hon. W. Newman: No. The fact is that most of the land not now in active farm production can be returned to food land when it is economically viable. Also in this report, if members have read it—

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. Wildman: Are you going to cut down all the poplar bush?

Hon. W. Newman: —it classifies 53 million acres of Ontario land according to its capability for agricultural use. Not all of this is available because it is in other uses now, but it outlines 53 million acres. Indeed, earlier today on radio, one of the authors of the ARDA report, Professor Doug Hoffman of the University of Guelph said that the famous 26-acres-per-hour figure is misleading.

Mr. Bain: Is that after or before?

Hon. W. Newman: The professor himself agreed with my earlier statement that since

1971 farm land has gone back into production at the rate of seven acres per hour.

Mr. MacDonald: It is only six.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Hoffman also said that the province needs a long-term strategy to preserve agricultural land, and I heard him.

Mr. Renwick: Don't shout at us, talk quietly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: Well, members opposite could keep their voices down too sometimes.

The government proposal is for policies which, taken together, will preserve foodland for food production in the future. I see no contravention in the policy that we have tabled today and I have explained that. Even the fellow who made the statement agrees with me.

Mr. Lewis: It all depends whether the minister was listening or not. May I ask a supplementary? Does he also agree with Dr. Hoffman's assertion that nothing the government has done, by way of what it has tabled today or by past policy, indicates any legislative action to preserve the agricultural land which continues to go out of production?

Hon. W. Newman: We have the Planning Act. Every official plan and every zoning bylaw has to come before the Ministry of Housing, and we do comment on that. As I said before concerning the food lands development branch, on the Niagara region to date—

Mr. Lewis: Niagara region?

Hon. W. Newman: —we have had a lot of discussions with the region regarding the preservation of that special land; we have had excellent co-operation with them in preserving this land in the official plan.

Mr. Swart: Now 80 per cent of all Niagara development is taking place on the prime land.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: There continues to be substantial confusion as to what is meant by the land that is going out of production. The minister has indicated much of it can be returned, although experts question this.

Mr. Kennedy: Not necessarily so.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, yes, experts in the ministry and at the University of Guelph have questioned it. They say if it is subdivided into 10-acre lots it will never be able to return to

production, and the minister is aware of that. I believe he subdivided land like that himself. Would the minister not agree? And in response to the Premier's (Mr. Davis) comment perhaps he should give some consideration, since the Premier said he is expecting a constructive discussion on this difficult problem from all sides of the Legislature that we should have a select committee of the Legislature review the matter over the summer months so that we can go out into the areas which are more directly concerned and get submissions from those people who seem to be opposing each other in their views at the present time? Why would this not be a constructive way to come to at least a consensus in this important matter?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question, first and foremost, I would like you to know that I am a farmer.

Mr. Peterson: You are a farmer, out, standing in your field.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: And do you know something, Mr. Speaker? I am very proud of it too. Certainly I would just like to make it very clear to the former leader of the official opposition that I am not a subdivider. I have never subdivided.

Mr. Nixon: No, you sold your farm.

Hon. W. Newman: Well, I sold a farm; so I sold a farm one time. What's wrong with that? Is there something wrong with that?

Mr. Nixon: Nothing is the matter with that but it is an indication of the problems that all farmers face.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: In these circumstances they can't make any money.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: There have been so many interjections, does the hon. minister remember the question he has to answer?

Hon. W. Newman: We outlined our programme today on a strategy for preserving agricultural land. Because of all the interjections from the hon. members opposite, if the member has a further question I would be glad to try to answer it because I lost him part-way through.

Mr. Speaker: A brief question, please.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of clarification, if you'll permit, the crux of the

question is, with all those things being considered and with at least a partial government position before us, why could we not have a select committee of the House—perhaps using that orange book, which we haven't had a chance to look at yet, as a basis of our review—sit during the summer months so that we can come to some conclusion on this matter?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Why don't you have a look at it first? Just read it.

Mr. Nixon: Well I'll tell you, since the Treasurer is interjecting—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked.

Mr. Nixon: —he says the loss of the 580 square miles is not significant and we say it is.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. Order, please.

We're wasting valuable time here from a proper question period. Does the hon. minister have a brief answer to that supplementary?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I'll be glad to answer the question. We happen to believe in the democratic process on this side of the House—

Mr. Nixon: And that means you are in the minority, that more people are against you than for you.

Hon. W. Newman: —and I would refer to the Lambton-Sarnia task force which looked at the agricultural needs as well as the residential needs in that area.

Mr. Nixon: Oh yes, let the bureaucrats do it, that's democracy.

Hon. W. Newman: If the member has been at those meetings last week, when they had some very full discussions on how they were going to preserve the agricultural land and put the residential land where it should go, he would know that the municipal people who are involved, as well as the government people who were involved, are very sincerely trying to do a good job there and are doing an excellent job.

Mr. Nixon: So are we all.

Hon. W. Newman: Are you for central control at the provincial level?

Mr. Nixon: No, we are not.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: You are going to let them go at that?

Mr. MacDonald: In the minister's rationalization of the reverse trend from the loss of 26 acres, what explanation has the minister got that in the Roger Schwass draft 1 he said that agricultural land was coming back at the rate of 7.8 acres an hour, but in the minister's revision of it it's now 6.6? The minister has lost 1.2 acres in two weeks.

An hon. member: That's pretty bad.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are becoming paranoid over there.

Mr. MacDonald: Are the minister's figures as shifting as that?

Mr. Nixon: Oh, yes.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that that question was asked. As I said before, I and my staff did the final draft and we made sure we had the correct figures. That's what you've got today.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Tell them you're willing to accept either figure.

Mr. Lewis: And the minister and his staff worked all night.

Mr. MacDonald: If you work on it for another couple of weeks do you suppose it would get down to zero?

Hon. W. Newman: Don't be silly now. Ask a sensible question.

Mr. Lewis: Bill, you're doing well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period is rapidly degenerating again; let's just keep it orderly. The hon. member for Wel-land has been trying to ask a supplementary; we'll allow it.

Mr. Swart: In view of the comments about the preservation of the agricultural land in the Niagara Peninsula, I'd like to ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food whether he is aware of the fact that the percentage rate of growth on the prime agricultural land, particularly the fruit land in the Niagara Peninsula, has increased from something like 45 per cent to over 80 per cent in the last five years. Is he aware of that? Secondly, can he name one instance in which development—either residential or the extension of sewer or water—has been stopped because it was extending into good agricultural land; just one instance?

Mr. Lewis: Give us something concrete.

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be only too glad to. We've had negotiations with the regional municipality of Niagara; again, we believe in the democratic process. They have pulled in their boundaries to preserve agricultural lands, and that was as a result of a joint effort in which our food lands development branch worked with that regional municipality. We have excellent co-operation with them and they have drawn in their boundaries.

Interjections.

MONEY FOR INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. Lewis: A further question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Since last year's Throne Speech and this year's Throne Speech and the document he tabled today all guarantee the early emergence of a food income stabilization plan for Ontario, where is the money in the budget that was tabled by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) Tuesday night?

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary estimates, eh, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, that matter will be dealt with when the estimates for the resources policy field are tabled.

Mr. Cassidy: Where is it?

Mr. Lewis: Just a second, by way of supplementary: Is it true to say there is certainly no money that could possibly fund even the first year of a farm income stabilization plan? Is it true to say that is nowhere evident in any of the budget figures?

Mr. Shore: They'll be in the supplementary budget.

Mr. Lewis: How come the government makes those promises and then repudiates them less than one month later?

Hon. W. Newman: You know, this gets a little bit ridiculous; I wish the hon. Leader of the Opposition would take a course at Guelph and find out about some of these things. We have Bill C-50, which is a federal bill that stabilizes eight commodities.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Hon. W. Newman: Just a minute. I'm saying I was promised that by March 31 of this year we would have the basic prices for those

commodities. We had to work on our budget without knowing exactly what was going to happen there, because we didn't have those figures—and we still don't have them.

Mr. Reid: Somebody else's fault again.

Hon. W. Newman: As far as the final stabilization is concerned, I would like to assure this House that when the stabilization bill is introduced, and as the programmes move forward, the funds will be available for stabilization in this province.

Mr. Reid: Where are they going to come from?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a matter of clarification, can the minister assure us that this is not going to be a promise like the promise that appeared in the previous Speech from the Throne on this very matter; and if it does come in, are we to assume that it will be financed, not from some estimate but in fact from a supplementary budget, and that it gives the Treasurer the opportunity to talk about the retrenchment and the reduction of costs when we know full well that if we do have a programme—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Don't debate it. The question has been asked.

Mr. Nixon: —we're going to be committed—

Mr. Lewis: It's \$100 million minimum.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, neither one of the hon. members has much faith in the agricultural industry. That's all I've got to say here.

Mr. Reid: We don't have any faith in the ministry.

Mr. Nixon: I'll tell you: It's not the farmers fault, it's yours. You are not backing it up with a dollar. It's just words.

Hon. W. Newman: Just a minute, if you want to talk about the stabilization bill, the stabilization bill will be coming into this House—

Mr. Roy: We have no faith in you.

Mr. Lewis: It's so much nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: The hon. members opposite don't have any faith that prices of agricultural products are going to be lowered.

Mr. Reid: Where's the money going to come from?

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if they want to hear it, that's fine; I'm prepared to answer the question. If they don't want to, that's fine by me too.

Mr. Reid: We just want to know where the money is coming from.

Hon. W. Newman: The stabilization bill will be coming in—

Mr. Riddell: When?

Hon. W. Newman: I said it would be coming in very shortly; that's what I said.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: The hon. members opposite don't even want to listen.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are too many interjections. If we're going to have as many as this, there will not be time for new questions or supplementaries either. Now, let's get back to an orderly question-and-answer period.

Mr. Shore: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Not just for a moment, thank you. The member for York South has a supplementary first of all.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary to the minister: Since his parliamentary assistant, speaking to the agrologists in Stoney Creek a full 10 days ago, on March 31, gave pretty full details of the farm income stabilization programme, doesn't the minister think it is time this House might be informed both as to nature of the programme and the cost in rather explicit detail, rather than going outside the House?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this about my parliamentary assistant, he is a very capable person and does a very fine job.

Mr. S. Smith: I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker: Does that help?

Mr. Roy: With you there, he is looking better all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: As I said, Mr. Speaker, the stabilization bill will be coming in very shortly.

Mr. Cassidy: But no money.

Hon. W. Newman: Oh yes.

Mr. Speaker: The final supplementary, the member for London North.

Mr. Shore: Could I ask how this farm stabilization programme will be funded?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question was asked.

BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN HYDRO ROUTE

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Energy: How is it that the Ombudsman in Ontario engaged in a preliminary investigation of several months' duration into the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor plan before he was informed that a cabinet minute dated May 29, 1974, precluded him from the inquiry which had accumulated many hours, indeed months, of his time?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, I think in fact a number of months ago it was indicated to the Ombudsman or to staff in his office that there was some question in the minds of the officials of my ministry as to whether his Act did in fact give him jurisdiction. Somewhere in this file, I have the chronology of the contacts between the Ombudsman's office and mine. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition would like, I can send him, later today or tomorrow, a letter indicating the chronology of the contacts on that.

[3:15]

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, the minister will recall, then, that he wrote the Ombudsman in December, 1975, saying that he was seeking a certificate from the Attorney General to indicate that his investigation was precluded under the Act, which certificate never came. The Ombudsman's right was reversed on April 5, by a reference to a cabinet minute of May 29, 1974, about which no one in this Legislature or the citizens' committee or the Ombudsman knew anything.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that last part is absolutely not true.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Absolutely not true. The hon. member will know that on July 11, 1974, my colleague—

Mr. Lewis: You announced your decision.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —the former Minister of Energy (Mr. McKeough), did announce the government's decision—

Mr. Lewis: But didn't tell anybody about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —which embraced the decision taken by the cabinet of Ontario on May 29, 1974.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't have your environmental study.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The environmental study—again, if the member will look at the statement of July 11, 1974, the now Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) indicated that study was, in fact, under way.

Mr. Lewis: It wasn't completed.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member is quite correct in saying that it wasn't completed.

It was delivered to the ministry in December, 1974, and released in January, 1975. The primary concern at the time, as the member will recall, was the portion of the route between section 33 and 95, as expressed, I think, by one or two of the members and certainly by the former member for York Centre. That was the primary concern. In fact, looking over Hansard for the last two years I would suggest it was the only concern ever expressed.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister prepare a full chronology of all of these events and table it, since it appears very clearly that the cabinet decision dated May 29, 1974, which precluded the Ombudsman's investigation was taken before the intensive investigations undertaken by Mr. Caverly and others? It would appear that while the cabinet had made up its mind on this matter, they were allowing other interested citizens to think that the matter was not decided, and the government undertook expensive and lengthy investigations after the decisive fact had been achieved.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, let me just give the hon. member and the House some of the more important dates.

Mr. Nixon: We would like all of them tabled.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Well, fine. I'll be glad to. Let me just say this, that in fact the decision was taken in 1969, the members will recall, to build the Bruce A generating sta-

tion. In early 1972 the cabinet of the day decided that the terminus of the line from that station would be in the Georgetown-Milton area and that was announced at the time.

Mr. Peterson: How old were you then?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: In 1974 we got into the Solandt commission on the Nanticoke to Pickering—I'm sorry, that should be 1973 and 1974—and in 1974 he recommended there be no further consideration of a Bruce to Essa corridor. He gave extensive time to individuals who made representations for such a study and he specifically recommended against such a further study.

On May 2, before the decision was taken by cabinet, representatives of the interested citizens' group in that part of Ontario met with ministers of the cabinet committee on resources development to put yet again their view that there should be a further study of a Bruce to Essa corridor, notwithstanding the recommendation of commissioner Solandt. It was not until May 29, almost four weeks later, that the decision was taken by the government and announced by my colleague, the then Minister of Energy (Mr. McKeough), on July 11 of that same year.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his questions please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In view of the fact that 20 minutes has been taken with the first set of leadoff questions with their supplementaries, I think we should get on to new questions. If there is time, the hon. members may come back to it.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is leading off the questions for his party.

INCREASE IN OHIP PREMIUMS

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I put a question to the Treasurer having to do with the decision to increase the OHIP fees. He is aware of the large proportion of municipal employees who have 100 per cent of their OHIP charges paid by their employers, a large percentage of hospital employees have 100 per cent of their hospitalization paid; has he calculated the impact of this decision on the already burdened municipal and hospital board budgets?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Not specifically, Mr. Speaker, but we will do so.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Since the matter appears to be justified in the Treasurer's statement that in fact somebody else is going to pay this for the individuals, and it turns out that the municipal councils and the hospital boards are going to be paying it, is this not simply another indication of the government's readiness to shift the responsibility for its own budgetary requirements to municipal boards and other boards?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: If I followed that question correctly, the answer is no.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Is it not true that in the case of private corporations at least a portion of the cost attributable to premiums paid by the employer is tax deductible from corporate tax, so therefore they don't have to carry the full burden of this additional cost; while in the case of municipalities and school boards the government has already reduced the amounts of money this year over and against last year, at least the rate of increase, and they're going to have to transfer that additional cost, every cent of it to the municipal taxpayer, because they don't benefit in the same way as private corporations?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, as a quick estimate, I think the member is talking about something which would probably be less than half of one per cent of payroll.

Mr. Deans: What difference does that make?

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: So that he need not guess, is the Treasurer aware of the fact that the calculations in Metropolitan Toronto alone for this particular item of his will cost approximately an additional \$80,000? Is he prepared to make any form of assistance available to the Metropolitan Toronto people so they don't have to suffer that additional burden after he has already limited them?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Perhaps the leader of the third party would like to put on the record the total budget of Metropolitan Toronto, and put these things in perspective.

Mr. Deans: What difference does that make?

Mr. S. Smith: What is half a million? Famous statement.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, is the Treasurer aware—probably he isn't—what consternation he has caused at the Anti-Inflation Board by the arbitrary increase in OHIP premiums, which in many instances of contracts already rolled back, represents more than one per cent, or indeed the equivalent of the rollback? And what is he going to do now in discussions with the board about employers or employees who may be in violation of that contract as a result of this arbitrary imposition?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I would find it hard to believe it is going to amount to more than one per cent.

Mr. Lewis: The contract is rolled back by one per cent.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: Is the Treasurer aware of the fact that one small university in this province—namely Brock, at St. Catharines—had completed its budget and has just now calculated that this additional cost will add \$50,000 that it doesn't have? That's just one small university.

Mr. Reid: That is a small amount.

Mr. S. Smith: "Look at their total budget," he is going to tell you.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the budget of the—

Mr. Ruston: Going to get it back on income taxes.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am aware that the budget of colleges and universities in this province, with two exceptions, increased more than any other sector of total government expenditures.

Mr. S. Smith: And municipalities decreased.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

SUPPORT GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Nixon: A final question of the Treasurer: I wonder if he can explain to the House why in his budget he revoked the financial commitment to municipalities that the general support grant would under no circumstances be less than 95 per cent of the payments made in the year previous?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, we announced that a year ago.

Mr. Nixon: It was a year ago that he announced they would not allow the grant to fall below 95 per cent, and in the statement that he made—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: For one year, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: —last night he specifically revoked it; on page 14.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No.

Mr. Nixon: Oh well, I'll read it to him. It says, "The 95 per cent guarantee applicable is terminated." I would ask the minister a supplementary: How many municipalities are going to find that general grant is less than 95 per cent of what was payable a year ago?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, we made that announcement one year ago. It was announced in the budget one year ago.

Mr. Nixon: All right, here it is in the statement last night.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Yes, we are confirming again that it's terminated. But if the member looks in the budget a year ago, if he can read it, he'll find it was said a year ago.

Mr. S. Smith: No longer operable.

Mr. Nixon: How many townships are going to get less than 95 per cent?

Interjections.

RENT INCREASES

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) asked a question on April 6 concerning the Ontario Housing tenants in Hamilton being asked to sign leases three months in advance of the commencement of the lease and also that rents were being indicated in the lease for an amount in excess of an eight per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, I believe there has been a misunderstanding between the persons gathering information and the person providing it.

Leases are being renewed; tenants are not being asked to sign new leases. An important aspect of the renewal process is the verification of income, as most of our units are leased on the rent-g geared-to-income basis. Under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act, the landlord—in this case the Hamilton housing authority—is required to provide the tenant with 90 days' notice of any rent increase. That increase does not come into

effect, however, until the anniversary date of the lease.

With respect to increases in excess of eight per cent over the base rent, where our units are leased on the rent-geared-to-income basis, it may be that a tenant's increase in income over the year would entitle us to collect an amount in excess of eight per cent. When this is the case, the tenant is provided with a letter of intent, which states that an application will be made to the local rent review officer for the full amount, but that in the interim the rent increase will be limited to eight per cent.

Pending distribution in the near future of a revised lease form, applicants for assisted housing are asked to sign an offer of accommodation form, which states the rent within the limits of the rent review legislation. If it is the housing authority's intention to apply for a higher rental in keeping with the applicant's income this amount is also stated, so the applicant is kept fully informed of his or her position before making the decision on whether to rent the premises offered.

DRUG BENEFIT PLAN

Mr. Ziembra: I have a question for the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker; it's to do with the Ontario Drug Benefits Plan. In view of the estimated expenditures in excess of \$57 million for the coming year, half of which is made up of dispensing fees, could the acting minister tell us when she is prepared to renegotiate the Drug Benefits Plan with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association with a view to saving on the cost of these dispensing fees by cancelling the present 30-day supply period?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you when the next group of negotiation discussions will begin with the OPA, but certainly that matter will be considered at that time.

Mr. Reid: Is the minister concerned about the study that was done at McMaster and also by the Drug Addiction Foundation about the increase both in medically prescribed drugs and non-prescription drugs in the Province of Ontario? Is she aware of those studies and is she concerned about the large increase in the amounts of drugs used by the population?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has read any of the small articles which I have written over the last five years, he will find—

Mr. Peterson: Don't expect that of anybody, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —that in fact my concern about this began almost a decade ago and has in fact been publicized.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: What are they doing about it within the Ministry of Health?

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is a complicated problem of which we are acutely aware and we are attempting to find some resolution for this problem. Unfortunately, it has to do with the concepts of many of our citizens that **there is a pill for every ill**, and that any discomfort of any kind can be treated with some kind of medication.

Mr. Shore: What have they got for politics?

Hon. B. Stephenson: This requires a very large and broadly based education project—

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —which the ministry has begun; but it's certainly not broad enough as yet.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: But what about the doctor-prescribed drugs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware of the fact that druggists, by limiting the amount of pills they provide a patient, will gain more in terms of remuneration by refilling the same application over many more times? If the minister is aware of this practice, what does she intend to do to eliminate this method of ripping off the Ontario taxpayer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, this practice is in some areas widespread. The ministry is aware of it. There are some solutions which can be found, but there is not **one single solution** which will provide answers to all of the problems involved. We are looking at it.

[3:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should get on to the questions. There are many more people with questions. The member for Halton-Burlington, please.

BRADLEY-GEORGETOWN
HYDRO ROUTE

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Yakabuski: That is not a new question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Really got you, eh?

Mr. Reed: On May 29, 1974, when the decision was made which affected the Ombudsman's participation in the Bradley-Georgetown corridor, was Hydro's environmental report available and, if not, on what basis was that cabinet decision made?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Finally heard about it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have indicated on a number of occasions to people in the area affected and recently, since the hon. member started to ask about this, in the last 10 days to him that the decision was taken a number of years ago—in fact, it was over four years ago—

An hon. member: In other words—

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —that the terminus of the line to bring power out of Bruce would be in the general Georgetown-Milton area, for reasons of system security—reasons which are well known to him.

The member will know, as I indicated earlier, that the environmental reports prepared by Hydro on the Bradley to Georgetown corridor were completed and delivered to the ministry in December, 1974, and released to the public on Jan. 6, 1975. He will also know that in March, 1975, when the interested citizens' group visited me in my office—on March 25, I believe it was—I ordered Hydro to cease all work on the line until I had considered their request. The member will know, of course, that my response to the request was to order the Environmental Hearing Board to investigate the portion between Points 33 and 95, that is between Colbeck and Limehouse.

I notice—I have a copy of an advertisement of the hon. member from the last election—and he was prepared to stop it altogether. I put to him again the question which I put to him in the letter which I sent him several days ago: is he prepared to make all power consumers of the Province of Ontario pay the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars that will be involved in such a delay?

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered this question. I asked him on what basis the 1974 decision was made?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I did, in fact, answer the question and if he will pay attention I will tell him again. The decision was taken—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you might read it in Hansard, thank you.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That the—

Mr. Roy: Don't repeat it, you dummy—my God!

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Albert, be nice.

Mr. Roy: Smart ass.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Watch your language.

Mr. Roy: Send him back to school and learn some manners.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the minister take his seat? If it's the same question it was answered. I will have a supplementary—

Mr. Roy: Show a bit of modesty.

Mr. Ruston: Send him back to grade school.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order, the hon. member for Ottawa East. Order.

Mr. Lewis: Can I not ask a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry. I want to ask, relating back to the content of the question, what is he going to do as a minister, as a cabinet, to repair the obviously strained relationship with the Ombudsman as reflected in the letter which he sent the minister as a result of this preclusion?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: The Ombudsman was contained in the action.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that's an observation, I suppose, which the hon. member is certainly entitled to make.

Mr. Shore: Tell him you have got a very good relationship.

Mr. Lewis: I think you should be responsible for that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have spent part of the morning rereading Hansard from last year with regard to the debate on the Ombudsman bill and I found it difficult to determine exactly where his party stood on that particular section.

Mr. Lewis: It was on the same issue that Jim Renwick had an exchange with John Clement.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I read 12 pages of comments from the hon. member and still couldn't understand where he stood.

Mr. Renwick: There is no difficulty; you reread it tonight.

Mr. Roy: Why don't you bring us—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Calm down, Albert.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think that the relationship between the Ombudsman and the assembly and the government is as good today as it has ever been since he was appointed.

Mr. Yakabuski: Don't destroy that image.

Mr. Roy: You appear like a nice guy, Paul, next to him.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It was a case that this was, I think, really the first occasion on which the Ombudsman had to answer for himself the question of the breadth of his jurisdiction particularly in light of section 14(b) of the Ombudsman Act.

Mr. Nixon: Is he that bad?

Mr. Roy: He is that bad.

Mr. Yakabuski: Be a good boy, Albert. You will be the leader in four years when your time is right.

Mr. Renwick: He spends most of his time writing.

Mr. Reed: Knowing that the cost of this delay, from 1974 to the present time, according to the minister's figures would be from \$25 million to \$48 million as of April 5, 1976, and that further delays would mean additional costs and that availability of full power from the three generating units would be delayed, why were the government's options not exercised at that time?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand which options the hon. member's referring to.

Mr. Ruston: Better go back to school.

Mr. Reed: By granting an independent study or telling the people that the government could not have any more public hearings.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have made it abundantly clear and my predecessor made it abundantly clear that we would not consider a corridor through Essa or to Essa from Owen Sound to Collingwood. I am sure if the member were to speak to the hon. member who usually sits in front of him, he would find out what he thought of such an idea going through his area. That has been clear all along.

ASSESSMENT OF MENTALLY ILL

Mr. G. E. Smith: I have a question for the acting Minister of Health. In light of the recent tragic incident in Orillia resulting in the death of a female resident of the Huronia Regional Centre, is the ministry taking steps to provide for continuing psychiatric care for the mentally disturbed retarded at the psychiatric hospital at Penetang?

Mr. Riddell: They sure can't send them to Goderich now.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Under the Mental Health Act of this province there is provision for transfer of a patient from centres such as the Huronia centre to the local psychiatric institution for assessment. There is also provision for retention of that individual within the psychiatric institution on the basis of the diagnosis made. I think the unfortunate thing that has happened in this instance is that the assessment did not apparently provide sufficient information to require retention of that patient at Penetang and unfortunately she was in fact returned to the Huronia centre. I think we must make some specific provision for this kind of problem and we will be looking at that in the Mental Health Act.

Mr. G. E. Smith: Supplementary: In view of the fact that this type of unfortunate incident has happened at least twice previously, would the minister assure the House that she will communicate with the staff at the psychiatric hospital at Penetang to encourage them to assess these cases a little more thoroughly so that perhaps a repetition of this type could be avoided?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I shall most certainly communicate with the staff at the Penetang hospital. There are grave difficulties with this specific type of diagnosis and perhaps we need more creditable guidelines, I think, for that sort of diagnosis.

SAFETY AND ITALIAN WORKERS

Mr. di Santo: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. It is related to the statement she made last Monday at the annual conference of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association in which, according to the press, she noted, and I quote from the Star, "Italian workers are inclined to accept those jobs with the greatest safety hazard." I would like to ask the minister whether she will tell us what is the factual evidence that leads her to believe that the Italian workers, and I quote her from the Star, "have an inherent aversion to the idea of governmental authority."

Hon. B. Stephenson: The problems which led to the development of the pilot project, about which I was speaking on Monday, were established by a steering committee and an advisory committee made up of eminent citizens and of the Italian-speaking community in Toronto and Hamilton with representation from management and union sides and from independent workers as well. It was on the basis of their assessment of the problems, as they saw them and as transmitted to us, and upon the basis of the statistical information which we have about the incidence of accidents to that specific ethnic group of workers within the construction industry that the project was developed.

Mr. di Santo: A final supplementary: If, as the minister says, the programme is not working because the workers are not using the hot line, then will the minister inform the House whether it doesn't work because the workers don't want to use the hot line or because there has been a downgrading of the confidentiality of the programme under pressure of the employers? If that is the case, would the minister consider reporting to the House whether there was any change in that sense?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in actual fact, I said the programme was working and is working extremely well; we have been surprised by the response we have been receiving from the workers, specifically on the hot line. There has been no loss of confidentiality, because there has been no pressure upon the individual answering that hot line and those who are collecting and collating the information and the material.

ACCIDENT SPOT ON QEW

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware of the

serious traffic hazard on that part of the Queen Elizabeth Way, generally referred to as Sand Plant Hill, where there have been 95 accidents over the past six years, five of them fatalities, and most recently a fatality in the first week in April? I would ask for the minister's comments on that particular area.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, would the member repeat which hill he is referring to?

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, it's referred to as the Sand Plant Hill; it's between Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

Mr. Nixon: Where the narrow railway bridge is.

Mr. Kerrio: There's a railway bridge over it. You could touch the abutments on either side of that highway through the windows of your car.

An hon. member: Not if you're wearing your seatbelt.

Mr. Kerrio: Even Bob Welch.

Mr. Lewis: The perfect picture of the Liberals: driving with both hands out of the window gripping the abutment.

Hon. Mr. Snow: If the hon. member drives with his hands out both windows at the same time, I wouldn't doubt there's a number of accidents.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular area. In view of the statistics he quotes, I certainly will look into the matter and report back to him.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: That's probably the reason we've been having so many accidents—the minister isn't familiar with it. I would ask the minister if he will advise this House, and in particular those interested citizens in that area, if he has any intention of inquiring into and correcting this very hazardous situation. I'll send him the record. I would say to the minister that they don't even have impact equipment and devices at that site—not even a guardrail of any kind. It is most serious, and I would ask the minister's co-operation.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. member I would look into it. He held up what appears to be a newspaper clipping, and I will not accept that as a statistic. We do obviously have statistics of every area in the province as to the number of accidents and the number of injuries.

Mr. Roy: Obviously you are not familiar with them.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I will get those statistics and I certainly will report to the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Lawlor from the standing private bills committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following bills with certain amendments:

Bill Pr7, An Act respecting McMaster University;

Bill Pr8, An Act respecting the borough of York;

Bill Pr10, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa;

Bill Pr22, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA-YWCA.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing and penalties, if any, be remitted on Bill Pr10, An Act respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, and Bill Pr22, An Act respecting Welland Area YMCA-YWCA.

[3:45]

Mr. B. Newman from the standing procedural affairs committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices, as published in each case, sufficient:

Town of Fort Erie (No. 1);

Town of Fort Erie (No. 2);

City of Windsor;

City of Niagara Falls;

City of Ottawa;

Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario;

Napco Poultry Ltd.;

City of Burlington;

Dovercourt Baptist Foundation;

Welland-Port Colborne Airport;

City of Toronto;

City of Hamilton;

Township of Bosanquet;

Township of West Carleton.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

NAPCO POULTRY LTD. ACT

Mr. Mancini moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Napco Poultry Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Leluk moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is in short, to provide persons with plastic cards to be used on visits to physicians, laboratories or hospitals, so that the person would receive at the time of the visit a receipt indicating the services performed and the amount to be billed to the plan.

TOWN OF FORT ERIE ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Town of Fort Erie.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

TOWN OF FORT ERIE ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Town of Fort Erie.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF BURLINGTON ACT

Mr. Reed moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Burlington.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF OTTAWA ACT

Mr. Leluk, on behalf of Mr. Morrow, moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

RANCHERIA MINING CO. LTD. ACT

Mr. Good moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Rancheria Mining Co. Ltd.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved second reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Energy Board Act requires that any proposed change in rates that Hydro is to make would have to be submitted some eight months in advance of the date for the implementation of that change so that they can be reviewed—a procedure that this Legislature initiated a couple of years ago.

As hon. members of the Legislature are aware, a select committee is presently investigating Hydro's rates. It has proved to be a very sizable task, and the original date by which we hoped the select committee could complete that work was the end of March. It is now not possible to get a final report in before the end of May.

These amendments simply adjust the requirements of the Act by reducing the requirement from eight months to six months for giving notification of those changes in hydro rates that Hydro might have been considering for next year. In short, Hydro wants to have the benefits of the select committee report before it comes to a final conclusion as to rates for next year.

In short, in one sense it's tidying, but it is only tidying for the purpose of meeting these particular circumstances this year. Therefore, I think the bill is worthy of support and I would certainly recommend to all members of the House that they do support it.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to object to the bill because I regard it as a technicality and I accept the arguments of my colleague, but I would just like to take this opportunity to lay before the House some of the things that concern me very greatly about this whole procedure. It has become such a cumbersome procedure; it has become such a costly procedure.

I would just like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the events of the last price increase. When Hydro asked for 30 per cent, it went back to the government and came

back at 25 per cent, back to the Ontario Energy Board at 27 per cent and then, through the select committee, down to 22 per cent.

I would respectfully submit that this is a wasteful, cumbersome, nonsensical procedure. I don't think it is fair to Ontario Hydro. Poor Ontario Hydro was waiting until the very last minute last fall before it knew what the rate structure would be on Jan. 1. The report came down in the middle of December. No, it is not fair for anyone to ask an organization of that magnitude to plan on the basis on which the government has asked it to plan.

I would like to suggest this: I think it is time that this organization and the pricing structure become a responsibility of this Legislature through a select committee on a continuing basis or through the government, through the Ministry of Energy. Clearly this is a matter, in my mind, for legislative control. It has such important and profound ramifications on the nature of our borrowing, the financial life in this province and, indeed, the environmental and agricultural aspects, and the issues we were talking about today with respect to the corridors.

I know they are a little wider, the issues I am talking about, than just the pricing application but I would recommend this to the minister for his consideration. He should bring in the wider issues, clearly, to have successful resolution of a lot of these very difficult planning problems and financial problems which he and Hydro face daily. I think it is time to bring those kinds of problems under the control of the House.

I would like to leave that with you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that our party will support this particular bill but I think it is time to think of some of these wider issues.

Mr. Renwick: If I may comment very briefly, I would like, on behalf of our caucus, to dissociate our caucus from the remarks made by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson).

We have spent a long period of time over the years trying to persuade the government that not only natural gas but Ontario Hydro and, indeed, now the whole question of the pricing of oil and petroleum products in the province are quite legitimately a matter of regulation. The place to have them regulated are through the body which has the expertise and which deals with all kinds and nature of energy.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the members for their

assurance that they will support the bill. I should point out to the hon. member for York South that in addition to changing, as he quite rightly points out, the filing date for the 1977 rates from eight months prior to the end of the year to six months, there is also the additional amendment, of course, for the reporting date—at least, for an interim report if not a final report—from four months to three months before the end of the year.

I must say I am pleased to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). I think what the hon. member for London Centre is implying is a complete and total takeover by the government not only of Ontario Hydro but, through that, of the local utilities.

This party and this government believe there is great merit in having Ontario Hydro set up as a corporate body in the way it is, with its own board of directors. We believe the 353 utilities that exist from one end of the province to the other do deliver a very valuable and efficient service to the communities in which they operate. We would not support the notion of taking them over completely.

The hon. member suggests a committee of this House was somehow going to deal on a regular basis with the question of rates. He will know from the few times he attended the select committee that this is not a very simple matter. He will know that last year the Energy Board spent 55 days on that. They are very expert people; with all due respect to the members of this House, I would suggest they are more expert than we in the various dimensions which affect the question.

Mr. Peterson: What kind of power do they have?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Probably they are more objective.

I think it is very important—this is certainly straying away from the bill—that the government give to Ontario Hydro very clear directions such as recently has been done on the question of borrowing. This has resulted in—

Mr. Peterson: Because your bankers made you do it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: —a significant and large decrease in the capital borrowing programme to 1985.

Mr. Peterson: Your bankers are now running the province.

[4:00]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Within those bounds of government direction Hydro is in a good position to operate its own show and take care of itself. The Energy Board is surely the place where these rates should be reviewed. This year with the introduction of the anti-inflation programme following the Ontario Energy Board report there was a very peculiar and special circumstance which has resulted in the creation of the select committee. I must say, as I've said before, that I'm very pleased at the breadth of inquiry by the select committee. I think it has been a very beneficial exercise for members of all parties, the government members as well as opposition members, in gaining a closer appreciation of the intricacies of the Ontario Hydro system and the problems which they confront and deal with on a daily basis.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 34, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough moved second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973.

Mr. Swart: It appears that most of the amendments in Bill 9 are technical and routine amendments. But I rise to express some rather serious reservations to clause 1 in the bill. As a matter of fact, I and my party have some reservations about the technique of even having an Escarpment Commission to preserve the Escarpment. We feel there are other ways that it could be done equally effectively or more effectively and a bit more democratically. However, I know, Mr. Speaker, you'll rule me out of order rather quickly if I speak about the bill generally. So I'll return to the reservation on clause 1, which provides for the transfer of responsibility for the Escarpment Commission from TEIGA—really from Intergovernmental Affairs—to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine).

We basically have two objections to it. The first is that it is administratively inappropriate. All of the land-use planning of the province now comes either under TEIGA, and that is regional planning, or comes under the Ministry of Housing, which has jurisdiction over regional and local municipal planning in the province. There certainly must be a great deal of co-ordination and co-operation between the groups that are concerned about planning in the Escarpment area.

There are three groups concerned: the Escarpment Commission, the local and regional planners and the provincial planning department. When the Act was originally written it gave recognition to this. It says:

During the course of the preparation of the Niagara Escarpment plan the commission shall consult with the minister, provincial secretary or other person having charge of any affected ministry and with the council of each municipality within or partly within the Niagara Escarpment planning area with respect to the proposed contents of the plan. [It also says:]

In preparing the Niagara Escarpment plan, the objectives to be sought by the commission in the Niagara Escarpment planning area shall be:

(g) to support municipalities within the Niagara Escarpment planning area in exercise of the planning function conferred upon them by the Planning Act.

Therefore, there is no doubt that the Act provides that there must be close co-ordination and co-operation between these groups.

I am aware that even at the present time there is some arm's length relationship between the commission and some of the local and regional planning groups, but I suggest that if we move this to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development we're putting the provincial level at further arm's length. If this is going to be changed at all from one ministry to another, I suggest that it should go to the Ministry of Housing, which has responsibility for regional and local plans. The second reason we disagree with this clause is that we are afraid, and I think with some justification, that this will mean a shift in emphasis from preservation of the Escarpment to development.

Everyone who lives around the Escarpment and is familiar with the local municipalities and with the Escarpment Commission, knows that there are tremendous pressures by developers and pits and quarries operators to develop along the Escarpment. In fact, it seems to be the policy of the Min-

ister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) to permit any pit and quarry to expand as much as it wants to, even if it is in the Escarpment jurisdiction. In fact, in my area, in the town of Pelham, Steed and Evans, formerly Moyer Sand and Gravel, is going to ultimately achieve the total removal of the fruit land plateau of about two square miles. If they continue at the present rate, they'll totally remove that whole plateau within a period of another decade or two. Against the wishes of the town of Pelham, even without consulting the town of Pelham, permits have been given to expand the gravel operation in that part of the Escarpment area.

It's bad now, but if we change the responsibility to the Resources Development secretariat, even the present situation, we feel, will become worse. Perhaps they want to remove the embarrassment, because at this time even their own planners are opposed to what is taking place to some degree in the Escarpment area and they're having battles within their department. I suppose if we move it away from the planning departments in the province it will remove that irritation.

Certainly the intent of the Act is to preserve the Escarpment. We read in clause after clause that the object is to protect the unique ecologic and historic areas, to maintain and enhance the quality and character of natural streams and water supplies, to provide adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation, to maintain and enhance the open landscape character of the Niagara Escarpment insofar as possible. That's the purpose of the proposed plan.

I suggest it will not enhance this if we change it into that secretariat, and we will oppose it for that reason. I have some questions about the intent in changing it, unless it is the last reason that I have given, and I suspect that is the truth. Or is it too controversial for the present minister—we know it is a controversial subject—and he wants to transfer it to an expendable minister? I'm not sure whether that may be part of the reason, but we are convinced that this move, far from doing anything to further preserve the Escarpment, will in fact make it easier for development to take place on the Escarpment, and therefore we are opposing this section of the bill.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some general comments regarding proposed amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

First, of course, I suppose it is significant in some manner that there is a transfer tak-

ing place from TEIGA to the resources development policy field under the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Irvine). The only reason that I could find for the transfer—there may be other underlying reasons—is that TEIGA and the minister, the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), are overburdened with work and have too much. We in this caucus have said for a considerable length of time that the municipal affairs portfolio should be taken out of TEIGA and made a separate portfolio. Perhaps the whole municipal affairs arrangement should be taken from TEIGA and placed under the jurisdiction of some other minister.

I won't go so far as to say that this is the proper resting place for municipal affairs or, in fact, for this particular Act, but in principle I do agree generally that the Treasurer can't possibly keep his finger on everything that is going on within his ministry without delegating authority to his parliamentary assistant and now to the member for Carleton-Grenville, the minister responsible for resources development.

There is perhaps a danger in this, in that while major policy is made in TEIGA, when legislation comes before this House dealing with matters such as this and passage of the bill is in the hands of a parliamentary assistant, we find it impossible to argue effectively and point or to effect any changes in the bill; such authority is not delegated when authority for passage of a bill is delegated. We also run into this, of course, in the case of policy decisions that are made in TEIGA but implemented by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen). We can't get to the root cause of things. The Minister of Revenue has said consistently in this House, "I am just the cash register to collect the money; I don't make the policy." So we can't argue policy with the Minister of Revenue. Perhaps the same complaint could be made here.

I don't think we can enter into any debate on any proposed amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act without reminding this House and the people of Ontario that, had the Gertler report been acted on when it was first produced, by this year, the year 1976, the complete Niagara Escarpment would have been under the controls specified by Prof. Len Gertler from the University of Waterloo.

Mr. Nixon: It could have been done.

Mr. Good: It could have been done. The report was issued in 1968. It was an eight-year plan; it was going to involve the purchase of 90,000 acres by the province,

and the total cost to the Province of Ontario over an eight-year period would have been \$31.5 million. In retrospect, can we believe that the government was so inactive, so irresponsible, that it had its eyes closed so much to the need for some kind of action on the Niagara Escarpment that it missed the opportunity completely?

Mr. Nixon: They built Ontario Place instead.

Mr. Good: The three steps for controlling the Escarpment Commission would have been completed this year, 1976, if the plan had been started at the time Prof. Gertler indicated in his report. That report is being proved correct in every way.

John White, the former Treasurer, said just a couple of years ago that it would cost \$1.3 billion for the government to control development on the Escarpment. Well, we knew he was exaggerating, as he usually did on certain matters when it suited the occasion; but certainly the people of Ontario must know now, and it must be reiterated again, that the Niagara Escarpment could have been completely under controls this year for a cost of \$31.5 million by, first of all, purchasing certain selected areas that the report showed had to be purchased by the province.

[4:15]

There were other selective areas where options, agreements and future purchases could have taken place. Finally, for the rest of the Escarpment the regulatory matters, such as zoning and controls, could have taken place. This could have taken place all within the framework of the provincial plan at the time for the Escarpment which was laid out so plainly before this government in 1968. The local municipalities would have co-operated, I am sure, in their zoning.

We missed the chance and now we are still, eight years later, trying to bring some order, some reasonable approach, to the future development of the Niagara Escarpment. I talked the other day with the director of the Escarpment Commission and he confirmed my fears that the three-year target will not be met for the development of the plan for the Niagara Escarpment. They expect to have the draft plan completed by the end of this year, hopefully.

I am sure the provisions of the Act which then require the participation of the municipalities, the public and councils will take another six, eight or 10 years, and maybe another year after that. Certainly, the three-year target will not be met for the plan to

be completed and the final plan turned back to the municipalities for administration.

Many of us feel very badly that we still have to deal with this legislation as planning and control legislation. It started out with the minister going to the commission; it is now part way through the process over which the commission has the control and, hopefully, it will end up back in the control of the local municipalities. That is where the final decision must rest, in the eyes of the people who live there and in the eyes of the people of Ontario.

One amendment here is most interesting. This is the amendment which simply says the commission is a body corporate without share capital; it's an addition to section 5 of the bill. I gather that this stems from the fact that the Niagara Escarpment Commission, not being a body corporate, has had no standing before the OMB.

Many of us were startled about two years ago to learn that no unincorporated body has any status before the Ontario Municipal Board. Neighbourhood associations which were noncorporated or groups of people could not appear before the board. In some legal decision I think, if my memory is correct, the interpretation of the word person in the OMB Act precluded unincorporated bodies from appearing before the board. Now we have a situation in which the commission has no standing before the Ontario Municipal Board.

If, for instance, a land division committee allows this severance or separation of property within the Niagara Escarpment Commission, even though the commission has previously expressed its views to that body, the commission then may wish to appeal that decision of the local land division committee. Maybe it could be just as easily a zoning bylaw in a municipality or a change to an official plan or something of this nature.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission found that because it was not incorporated it could not go as a commission to the Ontario Municipal Board hearing to put forth its objections. Let me tell the members there are many people—farmers and those who have land up in the northern end of the Escarpment particularly—who think there's nothing wrong with that position. They think it is just great if the commission has no standing before the OMB.

In other words, if the local board has approved the severance, they are saying why should the commission have authority to come in and fight against a decision made by a local land division committee or a local

council in the case of a zoning bylaw? There's perhaps a little more to it than that.

I think, personally, the commission does have to have corporate standing not only for that reason but for other matters which, I suppose, make it a little more approachable; make it, I suppose, subject to suit if you wanted to sue them or something of that nature. It's an interesting amendment. It's a wonder it wasn't thought of in the first place when the bill went through, but I presume from the commission's point of view it is a necessary amendment.

As to the status of the municipal bylaws, I was given to understand when the bill went through there was no problem about that in the bill. I always understood that once the plan was completed, all municipal bylaws that had been, one might say made dormant during this planning process, would automatically come back into being when the plan for the Escarpment was completed and turned back to the municipality.

We know that the official plans of the municipality also fell victim to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. All the planning that had been done—and many of those municipalities were on the verge of coming forth with official plans—went out the window when this grandiose plan was put through and when this legislation went through, which was in fact a complicated and costly way of doing what could have been done under the Gertler recommendations of 1968.

I can see the validity in the last amendment. If permission is given by the commission to do certain things with a piece of land, there is doubt that permission would carry on if the land is sold. As I read this, the authority to sever, the authority to build or the authority to change the status of a piece of land after this amendment will now follow rather than have to be renewed if the piece of property is sold.

While we have been critical of the whole Niagara Escarpment development plan, in light of the fact that it could have been done at much less cost and much more expediently if the government had taken up the Gertler report, we find we're stuck with this thing now and we've got to make it work; so we will support these amendments as they appear before us.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate? The hon. member for Carleton-Grenville.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: I would like to say a very few words in relation to only a portion

of the bill, in reply to the member for Welland (Mr. Swart) in particular. The transfer of responsibility from Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs to myself and to our policy people is very much in order. The policy field has the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of TEIGA and various other ministries which relate to resources development, as members are well aware.

The implementation of this plan is now under the jurisdiction of the commission, and I want to say at this time that the commission has, in my opinion, functioned very well in the past. It has had problems, like any other commission would with a very difficult situation to handle. But I do think the members of the commission are to be complimented at this time for what they have achieved.

I see the transfer of this responsibility as a very practical way to handle the situation. We are co-ordinating every week. We meet on Thursdays, and more often during the week if necessary, to co-ordinate the activities of the various ministries in our policy field. A matter of planning, whether it comes from Treasury or whether it comes from the Ministry of Housing or whether it comes from Natural Resources, naturally comes to our policy field. Therefore it's not correct to say that the transfer of this responsibility is, as the member for Welland stated, I believe, for the sole purpose of making sure the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment was not preserved. That is not a true statement at all.

We understand that the Niagara Escarpment should be preserved in general, but we also understand that some building should be allowed. Any proposals will come before several of my ministries, and therefore will be dealt with on their own feasibility, whether or not any proposal will be accepted is very much dependent upon the views of other ministers. The Ministry of the Environment, for instance, would very much question whether or not a certain development should go ahead. Therefore, I think it's not fair to say that we are trying to move the responsibility over because of the possibility that the Niagara Escarpment will not be preserved. That is absolutely false.

With regard to the member for Waterloo North's (Mr. Good) comment as to the possibility of acquiring 90,000 acres for \$31.5 million, I believe that's a supposition that only he could come forward with. It isn't a fact, as far as we are concerned. We believe it

would have cost many millions of dollars more than that.

Mr. Good: That was before you were even around here.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: The former Treasurer said it would cost much more than that, and we think—

Mr. Good: It could have been done in 1968, and they didn't do anything.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That was before the commission was established.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Good: Ask the member from Georgetown.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: The member for Waterloo North might restrain himself a bit. I didn't interrupt him. I was trying to listen quite carefully to him. What I am saying is this; we have decided upon a policy which I believe will work. My responsibility is to ensure that the development plan will be brought forward as quickly as possible in keeping with the aims of the commission and of the municipalities that are affected, and we will take this immediately under our jurisdiction once this bill is passed. We will make sure that the people in the area have their desires looked at very carefully, not only by the staff of the commission, but by the members of the commission, and we will ensure that the hearings are held on a regular basis, and that they will be held fairly, and to my knowledge they have been very successful up to this stage.

To suggest that the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) would be the one to take this responsibility is absolutely incorrect. The member for Welland (Mr. Swart) knows full well that the appeals—

Mr. Nixon: You have housing on the brain.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: The member for Welland mentioned that the Minister of Housing should be the one to take over this responsibility.

Mr. Good: Don't look at me.

Mr. Nixon: We thought you were pointing that finger at our colleague.

Hon. Mr. Irvine: He has already left—no, he has already left; I am just merely mentioning that the member for Welland stated that it should go to Housing. Housing couldn't possibly handle it because it would have, I would think, a dual role to play. First of all,

the Minister of Housing has to decide on the hearings that are held by the hearing officers, the decision is that of the Minister of Housing. What we are doing is playing a neutral role on the basis of whether or not a proposal should go forth, and I believe we can effectively handle this particular responsibility without any problem and without any handicap as far as the commission is concerned. I want to assure the hon. member for Waterloo North that I want to work with the commission, this government does, and we will do so. I think we will find in the future that we have preserved the Escarpment and we have also had some development.

Mr. Good: From 1968 to 1972 you didn't do a thing.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lakeshore.

Mr. Lawlor: The handling of this, from beginning to end, starting many years ago now when we were all hoary young children, attending in our infancy upon this institution, has been a tale of scandal. The hiding, first of all, of the Gertler report, then the failure to implement it; the foot-dragging that has occurred throughout, the whole deportment of the ministry, of the Treasury or any other ministry of this government with respect to the Niagara Escarpment, has been a lamentable tale of deficiency and malfeasance and we can have scarcely anything but deep suspicion of the present moves. Because somehow I personally, and I am sure others in this House, feel that the present appointment system—listen, if a number of local reeves, if a number of local municipal officials are caught up in the plan, their prime responsibility is to advance the social and economic viability and benefits to their regions. They are in a position where they are expected to do that. I don't fault them on it, as they then make incursions upon the Escarpment itself in the interests of economic growth, to do the job they have been elected or appointed to do. They represent a very substantial portion of the members, purportedly, on the new corporation.

There is a kind of conflict concept worked into the very core of this thing and the government is working adversely to the interests of what was proclaimed in the Gertler report and what is wanted in an overall way by the people of the Province of Ontario for the preservation of that unique land scheme.

[4:30]

This is a great loss. I would like to refer the House to a letter—to remarks as they are called—by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) at the annual meeting of the Sierra Club of Ontario, at King, Ont., on Oct. 25, 1975. He's in good company on this particular occasion. He's not with the financial interests of the province. He's not rubbing shoulders with the magnates who couldn't care less about what goes on in ecosystems or in any other way.

He's talking to the people of the Sierra Club and therefore he accommodates—as I read these remarks—his whole attitude and deportment to a naturalist environment and to a sense of ecological responsibility. At the beginning he says—no, a little further down:

We are entering a period which, in my opinion, may well be characterized by greater economic stability, less growth, but more social instability with an increasing emphasis on individual human values in planning. This has been described as a shift from planning as an exercise in economics to planning as a study of man's total individual and collective needs, social and cultural as well as economic.

How enlightened can he get? What lip service is paid to the new idols of the tribe? He's getting very good at that. I get the sense that he doesn't mean a damn word of it.

We got this blatheration over here this afternoon and we get it in the budget debate. He makes posturings and pays lip service to the current ideology and the movement which have been creeping out of America now for 10 years. Finally, they hit the Treasurer and his speech writer: I suppose it's his speech writer because I don't think it emanates from him directly.

My feeling is that the government, basically—and this determinant member for government—has the attitude with respect to economic growth: "Blow the works and come what may." But these are the words of the good fellow and he went on to say:

We heard much talk during the campaign about big brother government making too many decisions which are better left with individuals. In rural areas particularly there was a generally favourable response to the argument that government should not dictate how a person can use his land. A specific programme such as the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment lost the government many supporters and probably contributed to the defeat of several government candidates.

Let me quote from a brief prepared by the Grey-Owen Sound Planning Board on behalf of the affected municipalities within the county of Grey [he is quoting].

The members of the commission should be clearly aware that public reaction in the county of Grey has been one of frustration, deep concern and, in some cases, overt hostility to what the commission is attempting to do. The content of this brief may really not properly convey the violence of the objection which is being voiced by many land owners and individuals who are involved in businesses associated with the development.

In other words, what the Treasurer is saying is: "Listen, we suffered some infliction of damage during the last election campaign because of our mooted moves with respect to the Niagara Escarpment, however justified they were. I don't think they had really any basis for complaint. We haven't done all that much, Lord knows. Nevertheless, this is the way it is now and we're going to have to pull back and lift whatever onus we placed on this particular area in order to win more votes."

I take it that what is happening here today is part of that overall strategy and plan. That's the thrust. He's removing it from his shoulders and from the areas of specific planning in this province over to other ministries which have no planning auspices and which haven't got the vast resources of TEIGA. The political climate and the way the pressure will be lifted from these numerous areas are detrimental to any future prospects with respect to the carrying out of Gertler—however belated, however truncated and however lost to future generations the recommendations of the Gertler report may be. This is the context in which we must locate this legislation.

The second thing is a form of subversion too. It is the appeal to local determinations in the matter. There must be some balance in this thing. One expects localities to have a certain sovereignty, a certain self-determination, but you must not use the municipality argument and the local argument as the stalking horse for hiding somewhat more nefarious purposes and particularly, as I said at the beginning of my speech, when doing so may very well undermine the principle that we are seeking to set up.

We are not talking for ourselves in this particular bill. We are talking 50 years from now. We are talking of a future generation who wants recreational land use to be exer-

cised in this area. The big wigs won't have to locate their houses up along the ridge of the Escarpment so that they can see for 25 miles as they look out their window in the evening over cocktails. That is not a requisite for the future development of this province or for the good of an increasing and expanded region, as we heard in the statement today. That's what has happened, very wealthy individuals taking their racehorses into their bedrooms with them are located along the escarpment and seem to be able to get the grants in this particular wise—

Mr. Nixon: What is that about racehorses? I thought they just took the heads in with them?

Mr. Lawlor: —on the Forks of the Credit and up through the regions north thereof. You can locate them all the way through. Some of them are very powerful Tories incidentally. The present ministry that is taking over this particular function hasn't got very much weight in this direction.

What do you do with respect to the plots of record? Are they going to remain plots of record on the books of the registry office in the way they have been? What happens—and this is in the experience of the commission as it presently stands—to those individuals who have been granted new zoning and new lot allocations? They don't use it all. They turn around and they want to sell off the piece that they haven't utilized because it's very substantial. They have a vested right at that particular point.

It is very difficult for local bodies, planning or otherwise, and for the commission itself which really has no final authority in this matter anyway, and will not have, to say no, because the thing has already been designated for a particular purpose. If they want to sell off a portion of the land to somebody else to erect another building on or to utilize as they see fit, then the cat is out of the bag. It's a foreclosed issue. That should be prevented. If, on allocations of land for zoning purposes, the full extent of the acreage is not to be used, then whatever they wish to sell must be given as a first option back to the government as the person who will take over and preserve the land.

There isn't very much to indicate it in this particular bill, but the Bruce Trail people have asked for an awful long time for something called a primitive zone throughout the Escarpment. My information is that in instance after instance they have been frustrated. They thought they had the trail delineated and set up. The next thing they know

there is a \$500,000 fortress or mansion or whatever sitting in their path. It has been granted away. The trail then has to be completely re-routed. There are very grave dangers of it not having any continuity at all.

These are the aspects of the Escarpment too. They want to do something now because they have reached a point of desperation. They point to the Appalachian Trail in the United States where what they have done there is to set up a primitive trail. This would keep these buildings and this development back from the very wide swath of the Escarpment, around the ridge particularly where this is taking place. As you drive by Highway 401 or out on the highway there, you see the great gaps chewed in the Escarpment by bulldozers and by great machines. Those gaps are ever-widening and the blue sky penetrates through the bosom of the Escarpment. You can see for 500 miles right where the Escarpment ought to be. This is an ongoing process and not a very strict limitation thing.

It is no good shooting it over to Housing, for instance, with the Housing Ministry under the enormous pressure it already is under with respect to producing housing. They are in such a position of strangulation they are likely to do anything to be able to come before this assembly and say, "We have increased the volume of housing for the province." That position is so invidious and so self-serving as to completely undermine the purposes of the Niagara Escarpment zoning as it stands at present.

This is a retrograde move, Mr. Speaker. It is a move that ought not to be made. The whole gravamen of this matter ought to be left in the hands of the Treasury. Much as we distrust them, we distrust the others even more. At least they have people in there who know about planning matters—a vast planning staff, as a matter of fact—and here and there questions of conscience and questions of public benefits do operate. I can't imagine this is going to be operative any longer as this thing is transferred into far less knowing hands and into areas which are already in vested interests in undermining the scheme itself.

These are a few thoughts that I have about what's happening here today, and my understanding is that this party will vote against it and stand firm against it.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to take a minute, with all due respect to our fellows on our right here, and say that I would have to disagree with them and agree

with the amendment if there is anything in what they have said about the controls being slackened when they are transferred to the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development.

We who live in the Niagara Escarpment control area are certainly in favour of controls being reduced and the control area being reduced. It amazes me that the people from the urban areas and other areas are so interested in helping us preserve our land, which we have been preserving for generations and are quite willing to continue without any interference.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission suggested 75 per cent of the applications are being approved. The fact is that it is so complicated that it's keeping hundreds of people from trying to make an application.

I would also agree that the development permit should go with the land when the land is transferred.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak, I hope briefly, on the bill. I can recall when the member who now sits for Burlington South, formerly the member for Halton West—west?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Halton West, then Burlington South—a growing area.

Mr. Nixon: He used to be a Liberal.

Mr. Renwick: I can remember something over 10 years ago when the now Minister of the Environment stood in the House and spoke at some length about the need to preserve the Niagara Escarpment. I would guess that was in 1965—it's certainly well over 10 years ago—and we are a long way from having made the kind of progress that was anticipated when the then Premier of the province announced that he was adopting the proposal of the then member for Halton West and proceeding to protect the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment for all time.

Mr. Speaker, you can well recognize that when a bill comes to us in the guise in which this bill comes, we're not only sceptical about it, we're cynical and extremely suspicious about it. In the very words, the deprecating words which the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) used when he introduced this bill, indicating that it was dealing solely with the administration of the Act, this transfer of responsibility is simply a reflection of so and so and so and so and so.

We were alerted to the very real possibility, confirmed today by the Treasurer him-

self in his lengthy statement about the plan for Ontario, when he came to the four or five lines dealing with the Niagara Escarpment, that there was going to be a significant and substantial shift in emphasis away from the exact words as they are used in the statute for the protection of that environment.

[4:45]

I think it's worthwhile in a debate such as this to state exactly what the purpose was when the bill was finally enacted in 1973:

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment and to ensure only such development occurs as is compatible with the natural environment.

The shift of responsibility from the Treasurer to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine) of the Province of Ontario in this bill represents a shift in the policy of the government with respect to the Escarpment. The two are identical.

My friend from Waterloo North (Mr. Good), who spoke on the bill, said he couldn't think of why the change was being made. I can think of why the change is being made—it'll put the Escarpment closer to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier).

Mr. Nixon: There's another reason.

Mr. Renwick: The pits and quarries legislation will again become part of the economic development that we tried desperately to have at least curtailed—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, you are seeing bogymen. They just want to make a job for the provincial secretary.

Mr. Renwick: —substantially curtailed. If it had gone to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) as a responsibility, then yes, I could understand it. He's keenly concerned and interested about it.

Mr. Nixon: He broke his arm pounding the desk.

Mr. Renwick: On the Escarpment too.

Mr. Nixon: Remember "The polluter must pay"? He's got down physical violence, for heaven's sake.

Mr. Renwick: But there's no question that the electoral disaster for the Conservative Party along the Niagara Escarpment has led to the changes which are being made.

What better than to have the ministers who are involved in the Niagara Escarpment

and its development come, one of them, from Kenora, one of them from Sault Ste. Marie, and the other one from Grenville—we couldn't possibly have found three ministers more remote from the Escarpment than the ministers who are now going to have this responsibility overall for the protection of that environment.

I had no really serious concern about it becoming a corporation. I can understand that. I consider that is a technical amendment.

I'm very concerned about the development permit following the land; very concerned about that. Someone gets the development permit for the land, then sells the land. What price is it going to be sold at? A development permit is going to be of significant value, and even under the Liquor Licence Act, we've had enough sense not to permit the trafficking in permits for licensed premises. By making the development permit go with the land, we're just begging for an enhancement of the price of land on the Escarpment.

At least there should be some review and there should not be any substantial markup because some particular owner has been able to extract a development permit for the purposes of some kind of permitted development on the Escarpment.

I think the parliamentary assistant should take the occasion, rare as this is, to report to the assembly about the state of the plan, what the problems are, who are now the members of the commission, what progress is being made, why is it that 11 years after it was first raised in this assembly, and about 10 years from when it was adopted as a policy of the government of Ontario, we're still where we are.

Everyone knows that what the member for Waterloo North said about the Gertler report is factual and accurate. The classification of the three types of land acquisition procedures set out in that report would have ensured by now the control of the Escarpment for all time at a price that the Province of Ontario could afford. This government is no longer in a position, because of its financial mismanagement, to provide the funds that will be able to implement the plan, if and whenever that plan is presented to the cabinet and adopted finally by the Legislature, for that environment.

The funds just will not be available. The conception of the preservation of the Escarpment, as set out and enshrined in the bill as it was originally intended, is not going to take place. If it were going to take place, it should have remained where it was; it

should not have been transferred to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. With greatest respect to the incumbents, the whole of the provincial secretariats probably should have been abolished in the course of the so-called cutback of government spending.

There is just no way that we can stand here in the assembly and believe in the good faith of the government with respect to the development of that Escarpment in the way in which it was envisaged. The shift has taken place, the responsibility has been transferred, and the qualitative change in the attitude of the government toward that environment has changed. There is no need for the provincial secretary to stand up and tell us that it is a good commission. Nobody has questioned the good faith of the commission. The commission doesn't have the kind of authority which ultimately will be required in order to ensure the preservation of that Escarpment.

Mr. Speaker, I really spoke relatively repetitiously, but simply to indicate that I feel very strongly about the issue. If I have repeated what my colleagues and others have said, then I know the House will forgive me for this expression of extreme cynicism about what the government is about in this bill. We intend, as my colleague has said, to vote against the bill, to divide the House on second reading, and to place the bill in committee to see if we can get some definitive answers from the government about its intentions with respect to the Escarpment.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest, as I always do, to what the hon. member for Riverdale has said. Once again I can assure him he was not unduly repetitious.

Mr. Lawlor: Are you waiting until we finish speaking all the time?

Mr. Nixon: As usual, he added, some interesting aspects to the discussion—very much like the member for Lakeshore, who has telling us about his well-to-do friends, who take their horses into the bedroom. Is that what he said?

Mr. Davidson: Only the head.

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: Really, I don't know what his friends do, but I didn't think that had happened since "The Godfather."

Mr. Lawlor: Only the head.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we are honoured in many ways, I am sure, by having the chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission present and listening to these discussions. I am quite sure he wishes he had been more successful in competing for the Conservative nomination for—what is it? Wellington-Dufferin-Peel—and could have participated in this discussion directly. I see him leaning forward almost as if he'd like to get up and express his views as the discussion goes on.

The former chairman, of course, is in the House, and perhaps we will hear his views. One would almost think it's a Tory cabal running this thing, if one didn't have a great deal of confidence that such was not the case. I am sure both chairmen, when they held those high and important positions, cast aside any of their political connections in serving the greater good of the community. I must say to you, Mr. Speaker, any time I have communicated with the present chairman I have got back a full and helpful answer which is certainly much appreciated.

I don't believe the bill before us is the matter of high principle the member for Riverdale and his colleagues have tried to paint it. It has three important aspects to it and the one in which I was most interested is the fact that the decisions on the utilization of the various lots and parcels of land are henceforth going to go with the land and not with the individual who owned the land and applied for certain property rights. Our feeling is that any building permit or developmental permit ought to be based on the land itself and not particularly who applies or how capable might be the lawyer he hires to represent him; that the decision made by the commission should be based on the utilization of the land in their overall concept.

We have had very far-reaching and strong misgivings about the concept to begin with, but it is in place and has been operating now for a considerable length of time. We must assume that those people who have these responsibilities are acting in the best interests of the principles of the commission, and as individuals with all of the good will that any of us surely in the same place would attempt to utilize. So I don't feel there is a thing wrong with that particular section; if a decision is made with the proper access to the facts, it should be on the basis of the use of the land and not who has applied. Surely that is something that is supportable.

I am surprised that when the bill was first introduced it wasn't thought necessary to give the Escarpment Commission a corporate

status. Perhaps some of us in opposition should have noticed that was not granted and it might be that we thought that it was appropriate that it did not have full corporate status.

After all, conservation authorities and other agencies of government have the responsibility and the right to appear before many boards and are very influential indeed in putting forward their views. Conservation authorities, more and more, are getting involved in the planning process in a way that I think we may have to examine more fully—hopefully at this very session. But since that is now considered to be an oversight, certainly we have no objection to the correction of that matter, which simply gives the representatives of the commission legal and proper status, particularly when they are appearing before the Municipal Board. And they are going to have more and more opportunities, I feel sure, to do so over the course of their expanding responsibilities.

The matter the NDP tends to feel is of deep concern as a matter of principle is the decision of the government to remove the legislative jurisdiction from the hands of the Treasurer and to put it with the present Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine). The gentleman is a man frankly held in high regard in the House. Because of his courtly manner of responding to questions in the past, we have had a few shouting matches when he was Minister of Housing, but I still feel that although we have had substantial disagreements over these many months that any thought that under his jurisdiction the principles and the goals of the commission are going to be subverted are unreal and probably unfair.

It may in fact be rather impolite of me to say more formally what I said by interjection—that in the establishment of new positions in the cabinet, when the minister was replaced in the housing portfolio he was given this position which frankly we have said frequently we feel should not have been continued. We feel the whole experiment with policy secretariats has been a waste of money and in many respects demeaning to those individuals who have been given the responsibility to carry the conduct of the responsibilities, such as they are and whatever they are.

I really feel one of the reasons the hon. member did not continue as Minister of Housing is that he may have expressed in private the same views that he expressed in public about rent control—and there is no doubt about his views. Coming from Prescott

as he does, one might have even been able to predict them. But if he was not enthusiastic, as the present Minister of Housing is, for the rent control jurisdiction, then you can see why he was moved up where he is, and I have frequently thought: “I wonder what the devil Don does to pass the time.”

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: Well, as a policy secretary he, I suppose, can just sit back as he might do and have regular luncheon meetings with a number of his colleagues, with some of their senior staff, and discuss the unfolding of the universe, which is one of the things that concerns politicians at all levels. But there might have been a feeling that here is an able person, a person who is able to maintain his popularity and support back home, and maybe even asking in a weak moment for additional duties, and by golly here we have an amendment which says that he is going to be the minister through which the Niagara Escarpment Commission reports.

Well I am not too much afraid of that. The idea that it means the pits and quarries interests are going to move into the Escarpment again, I believe, is unrealistic. I think beyond the minister there are certain safeguards—

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: And even the member for Lakeshore who never hesitates to express his views, even when someone else is expressing his—

[5:00]

Mr. Lawlor: Speaking for Eddie all afternoon, even when he's not here.

Mr. Makarchuk: Listen, there is an application before cabinet now.

Mr. Nixon: I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have participated in hearings before the Municipal Board and I'm not even a body corporate or whatever you call it. I was able to express views against certain applications for gravel pits and similar things in my own area. We all have certain duties to express public views and opinions in this regard.

I don't share the trepidation expressed by the hon. members of the NDP which has led them to announce that they're going to divide the House on this matter. I can tell you, sir, we will be as watchful as we always are in these important matters and, surely, that is the responsibility of all of us.

While I have said in this House before that I have sometimes doubted the judgement

of the hon. minister who will have the responsibility for this commission in this House, I have never doubted his personal integrity nor his ability to uphold the goals of the commission as they're expressed in the Act.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate in this debate?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a few minutes to say a few words about this bill. I think the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) is unduly cynical, really, regarding the implications of this bill or the result of this bill.

Mr. Reid: Goes with the party membership.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think members will find that since 1965 the Escarpment has been protected. There has been a great deal of legislation and amending legislation in respect to the Escarpment. There have been various types of control, both local and provincial.

As the hon. member probably knows, at the present time if one applies, for example, for any type of development or just a building permit one involves not only the Niagara Escarpment Commission but the local conservation authority, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Housing, the local municipality, the regional municipality and whatever planning boards are in existence as well as starting out by making the application to a land division committee.

I think the protection, the control and the assessment of any application would indicate that there won't be the type of undue development or the type of development the member envisaged or that the hon. member for Lakeshore implied would result by bringing in this legislation which is actually administrative. It's transferring some responsibility for the Escarpment and certainly there will be no difference in our concern about the Escarpment or the administration or control of its use.

Mr. Renwick: There has been very little of the land owned for the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: In spite of the fact, as the hon. member has said—and I will agree with that—that we haven't acquired or purchased the amount of land we would have liked to have done in the last five or 10 years or as recommended in the Gertler report, the fact is that because of the controls we have imposed on the Escarpment that land is still vacant land. It is still in its natural state and those conservationists in blue trailers and everybody else—

Mr. Lawlor: There are new subdivisions there.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, they're not new subdivisions; not on the fringe of the Escarpment.

Mr. Renwick: The ordinary citizen will feel like a trespasser.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think the hon. members have to agree that the planning controls and the planning area as mapped out by TEIGA, and now being administered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, are much more strict, much more controlled than ever was envisaged in the Gertler report.

Mr. McKessock: Too strict.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I don't entirely agree with the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) but I don't want to get into an argument about that. There is a limit we can go to as far as developing the Escarpment is concerned, particularly up in the hon. member's area. I don't think that by passing this piece of legislation—really all it does is move the planning phase and the administration and control of the Act, the commission and the Escarpment, from one ministry to the provincial secretariat, to the secretary himself and, as he has indicated, involving those ministers who are part of that secretariat.

The hon. member for Lakeshore mentioned that as you drive along Highway 401, you see the sun peeking through those large gaps in the Escarpment.

Mr. Lawlor: You can see forever.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That hasn't happened in the last 10 years, and it won't happen again. The hon. member might speak disparagingly of the Pits and Quarries Control Act; but that Act, coupled with the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, and the legislation we have in force at the local level, will mean that no more quarrying operations of the type that took place in previous years will in fact take place on the Escarpment again.

I think this legislation is a good move. It gives the responsibility to those ministers within the resources development secretariat who have direct concern about the future development of the Escarpment, and I am satisfied that in fact the Escarpment will be preserved.

Mr. Renwick: We have never doubted that it will physically exist.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I will confine my comments to the contents of the legislation that is before the House and try to make my comments as brief as possible. I think both the hon. Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and the Minister of the Environment have commented on a number of points that I had intended to make. I will not be repetitious.

I must say that I think there has been a rather full discussion of the matter this afternoon, and I was particularly pleased—to steal a word from his own vocabulary—with the delightfully skilful blatheration from the member for Lakeshore.

Mr. Lawlor: I will remember that.

Mr. Norton: He almost accomplished his goal of carrying the whole thing through until 5 p.m. himself.

The expressed cynicism of the member for Riverdale does cause me some concern; but it would cause me more concern if it were not such an all-pervasive kind of cynicism that he resorts to so frequently that I suggest it undermines the impact of it.

Mr. Lawlor: He is a believing fellow.

Mr. Renwick: Too believing.

Mr. Norton: The legislation that is before the House—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Norton: I hope that I don't stay around long enough to be that cynical.

Mr. Renwick: Even my friend the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) doesn't believe I am cynical.

Mr. Lawlor: It grows around here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the transfer of the authority in this particular piece of legislation, I think, does not at all suggest the kind of subversive plot that is being suggested by the members of the official opposition. I think that the purpose behind that has been explained both by the Treasurer, when he introduced the legislation, and reiterated this afternoon by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. I think I need not be repetitious and repeat that for a third time.

The question of the permits which, if this legislation is passed by the House, will go with the land as opposed to being attached to the individual, I think has been adequately answered. If one is going to have a procedure by which one applies for the approval of the development of a particular parcel of land, once that procedure has been followed through and the permit has been granted, I can see no sense whatsoever in having that permit expire if the property should pass through to other hands prior to the execution of the development.

Mr. Renwick: It's certainly money in the pocket of the person who sells the land.

Mr. Norton: As far as I am aware, the purpose of development was never expressed to be primarily the prevention of anyone making any profit. It seems to me that it has something to do with the development of land and the protection of the natural environment. I suggest that by the attitude the hon. members are taking, they are injecting an ideological principle that is not part of the concept of land control and development in this province at the present time.

Mr. Renwick: The quality of the development is often and usually determined by the quality of the person who carries out the development.

Mr. Norton: That may very well be the case, but neither I nor I think anyone in this side of the House would choose to take those decisions upon ourselves, to decide who is of adequate quality to carry on development in this province. If the member for Riverdale, from his ivory tower, purports to be able to sit here in this House—

Mr. Renwick: You do it and you grant the permit for the first issue.

Mr. Lawlor: You do it with used car dealers.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Norton: —and talk about the residents of the Province of Ontario and categorize them according to quality and calibre, then I would like you to be more specific and break down his definitions of quality. As far as I am concerned—

Mr. Renwick: I am simply saying that you issue a development permit—

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Norton: The residents of the Province of Ontario have equal right to make applica-

tions for such permits, in this particular case to the development authority, and I think it would be a travesty if that authority purported to make those determinations upon its subjective decision about the quality of the individual who is making the application. I think it is a tremendously offensive suggestion for him to even make, especially as a member of a party that purports to be an egalitarian party.

Mr. Renwick: Have you watched any of the major developments in Metro Toronto and what has happened to them after they changed hands? Have you watched what has happened to them? They have simply gone downhill. The work was never completed.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. parliamentary assistant will continue.

Mr. Norton: Perhaps I should move on to something less contentious, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lawlor: You are being provocative.

Mr. Norton: I, like my leader, will not be provocative. I think the other items in the bill have been dealt with pretty adequately in discussion so far. I might add that it is my intention to propose two minor amendments later, and one will deal with a clarification of section 3. We have decided that perhaps it ought to be a little more clearly stated and I will propose that amendment. For that purpose, I will ask that when this bill goes from the House it will go to the committee of the whole House for further deliberation, at which time I will introduce those amendments.

[5:15]

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 9. Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion for second reading of Bill 9, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	
Auld	Bain	Smith
Belanger	Bounsall	(Hamilton Mountain)
Birch	Breaugh	Smith
Brunelle	Bryden	(Nipissing)
Campbell	Burr	Smith
Cunningham	Davidson	(Hamilton West)
Davis	(Cambridge)	Snow
Drea	Deans	Spence
		Stephenson
		Sweeney

AYES

Eakins
Eaton
Edighoffer
Evans
Gaunt
Good
Gregory
Grossman
Haggerty
Hall
Handleman
Henderson
Hodgson
Irvine
Johnson
(Wellington-Dufferin-Peel)
Jones
Kennedy
Kerr
Kerrio
Lane
Leluk
MacBeth
Maack
Mancini
McCague
McKeough
McKessock
McNeil
Meen
Miller
(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Morrow
Newman
(Durham North)
Newman
(Windsor-Walkerville)
Nixon
Norton
Parrott
Reed
(Halton-Burlington)
Reid
(Rainy River)
Rhodes
Riddell
Roy
Ruston
Scrivener
Shore
Smith
(Hamilton Mountain)
Smith
(Nipissing)
Smith
(Hamilton West)
Snow
Spence
Stephenson
Sweeney

NAYS

di Santo
Duksza
Ferrier
Foulds
Germa
Godfrey
Grande
Laughren
Lawlor
Lewis
Lupusella
Mackenzie
Makarchuk
Philip
Renwick
Wildman
Young
Ziemba-25.

AYES

Timbrell
Villeneuve
Welch
Wells
Williams
Wiseman
Worton—66.

[5:45]

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 66, the "nays" are 25.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Committee of the whole House, is it?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my comments earlier I would ask that this bill go to the committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

GIFT TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 10, an Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely tidying up two or three matters, particularly making certain that the contributions under the Elections Finances Reform Act are not considered gifts. We certainly support that principle. I don't think it was ever intended that they should be but apparently it is necessary to amend the Act to make sure that they are not.

The elimination of the necessity to file returns and pay tax where there is going to be a refund under the Succession Duty Act seems like a logical tidying up. The change in the exemption under section 10, clause 1, subsection 1, mainly limiting it to Ontario residents is also, I think, a desirable change.

We support this bill and I don't think I have any further comments.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment or two on this amendment to the Gift Tax Act.

Section 1, of course, is very straightforward as there are very few words added to subsection 1, adding the words "resident of Ontario," which this party is in favour of. This, of course, as I understand the bill, means that the exemption is limited to a donee who is a resident in Ontario only.

I feel that the main purpose of the Act was to keep small business active in Ontario. I understand that this amendment will in no way affect or curtail small business continuing here.

Subsection 2, of course, is just tidying up and making it effective so that contributions under the Election Finances Reform Act will be exempt under the Act. Also, to section 2, this party has no objection as really, I hope, it eliminates some paperwork and inconvenience to the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to the bill? Does the hon. minister wish to reply?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I must express my appreciation to the hon. members for indicating that both parties support these principles. They have been adequately summarized in the explanatory notes and by the members opposite and I don't think it requires much more from me in unnecessary extension of the debate.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion: Bill 10, An Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 11, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely bringing in certain sections to make it jibe with the federal Income Tax Act and it is necessary to preserve this uniformity if the federal government is going to collect our income tax for us. Our party has no objections to most of the clauses in this amendment.

The change in section 6(a) regarding the new way of defining how a person qualifies for the no-taxable capacity under the provincial income tax seems like a sensible way of approaching the issue so that we don't have to amend the Act every year and it can be done by regulation. The principle is that people who are exempt under the federal

Act will also be exempt under the provincial Act from any tax. That seems logical to us as well.

While we are discussing this amendment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he occasionally communicates with his colleagues in Ottawa who administer and collect this tax for us, regarding their vigilance in seeing that tax avoidance or tax evasion does not occur. I think there is still a great deal of concern about the way people are able to exploit loopholes in the Income Tax Act and more or less destroy its progressivity. I think even though we don't collect it ourselves we should constantly be in consultation with the federal government about its vigilance in enforcing the Act and seeing that there is not tax evasion. It really affects our provincial revenues in the long run, to the extent that when other people evade or avoid tax, the rest of us pay.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I would just observe that one is legal, the other isn't.

Ms. Bryden: Correct. You deal with one by enforcing the law and by vigilance and investigation; you deal with the other by amending the law in order to close loopholes that allow legal avoidance but that more or less may offset the objectives of the Act, which are to have a progressive income tax.

I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to make a comment about the election contribution deduction, which is mentioned in passing in this bill so I think I can mention it for a moment. What is happening with our provincial tax credit for political contributions is that the rich are getting it; the poor, particularly the aged poor, are not getting it because it is not allowed until after they take

off all their other provincial tax credits—for property tax, for sales tax, and for being over 65. It seems to me this is very unfair. If an aged person wishes to make a political contribution out of his meagre resources, he gets no tax credit because he probably pays no provincial income tax after all those credits. He may have a small amount of provincial income tax before those credits.

I would like to urge the minister to consider bringing in an amendment so that the political contribution is allowed on the tax payable before those provincial tax credits occur. Certainly, their federal tax contribution is calculated, of course, only on their federal tax payable, because they don't have those kinds of credits at the federal level.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member be more than a minute?

Ms. Bryden: No, I won't be, Mr. Speaker.

There is one other point in connection with the administration of the political contribution and it is that where a contribution is made by a spouse who is not taxable, apparently the way it is being administered in Ontario there is no tax credit being allowed. Federally, administratively at least—I don't know whether it is legislatively—but administratively they are treating political contributions the same way as they treat health payments and charitable contributions: If the non-taxpaying spouse makes a contribution, the taxpaying spouse is allowed to claim it. I think that should also be provided here in Ontario, if necessary by an amendment.

With those two suggestions, I would like to say that we will support the bill.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, April 8, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT ACT (concluded)

Mr. Speaker: When we rose at 6 o'clock we were considering second reading of Bill 11.

Mr. Edighoffer: I know the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) wanted to adjourn the debate. Mr. Speaker, I'll just make a few comments on the amendment to the Income Tax Act. It appears to me that this tidies up some of the problems that have shown up in connection with the federal Act.

Section 1, as I read it, adds two sections to the foregoing tax credit section, as it is necessary to make changes due to the federal Act, and I see it is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1974. As I understand it, it avoids double taxation for the citizens of Ontario and permits the individual to compute his foreign tax credit as though the foreign dividend remains part of his income in the year in which it is received.

In section 2, after listening to the budget that was brought down the other night, that amount of \$1,534 sounds very familiar. Basically, all this does is it changes the calculation of tax from the tax payable to the taxable income, which, of course, is the \$1,534.

Section 3, as I see it, repeals and re-enacts subsection 10 of section 6(b) of the Act and is again tied in with the federal Act as it refers to deductions for political contributions and tax credits. It appears that there have been some cases where some individuals have two taxation years in one calendar year and this will, I hope, clarify the relevant taxation year to claim those credits. Basically, it disallows individual claiming of political contribution and tax credits twice in the same calendar year. This, as I say, ties in with the federal Act and we in this party support it.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have only one comment and I hope the minister will respond, particularly on this aspect of it, to

the comments made by my colleague, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), with respect to the political contribution tax credit. I relate my remarks particularly to section 3 of the bill which is before us for approval, and I refer specifically to the Ontario tax credit guide issued by the minister for the guidance of persons computing their taxation for the year 1975.

Very briefly, it simply states that the political contribution tax credit can only be claimed by persons who have provincial tax payable in excess of any property, sales or pensioner tax credits to which they may be entitled. Then it goes on to state, a little later in the document:

The total tax credit under the Ontario tax credit system is the sum of the property tax credit, sales tax credit and the pensioner tax credit less two per cent of taxable income, subject to a maximum of \$500 plus allowable political contribution tax credit.

The net effect, as my colleague has pointed out to the minister, is that those persons in the lower income levels of the Province of Ontario, if they make a political contribution out of very limited funds in order to support the party of their choice, usually the Conservative Party, don't have the benefit of that contribution and are not allowed to add it in.

I can sense what the anomaly will be that the minister will produce to me, that because a person has made a contribution to a political campaign, the person shouldn't get a credit for that unless he's got some tax which would otherwise be payable; and that he shouldn't get a refund from the government of an amount which includes, amongst the other credits to which he's entitled, the amount which he contributed subject to the maximum for a political contribution.

But if one looks at it in a rather wider sense of the ability of individuals in lower-income levels to feel that they have a sense of participation in the process of the democratic system by making a political contribution, it does seem to me that it is not an unnecessary burden on the consolidated revenue fund of the Province of Ontario to say

that those persons should be able to take into account that political contribution for the purpose of the tax credit system.

I seems to me that, on balance, it would do more for the democratic process to be able to have that kind of contribution made by persons in those circumstances and that that would far outweigh the public interest of whether or not a few extra dollars did or did not flow into the revenues of the Province of Ontario. We're not talking about very large amounts. We are talking about the participation by people at lower income levels in the political process by being able to make their contributions.

I would ask the minister both to comment upon it now and perhaps give it serious consideration in the future.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up the remarks that were just made and draw to the minister's attention that there is one group of supporters, at least in the most recent election, who I think were hurt rather financially by this, and that's the students.

There were a number of students who contributed \$10, \$15 or \$20 to my own particular campaign with the understanding, granted incorrectly, that in fact they would get a rebate. But because of their financial income level, the fact they're still going to school, it ended up that none of them did. I would most certainly concur with the remarks that were just made by my colleague in the NDP.

I would like the minister, if he could, to speak to that particular group as well.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the minister's attention the comments I made in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. I don't intend to read them out now, unless the minister wants me to do so.

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. B. Newman: They are very brief. They are not lengthy like some of the comments made by members to my right but they are at least meaty. The comment was made by Mr. Herbert Swanson—

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. B. Newman: —that one cent of difference in income between \$1,400 and \$1,401 could adversely affect the individual to the extent of \$28 as far as Ontario's tax credits are concerned. Would the minister mind, if he doesn't reply now, at least reading on

page 972 the comments published in one of the senior citizens' bulletins in my own community?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, perhaps directing my comments to the latter observations first, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) refers to the problem of the students. I think it is fair to say—and I think they would concur too—that if they looked at the material made available last year it was made quite clear that contributions made to political parties or candidates were deductible from tax. If they had taxable income they would know it; if they didn't have taxable income presumably they would know it. Perhaps they did not realize quite how all this worked when considering the Ontario tax credit programme as well.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman) raises the problem—I don't think I have the table with me—of the \$61 notch provision, one might say—or the \$200 notch provision the federal tax Act has where it scales from last year's rate of \$1,400. I don't know whether the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville is listening but I think he might just indicate if he was speaking in terms of the federal notch provision?

Mr. B. Newman: Yes, I am.

Hon. Mr. Meen: At, say, \$1,401 the federal notch provision would relieve against a sudden burden of \$201 of tax, shall we say, or \$202, somewhere in that category and would assess only a \$2 provision for tax.

I have just received a copy of the table. At \$1,400 to \$1,410 the tax under the federal scheme is \$2. Under our own, we have a relief against the amount of relative tax at 30.5 per cent of that figure which comes out at \$61; when you then go to \$1,400 to \$1,410 the tax becomes \$61.60. It isn't \$1.60; it is \$61.60.

We have not built a notch provision into our Act. I don't know whether it is practical. It may be if they have this kind of scheme. I had this drawn to my attention just the other day and it could be that it stems from the same article to which the hon. member referred. I would like to take a look at that.

It is possible that we could have, in effect, the equivalent of a notch provision—a tapering effect, not quite the notch provision lawyers talk about in taxing statutes but something analogous to it so that we don't develop that abrupt assessment when you just drop over the line.

Mr. B. Newman: On page 972 of *Hansard*, I read the comments that were published in the senior citizens' bulletin so the minister can see them just as they were published.

Hon. Mr. Meen: My staff had brought this to my attention and we will take a look at it in conjunction with Treasury to see if there is something of a practical standpoint which can be developed.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine raised three points and I think they were pretty articulately underscored by the member for Riverdale. I would like to dwell on those if I might for a moment or so.

As I understood her question, she wants political contributions to be deductible from the Ontario tax payable before the reduction of the tax payable by any amount of the Ontario tax credits that might be forthcoming. That's sort of the point she is making. The thing that concerns me, and I had the opportunity over the dinner hour to reflect on this, is that in effect—and I think the member for Riverdale anticipated this—the province would wind up returning to the taxpayer the total amount or maybe 75 per cent of the amount the taxpayer had made by way of political contribution, over and above the tax credits that taxpayer recovered.

[8:15]

We haven't seen fit to go that far because it seemed to us that the taxpayer would make a political contribution roughly in line with his net tax payable after these various credits that are made available to him under the Ontario tax credit programme. One must recognize that this is the first year this has been in effect and obviously we have to look at a year of results and see how it works. We had to work this out with the federal government.

We have followed in our section 4(a), introduced into the Income Tax Act last year, with any *mutatis mutandis* as might be required, the federal provision along the same lines, and on that basis the federal government was prepared to administer that part of it for us. It certainly is not something we would cast aside without some further look, but to tell the truth, I do see some inherent weaknesses in trying to do this. I could imagine for one thing that one would have to put a top limit on the amount of any such contribution, relative to tax payable, in order to avoid any significant abuse of that system. But that's the sort of thing where I think we would have to take a look at it, talk to the federal government and see

how it felt about administering the system on that basis.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine also asked about interspousal transfers of receipts for things such as political contributions where the receipt is in the name of the wife but it's the husband who is the taxpayer filing the return. She indicated that she thought the federal Act was being administered differently from ours. Ours is being administered by the federal people, and so I suppose implicitly she's saying that both our Acts, which read essentially the same way, are being administered differently from the way in which they read.

That's not my understanding. I had a chance to check this out over the dinner hour as well. As I understand it, they do follow the Act though, I am told, there's a certain amount of flexibility and a certain amount of latitude particularly—one might call it tolerance. I am advised engineers would call this a form of manufacturing or operational tolerance, in this case, if amounts were small it is possible that, rather than try to go back and disallow and have all the correspondence inherent in a disallowance and the advice of the re-assessment, it's probably simpler and a whole of a lot cheaper simply to wink at a small variance of that sort. But in anything of substance, I am advised by my staff that the Act is followed. Again we have had to be consistent with the federal section in this application.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine also asked me if my ministry does communicate with the federal government in connection with general vigilance, I suppose, over the accounts, their post-audits and general checking. The answer is "yes." We have our auditors in the retail sales tax field, the gasoline tax field and the Ontario corporation tax audit field. Our field auditors and inspectors not infrequently turn up items that might lead us to believe there was some reason for taking a look at the income tax return for that taxpayer, and so we do have an exchange of information when something of that sort shows up. In the federal scene with an income tax return, we would hear about it so that we might then be prompted to take a look at some corporation that that taxpayer was involved with or some other activities that might look to be interesting. There is a mutual exchange between our administrations at the federal and at the provincial level.

Mr. Renwick: Under legal authority, I trust.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, there is legal authority for that. I think the hon. members have covered the basic points in this bill and I don't need to labour it. I must say it doesn't exactly take a Philadelphia lawyer to understand the explanatory material, but almost.

Mr. Renwick: A lot of people in Riverdale will be pleased with section 1. They have a lot of foreign income, a lot of foreign tax credit.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I am pleased to hear that. In any event, I was pleased to hear that the opposition parties support the principles of this bill and I think I might wind up my comments on that note.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion: Bill 11, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

EMERGENCY MEASURES REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. MacBeth moved second reading of Bill 12, An Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Act.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a few words first by way of introduction.

Mr. Deans: You ought to be ashamed; I think you should defend yourself.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: The hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) suggests I should be ashamed of myself in connection with this bill. No, I'm not ashamed of myself but it is with some misgivings that I move the demise of what I think has been a good organization, one that has perhaps given better service than some members of the public realize.

Mr. Deans: Why are you burying it?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: In fact, the purpose of this bill is to bring the law into step with what is actual fact. And, as the hon. members know, there was limited funding for this EMO to the end of 1975 from provincial sources and, as was announced last spring, that financing would be terminated at the end of 1975.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: It's something that the House already knows about, and the purpose of taking the bill off the statute books—

Mr. Lawlor: You're not safe any more. You haven't got a bunker to go to.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: That was one of the problems: The people of this province really didn't think bunkers were very practical. As you recall, Mr. Speaker, some years ago the federal government urged the citizens of the country to establish their own bunkers and take some precautions in case of atomic attack.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you talk about what the EMO really did?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may enter the debate later. Thank you.

Mr. Deans: I intend to.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I should not be distracted so easily. I started off on one venture, then I tried to answer the member for Wentworth, and then I tried to answer the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor)—

Mr. Ruston: You're not supposed to listen to interjections.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: As the one in charge of emergency measures, I shouldn't be so easily put off course; so I'll come back to what I was saying, sir, and say that we know that the funding of this was terminated at the end of the year and we're simply bringing the law into step with facts.

The reason, of course, for doing that is the original Emergency Measures Act required municipalities to do certain things; they had to have a plan—or that was the suggestion—and certain responsibilities were put on the municipalities' shoulders. Therefore, when we removed our funding, it was thought that we should also remove the responsibility we had placed on their shoulders. That is the purpose of what we're doing today in taking the bill off the statute books.

I started to say that I had some misgivings, simply because in 1963 and 1964 I was a member of the Metropolitan Toronto EMO committee and I was always amazed at the work that they were able to do in cases where they got very little support from the public.

Mr. Deans: That's why I asked, aren't you ashamed of yourself?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: No, because, as I say, it got very little support from the public of this province and from the public of this country.

Mr. Deans: It doesn't need support.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I was amazed at the esprit de corps that so many of the Emergency Measures Organizations had during a time when they were ridiculed by so many of the press and so many of the public. They found useful jobs to do; I know the Metropolitan Toronto people were the ones who did a good job on the emergency ambulance service. I know that the Hamilton group also served in a very commendable way, as did many of the other organizations across the province—but with very little support from the public and, I might say, really with very little support from the opposition members of this House.

Mr. Deans: Not so.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: There may be individual exceptions but for a number of years I remember there used to be an annual motion that the funds allotted to EMO should be reduced to \$1.

Mr. Deans: That was before your time.

Mr. Nixon: Supported by the NDP. They all voted for it.

Mr. Martel: No.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I think that in most cases the NDP supported that motion which didn't originate with them. This is the kind of lack of support that it got from the public in general. Recognizing that there were—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: When the opposition has decided whether its members were for or against EMO, I will carry on.

Recognizing that there was very little support, the Treasurer of this province (Mr. McKeough) and the government decided the money could best be spent in some other way where it would have the support of the public.

It's not that the services are not now available; they are there in one form or another. But the real gist of what we have done is, instead of having people stand by for emergencies which a lot of people didn't think would happen, such as atomic warfare or something of that nature, we have put them into positions where they are serving in active capacities where emergencies do

take place on a daily basis. Many of these people are presently being used in ambulance services on a day-by-day basis where, I think, there is more satisfaction from the job, and in fire departments and in various services of this nature—

Mr. Wildman: There are no capital grants for equipment for volunteer fire departments.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —where they are still giving an emergency service on a day-by-day basis instead of sitting by waiting for something which the majority of the public felt there was really little point in providing for.

I think most members of the public thought there was little point in making provision for atomic warfare and so much of the atmosphere around EMO seemed to focus on this purpose. I suppose it was the reason for their original being but certainly, subsequent to that, many other purposes evolved which I think were worthwhile but which did not catch the support of the general public. I say the work that EMO used to do is still being provided for, under the lead ministry concept and the OPP is doing the co-ordination of emergency work.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: They will if necessary and there are many volunteers across this province who will do just the same thing.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may enter the debate later.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I say the services are still there. The OPP is co-ordinating them; the various ministries are responsible for them under what we call the lead ministry concept.

Environment is to look after spills of chemicals, oil or other contaminations of toxics or toxic agents; gas or oil pipeline breaks. Health is responsible for epidemics; nuclear reactor accidents with off-site effects; heavy water plant accidents with off-site effects. Natural Resources is looking after floods and forest fires. The Solicitor General is responsible for major air crashes or other peace-time emergencies or war emergencies.

Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible, of course, for the co-ordination of the funding of all of these various projects. Chief Inspector Fullerton of the OPP is co-ordinating it at that level.

I say the people of the province are still protected in case of emergency. Although it is with some regret that I see the passing of EMO, and I pay tribute to all of those who served in it, I think it is necessary to update the law and bring it in step with facts as they presently exist.

Mr. Davidson: You don't believe that.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, we will not be supporting this particular bill.

Mr. Nixon: That's a change in your position from the last time it was raised.

Mr. Breagh: Members for Oshawa, I have just been informed, have a great tradition of being in support of the Emergency Measures Organization and never in this House have they voted against it.

Mr. Martel: We will always be in support of it.

Mr. Breagh: I am trying to maintain that kind of tradition, among others.

Mr. Deans: Now we have some influence around here.

Mr. Breagh: I suppose, as the minister has just put it to us, this is not much more than an obituary notice. According to the minister and, I suppose, some people, this organization has ceased to function. In his ministry, the branch rather dissolved in itself in December last year and, I suppose, many people regard this as being an unnecessary organization. I suppose we are all aware too of some shortcomings and the kind of references to bomb shelter brigades that were made, and that there really was not at any time the kind of financial support for this organization that it probably should have had. [8:30]

Recognizing some shortcomings that were there, let's ask ourselves a rather interesting question, and I think an important one: What's in its place? That really is not known, apart from a rather swift list that the minister just read out to us, and something called a lead ministry concept which I'm not terribly sure that I understand, and some reference to the OPP making certain decisions and, of course, the fact that in certain municipalities the Emergency Measures Organization still does exist and still does operate supported by the municipality. I think there are some shortcomings there. Let me run through some of those very quickly.

In terms of public plans, I'm not terribly sure the province is covered by that kind of

scheme at all, and certainly if they are supposed to be public plans I'm well aware that the public doesn't know about them. If there are areas in Ontario, and there seem to be more and more these days, where a flood occurs, who looks after that? Supposedly Natural Resources has a master plan, but in the floods that we have seen in the last few years that doesn't exactly work all that smoothly. There really isn't that great an organization, and since I spent some time working with conservation authorities, I certainly know they don't have the staff to implement it and they don't really have that kind of thoroughness of planning one would like.

In terms of electrical shortages—and we've seen a number of occasions where that has happened in many areas, with wind storms and various other problems in electrical supply systems which sometimes cause rather drastic situations—who looks after that particular one? In my area there is an interesting angle to that, because there is a nuclear station at Pickering. We are told there is an emergency plan for Pickering station, but no one in the area really knows about it and the Ontario Hydro personnel who run the nuclear station at Pickering really don't want to discuss that in particular.

In terms of road accidents, I suppose one might make the argument that the OPP would be able to cover that, or the local municipal police force would do that, except that there are certainly occasions when we have had rather massive accidents in Ontario, closing down roads, and I'm not terribly sure I'm all that pleased that there really was a sufficient organization to deal with that as an emergency. It took some time to clear it up. There were some difficulties. I'm not terribly sure that we're all that well covered.

Let me move to an area I think a few years ago probably would have been an area which would have caused a little guffawing around the place, and that is a radioactive scare. I would tend to think that even in this House there might have been the odd chuckle when people representing the kind of things that Emergency Measures Organizations did raised that question in the House. People would say: "That's not going to happen in Ontario. That never happens in Canada. It's never been known to happen."

Let's take a look at what happened in Port Hope. Perhaps it doesn't reach an emergency scale, but it certainly did for a while when there were a number of federal agencies and provincial agencies all scurrying around trying to cover their tracks rather nicely. No-

body was particularly geared to look after the situation at all. Whether that constitutes an emergency or not, I suppose, is open to some discussion, but certainly what isn't open to discussion is that there was no mechanism in place to deal with that particular situation.

Even in a simple thing like carrying a load of dirt in that area, which was later identified in the public press as being radioactive, when the dirt fell off the truck on to the road action was required. It really wasn't much. The OPP were there, it's true; and they closed off the road, its true; and after about 18 hours they managed to clean it up and move is out. The point is there was no mechanism in place to look after that kind of situation.

I think we could probably say that, in terms of fire or an explosion in an urban centre, there probably are mechanisms there now, through the fire department in co-operation with the police department, to look after that particular situation; but there are many places in Ontario where that kind of service is not available, and we don't have to go into the far north, although that's perhaps the classic case. One can move two miles from where I live and find a municipality in the region of Durham that really doesn't have that sophisticated firefighting system, with emergency equipment, that's in the city of Oshawa.

Although there are some agreements to move back and forth, they are for very specific things and I'm sure if there were an emergency the people wouldn't run out to get into some kind of agreement signed for starters, but the fact is that in many places in Ontario there just is not the equipment in place, nor the people trained; nor, perhaps what's even more important, the people to make decisions.

I want to go to a very simple idea, that is how does the public deal with all of this? What do they do when an emergency erupts? Who do they call? In Ontario we haven't even moved yet to that very simple system of phoning one telephone number, 911, when an emergency occurs.

Many people simply do not have in their wallet or on the front of their phone book, or written on their kitchen wall, the number of the police station, the fire station or the local hospital. They spend some time fumbling around and looking that up. There are difficulties in this. There is no one number to call when there is an emergency. The whole problem about informing the public of what to do in an emergency hasn't really been looked at at all.

For example, how many people in the public at large are aware of the lead ministry concept? I suspect the members of this House couldn't give us much of an explanation as to what that is and how it works in each particular area and whom they would call to get something done. I don't think the public at large knows that at all. In terms of supplies and materials, which traditionally have been a problem with the Emergency Measures Organization because they didn't have much money of their own, they had to rely on other agencies—and that sometimes posed a problem—I suspect that problem is still there. I still suspect in cases of emergency there are difficulties in obtaining supplies, and in getting them to the site on time, quickly and efficiently. I really suspect that is a major problem.

The reason I keep using the word "suspect" is that we do not know, as members of the public, or even as members of this House. We don't have that written down. We don't have that information at our fingertips. I suppose the minister can supply us with some of the detail, but that would do none of us any good if we were in an emergency anywhere, because it is rather awkward to have to call the Solicitor General first to get that kind of information, and then find what to do about it locally.

In terms of manpower, one of the interesting things I saw recently was an indication of some flooding in the Ottawa area. I suppose one of the arguments that would be used is that in the final analysis one would always call out the army. What I thought was very nice about this particular example is that the flooding occurred overnight. In the morning the people all got together, got the boats out and sorted themselves out. In the afternoon, after everybody was safe and sound, up rolled the Canadian Army with their trucks, their boats and their equipment. Everybody was safe and the emergency was handled at that point. So they spent the afternoon paddling around, watching the dogs and seeing what was going on.

Mr. Martel: Pierre was there.

Mr. Breaugh: They then packed up and went home because they had to be back at the base that night. They had no place to stay.

Mr. Nixon: They are very good at apprehended insurrection.

Mr. Martel: Pierre was there, with his helicopter.

Mr. Samis: What did they apprehend?

Mr. Breaugh: That is not an emergency, that is a disaster; we'll make that distinction now.

Mr. Martel: One of these days they are coming to your place, to the barbecue.

Mr. Nixon: Like the Prime Minister, in fine style.

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: One of the things that has happened is that the whole cost of this particular operation in many instances has been shifted to the municipal level. And frankly, it's one more thing they don't need. It's one more expense they really can't stand. I find some difficulty in trying to justify to them that they should share the cost of that particular operation.

Let me move very quickly to this idea of a lead ministry concept and what it will do in a case of an emergency. First of all, I doubt the public at large in Ontario knows which are the lead ministries, or where they are or how to get hold of them; what the telephone numbers are or whom to call when one gets there. Certainly if an emergency occurred and you had to go through the kind of rigmarole and buck-passing that any member of this House goes through in contacting any one of the ministries to get an answer about anything, if you had to go through that same process when an emergency occurred you could kiss us all goodbye.

Ask any member of the public about trying to deal with the bureaucracy here at Queen's Park; whether it's here, physically, around this area, or whether it happens to have been physically moved out to some other area of the province. I think you will find they are not too happy with that kind of a communication system. That poses some rather difficult problems for them.

One simple thing that I suppose is constantly difficult when one is trying to organize on a large scale, as the ministry was, is to keep the information updated.

For example, when I was on the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority someone put my name on a list that I think is used for a thing called the flood emergency plan. If I recall correctly—and this is the extent of it—one day there arrived in the mail a list of all the people in Ontario who were chairmen or vice-chairmen or held some position in the conservation authorities. It said at the top of it that in case of a flood this

is the communication system they will use. That's all it said. That's all the work that was done, simply a list circulated around Ontario.

Interestingly enough, though I am not sure whether it is still there, last year when I was no longer on the conservation authority, my telephone number was still one of the emergency numbers to call. That kind of updating of information on a large scale, such as you're suggesting through the ministries, is going to be a continuing problem. It was not a problem when Emergency Measures Organizations functioned in local municipalities; at least there was one person to know, and they knew one another in their various agencies locally, that's the key point.

So what I'm trying to say is that the replacement of that agency is not there, but the need is still there. Perhaps it should have been refined, perhaps it should have been financed in a different way and perhaps they should have been given all kinds of different directions; but they had a function in the community and that function is a necessary one. We frankly do not see how it will be carried out in an emergency these days.

We recognize that in the financing—particularly if municipalities want to carry this through on their own, and they either do that through maintaining some kind of Emergency Measures Organization or doing it through a local firefighting service or through a local policing service—they still bear the cost of that. Ontario is not helping very much with that particular kind of specialized service other than the normal grants they would give as general-purpose grants in a municipality or for police costs.

Are they really using all of the resources that are available? By that I mean the human resources as well as sandbags and ladders and rubber boots. I don't think they really are. I think the information flow is there in terms of a community relating to itself in some kind of a disaster situation. I really can't see that.

I think the credibility of the ministries, all of them, is certainly at a rather low ebb in the Province of Ontario. Certainly in a disaster situation or an emergency situation of any kind, I would hate to have to call on the ministries to provide me with some kind of service. I frankly don't see them moving that well or that swiftly; or the ones that are working in the field are a little on the short side these days because of the budget cut-backs.

The last point I want to make is that these little organizations, despite their many faults,

really were one of the mainstays in Ontario in terms of the role that volunteers play in serving the public. I admit, quite frankly, that perhaps they were a little on the slim side when it came to organizational power or financial power, but they did give a great many volunteer agencies in a community a chance to play a role and it was a reciprocal agreement.

I want to mention a couple of them. There are in my riding, and I suspect it's true across Ontario, a number of little amateur radio clubs, some of which are rather large in nature and some are just a very few people. However they performed a service, and they were brought together and identified by the Emergency Measures Organization. In return for that they got some small area for storage and for meetings and things like that. Not very much, certainly not very costly, but in terms of providing a service to the public there was no question that they did.

They are still there, but I would imagine they would have some difficulty relating to any ministry or to any police force, as opposed to working with local organizations, where in many cases they sat on the executive or they at least knew the one person who was in charge or the co-ordinator of the Emergency Measures Organization.

There are a number of other groups, like St. John Ambulance, with which I imagine we are all familiar. In my riding they worked very closely with Emergency Measures as well, and in return for that they got some storage space, for trucks and equipment, and some areas they could use to train personnel and to conduct courses and work out. They are having difficulty surviving on their own, because there really is no longer much funding for them as a local unit. Emergency Measures was one last little touchstone they had to work in that community.

One of the things I think is going to happen—the minister made reference to volunteer groups—I think when emergencies happen—and they will happen; they may not be atomic bombs but there will be a number of other things happen—you will find that many of the volunteer agencies that you wanted, and traditionally used, may find themselves hard pressed to give you that service. In fact a number of them may be out of business because that Emergency Measures Organization is no longer there to co-ordinate, to give a little financial support, in some cases just to give a little moral support to that particular specialized group of people.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of public safety, if you like, but frankly because we don't see any viable replacement for that service at all; and recognizing there were some shortcomings in the Emergency Measures Organizations, but not seeing any viable replacement, and certainly as members of this House and as members of the public at large not being able to identify what that replacement is, we cannot support this bill.
[8:45]

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few comments to Bill 12, An Act to dissolve the Emergency Measures Organizations in the Province of Ontario; and unlike the minister, I have some misgivings about it too. I was a member of the Emergency Measures Organization in the former county of Welland and I can recall, in my days in the county council, I wasn't too happy with the system and the setup of the emergency measures group. I couldn't quite understand the purpose of it, but after I was appointed to the committee I found out the purpose of such an organization, and that was to act in case of any emergency. It was not just a matter of dealing with a national disaster or national warning system throughout Canada. To this day, I don't know whether that alarm system is workable or not. I haven't heard the siren go off in any community. I believe it did happen on one occasion; and that caused some commotion throughout the community but many of the citizens couldn't quite understand what the sirens were all about.

As I said, I have misgivings about it and I'm surprised the minister hasn't given more consideration to this. I don't know if he has any plan now in case of a disaster. I think of just a couple of weeks ago in the Erie riding, along the lakeshore of Lake Erie, when they had that severe ice storm. It was almost complete chaos. Emergency Measures was there, still in the region, but there was no direction on an emergency plan or a disaster plan in that area. I can say this much, they had a good plan there at one time. They had somebody there to give direction to it.

You can go back to that area, Mr. Speaker, and look at it. It took them about a week to 10 days to get back to normal functioning in the area, for hydro and telephone service. I can say this much, when we lose those two services there we even lose fire protection services too, because many of these areas depend on radio communications.

I can recall a place where a home was burned completely to the ground and there was no way of getting the alarm into the

fire department. When we have this lack of communications and a power failure like that, you know, it's hard to understand why the minister would be moving in this direction at this time.

Emergency Measures had a good warning system in the Niagara district. They had their own portable power unit there, and standby units for electricity, that could send out the warning throughout the different communities in the region. I don't know what they're going to do with all this equipment. Who's going to man it now? I think almost every municipality had a system whereby they could be in contact at all times, whether there was a power failure or not; I just don't know what they're going to do with all this equipment.

For example, take flooding. The minister says we can refer it to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the good Lord knows what type of a programme they have. I'm not too happy with some of the action that has been taken in the past in the Province of Ontario. There's been serious flooding in the Brantford area along the Grand River, and in the Galt area. If we have a plan, where is it? The minister mentions the Ontario Provincial Police providing services in a disaster plan. I think the Ontario Provincial Police have perhaps a more important job, and that is to get on with the crime problem in the Province of Ontario, not to deal with emergency measures. When I look at the Ontario Provincial Police, when I find that it's phasing out certain facilities in the Erie riding, and I can think of the one in Fort Erie, moving them some 25 or 30 miles from that particular area, I wouldn't want to depend upon it for emergency aid at any time.

The previous speaker mentioned the fire departments in the area, and I think the fire services in the Niagara Peninsula are perhaps among the best. They do have what they call mutual aid services, whereby they can call from one department to the other, and one municipality to the other municipality; it works very well. I say this much of the fire services, they have good and capable personnel. In case of any emergency, the first place the citizen turns to is the fire department. I don't care if it's an accident on a highway, the fire department is called first in any emergency.

An hon. member: We don't need an EMO.

Mr. Haggerty: Somebody says we don't need an EMO. That's quite right.

Mr. Deans: Who said that?

Mr. Haggerty: Perhaps we don't, but we do need a master emergency plan in the Province of Ontario. Whether or not it is regionalized, it should be set up by regions; and I suggest that there must be funding from the provincial government to make sure that this plan is maintained throughout a region.

I can cite other areas that perhaps could come under a disaster plan. I cited two areas, the floods and the ice storm, and perhaps there are others too. But to depend upon four or five different branches of the government—you can go back and find this was one of the failures of the Emergency Measures Organization. If you wanted to take a piece of equipment outside of that hall, you had to call somebody here in Toronto before you could do it.

I will tell you this much, Mr. Speaker, that equipment could have been used on many occasions throughout the regional municipality of Niagara. Not in large disasters but in certain areas that require special equipment. There were a number of persons who were concerned and took an interest in emergency measures; they were citizens who perhaps were well qualified by training for a disaster and they could have been used almost any place in the region. There are a number of good persons there who are qualified to provide assistance in a disaster and I think in a sense the government is discouraging this type of citizen involvement.

To go back and say that we are going to depend upon the OPP, I think their job is to fight crime in the Province of Ontario. I think the Minister of Natural Resources has all he can do at the present time, and when it comes to flood programmes I don't think they have one here. I suggest to the minister if he is serious about withdrawing these services that he should contact in particular the former director of emergency measures in the Niagara Peninsula, Major Rhodes, who is very capable, and get hold of the plan he has for that area, because it is an exceptionally good plan for any disaster.

The previous member spoke about the possibility of a nuclear disaster here in the Province of Ontario, and when we do have such nuclear hydro plants, there is a high risk. An accident could happen almost any time. It's like he says, there are provisions within that particular plant, but outside of that area who knows what programme is available if the disaster does occur? There is nothing.

I suggest to the minister, and to the members of the House, that I just wouldn't want to see the services pulled out just like

that without further consideration being given to a plan to provide some assistance to the citizens of the Province of Ontario in any disaster. When you have pipelines that are buried in the ground, particularly those for gas that's under high pressure, I suppose one of those lines could blow up and that could blow up almost the Province of Ontario with it. There may be safety regulators there but these things can fail too.

I want to direct a question to the minister at this time. What's he going to do with the cabinet quarters up at Camp Borden? Are we going to have all the hot lines going to that area again? I don't know if the minister has ever attended that facility up there at Camp Borden, I don't think he or any of the cabinet has, but I understand it is still a—

Mr. B. Newman: That's where they hold their meetings regularly.

Interjections.

Mr. Haggerty: George; you have, have you?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Morty's hideaway?

Mr. Nixon: They've moved it to the Burlington golf club.

Mr. Haggerty: Well, the facilities are still there and I was just wondering perhaps—

Mr. Deans: What good would you be in a disaster, George?

Mr. Haggerty: —if the minister had been up in that area to see what is available through that central control centre—and perhaps—

Interjections.

Mr. Haggerty: Maybe the minister, as close as he lives to Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I can't hear the hon. member for Erie.

Mr. Deans: I can hear him.

Mr. Haggerty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is another control centre, I believe, located at Oakville; whether that is going to be the quarters the minister is going to operate out of, I don't know. That is manned by the federal government, by the armed forces; and whether that will be part of it or not I don't know.

I think there is much to be considered in this particular bill. Although it may be a savings of—what?—\$3 million or \$4 million, it's peanuts, I guess, in the long run. Hopefully the minister will give consideration to having a disaster plan in the Province of

Ontario and we will have some direction from the minister and from the staff that is going to be appointed to be in charge of this thing; so that people are not going to be running around looking for help when there is nobody there to answer anything. I suggest the minister should be looking to set up regions throughout the Province of Ontario where somebody in that particular area is going to give some direction to all the communities so there is going to be a head to take orders, and give orders in a particular disaster situation in that particular area.

That is about all I have to say to this particular bill, but I have some reservations about withdrawing this particular service.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure you recognize the problem I am going to speak about with respect to unorganized townships, as you and I suffer this problem in many of the areas we represent, where there are unorganized townships without anyone to provide any type of assistance at any time.

First of all, let me make it abundantly clear that I opposed the EMO for some time, based on the traditional lines and tasks which had been allocated to EMO, and that was fighting nuclear wars or preparing for nuclear wars. In the area I come from, within the last two years I have spent some time with the EMO officer seeing what in fact he was trying to do. Being an old Tory, he came to Toronto and met with the ministers responsible for this Act to indicate that changes had to be made in the direction that EMO was going.

One of his major concerns, and certainly a major concern to all of us in the north, is the unorganized township and who looks after it in the event of fire, whether it be in a home or in the unorganized community. We have Natural Resources, which is prepared at this time to fight bush fires. But for those many communities in northern Ontario which do not have any type of government, there is nothing, even to this date, to assist in providing some force with which to fight fires. There is no grant structure allowed for those municipalities to purchase equipment to fight fires. Despite repeated letters to this government, from members on this side of the House at least, and I am sure from the members representing the other political parties in northern Ontario, this government has not moved one jot to help those unorganized communities.

I can recall watching a number of houses burning in northern Ontario without any possibility of salvaging anything. In fact I can recall a school catching fire, and if it hadn't been for the city of Sudbury firefighting equipment getting down to that school in a little township called Broder-Dill, the school would have been destroyed. This is not unnatural.

I can take you, Mr. Speaker, into the riding which I represent, where even today if a fire were to occur in such small municipalities as Estaire, Awrey township or Alban-Bigwood, you would watch a school disappear before your eyes with no potential, no possibility, of even trying to save anything with respect to that facility into which government has pumped considerable money in the school plant itself.

Despite repeated petitions, the closest we got to any assistance was two years ago when the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs introduced Bill 102 respecting the unorganized townships. It was an ill-conceived piece of legislation, and when the various unorganized communities came to meet with ministry officials the ministry then realized what kind of monster it had turned loose in that bill and withdrew the bill.

[9:00]

Again, like EMO, the government has not put anything in place of Bill 102 so that we can in fact protect those communities from any type of emergency. It doesn't necessarily have to be a fire; it could well be flooding. There is nothing there, nothing in any piece of legislation to protect those municipalities, and in particular the lives of the people in those municipalities.

When the minister makes reference to some lead group in some ministry, I don't know what in God's name he's talking about. I want to tell the minister that as lately as last week I got a phone call from the municipality of Wahnapiatae, which is part of the regional municipality of Sudbury, about flooding in that great plain area about which I had warned the ministry when they allowed houses to be built in a development called Rockview Estates. I tried to get the ministry to stop them. But, as I say, there was flooding there last week, and the people immediately started to phone. They phoned Nickel Centre, which this previously unorganized community is now in. The staff at Nickel Centre didn't know what to do, so they phoned the regional municipality of Sudbury. The regional municipality of Sudbury couldn't

tell them what to do, so they turned around and ultimately phoned me and I gave them a list of names of people to start with.

Mr. Deans: You told them what to do, didn't you, Elie?

Mr. Martel: I told them what they had to do—to check with the Sudbury and district health unit and so on—but the point is there was nothing there for that organized community. They don't know where to go in the event of an emergency. I ask the minister, can he imagine what it's like if you're in an unorganized township, where you don't have a council, you don't have any type of municipal government, you don't have anybody who has any type of influence to make any decision?

Mr. Haggerty: They promised that two years ago, though, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Two years ago, and now they've withdrawn the bill.

What do those communities do in the event of a fire? What do they do in the event of flooding? What do they do in the event of any type of emergency?

If there's a fire, the Ministry of Natural Resources has told me: "Well, if we have equipment available, we'll send it in." But, unfortunately, all of the equipment is tied up in winter; it's being repaired for the following season. So they stand by and watch a home, a store or a business community being destroyed.

The government has no plans, and the closest it came was two years ago. The only thing that might have helped would have been if the minister had accepted some of the proposals put forward by the EMO officer from Sudbury as it represents my area. My colleague knows him well—

Mr. Germa: He was a good Tory.

Mr. Martel: He came here and proposed a whole series of ideas. He knew where boats were in the event of floods. He knew where radios were in the event of some type of disaster.

I tell the minister there was a hurricane about a year and a half ago; it hit a little community called Alban. Six months of exchange of correspondence between the Premier (Mr. Davis) and myself did not lead to any resolution of their difficulties. There was no one in Alban who could even help those people, because there is no type of govern-

ment there and this government has no plan to put anything into effect.

When the minister rises to answer tonight, I don't think he can simply slough it off, as this government has done for lo these many years with unorganized townships. The day of reckoning is coming. We simply cannot allow one ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources, to sell Crown land, where ultimately small settlements develop. We can no longer allow the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to provide access to highways and then say we have no responsibility except to collect taxes. That's the sole responsibility the government has in these unorganized townships—and the north has hundreds of them, some very small, some not so small.

I remind the minister that when we brought the regional municipality of Sudbury into being, that bill took in one unorganized township which had about 3,000 people in it. A place like Bigwood-Alban has maybe 800 or 900 people.

My colleague, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), has places like Gogama, and this government stands well condemned there. On one side of the track we have the Ministry of Natural Resources with water with which to fight a fire, and where the ministry people live; on the other side of the track they don't even have drinking water. Well I shouldn't say that, the former Minister of the Environment provided one tap for the whole municipality of Gogama. What?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Next is the communal system.

Mr. Martel: That's right, the communal system, yes; one tap for the whole community. But they pay their tax. The water in that community has been ravaged by a couple of gasoline stations which had leaks.

We can go right across the north; I am sure my friend, the Deputy Speaker, could, if he were in my position, indicate a great number of these communities.

Mr. Speaker: I must remind the hon. member that this Bill 12 is an Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Organization, which was never responsible for any of the things you are mentioning. So if you would address yourself to the principle of this bill, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, any bill allows me to speak not only to what's in the bill, but what, in fact, is lacking from the bill.

Mr. Speaker: That is not so.

Mr. Martel: That is right.

Mr. Roy: It is not so.

Mr. Martel: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that those communities which you represent, which do not have services with which to combat natural emergencies, will not in fact have anything to take the place of what might have been there.

Mr. Good: We never had EMO either.

Mr. Martel: If you didn't have EMO I guess it's because you come from north-western Ontario. That's distinct from the rest of northern Ontario, as you westerners like to draw to our attention.

I simply say to the minister that somehow his government must now come up with some type of procedure with which to protect people in those areas where, in fact, it has withdrawn the only service they had available to them.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Not interested in this, eh?

Mr. Renwick: They are. They want to wait us out, so they will be the last speakers.

Mr. Deans: They want to wait us out? They will never wait us out.

I was interested in the comments of the minister, who indicated that one of the reasons the Act was being repealed was because it didn't have public support. I want to tell this government that its recent OHIP increase doesn't have public support.

Mr. Martel: Right on.

Mr. Deans: And I want to tell it that its implementation of regional government across this province didn't have public support.

Mr. Mancini: You guys supported it.

Mr. Deans: We did not. No, we did not, my friend; and when you have been here long enough to remember, you will understand that.

Mr. Norton: The voice of experience.

Mr. Deans: If you last that long. The interesting thing about the government is that public support is only a consideration when it happens to be in its favour. The government never seems to address itself to the need. I want to tell them more, while we

have the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) sitting here—the hospital cuts don't have public support.

Mr. Norton: Oh yes they have.

Mr. Deans: So don't tell me that one of the reasons they are withdrawing this particular piece of legislation is because this whole operation, the Emergency Measures Organization, didn't have public support; because that's a lot of nonsense.

It's whether or not it performed a useful service that matters to the people of the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Norton: You don't even have your poll results yet on that one. You don't know whether it has public support or not.

Mr. Deans: I don't require poll results. I don't hold elections on the basis of whether people want them or not.

Mr. Norton: How do you get your information about who is supporting what?

Mr. Martel: The Premier (Mr. Davis) will call an election when he wants it.

Mr. Deans: I will tell you tomorrow, okay?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Wentworth direct his remarks through the Chair and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Deans: How can I ignore him; it is the first time he has spoken.

Mr. Speaker: Well, you try.

Mr. Deans: Anyway, I want to suggest something—

Mr. Martel: He's being provocative.

Mr. Deans: He's trying to be anyway. I want to suggest to the House that the measure of the EMO ought surely to be whether or not it did anything useful in the province—something that either was not being done or could not be done realistically by any other organization already in place. I think it is fair to say that at the inception of EMO much of what was being discussed was far outside the imagination of the majority of people. Not many people ever believed, rightly or wrongly, that there would ever be a major atomic bomb dropped in the middle of Ontario and that we would require emergency measures to cope with it.

Mr. Nixon: Or maybe just a minor one.

Mr. Deans: That's an interesting point. Yes, that's a good contribution.

Not many people ever have thought that the EMO personnel would be sufficiently well trained to cope with it anyway. I want to tell members about some personal experiences I have had with them because I've had quite a number.

During the period when I was with the fire department in the city of Hamilton, we worked with the Emergency Measures Organization on numerous occasions. It's not whether or not they are well staffed that matters. It's whether or not they are capable of drawing on the community for support when that support is required.

I say to the minister that during the most recent floods on Lake Ontario had it not been for the Emergency Measures Organization the damage and loss which would have been suffered by so many of the people, the residents of the area, would have been far more severe than they actually did have to incur. I don't understand why, given the overall cost, the government decided to move to some other form of providing this same care.

Let me give an example of what happened during those floods I am talking about. We needed sand to put in sandbags in order to hold the water back from flooding the properties of a number of residents. I tried the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and asked them if maybe they could provide a truck filled with sand in order to help those people out. There wasn't even a hope; not even a chance. No sand, no support, nothing from that ministry.

I think that is what worries me about the direction the government is taking. By the time we find someone in one of the ministries who has the responsibility, the authority to make the decision whether or not this is indeed a real emergency; and find someone else who has the authority to bring in a truck driver; and find someone else who has the authority to allocate one load of sand; and find someone else who has the authority to spend a few dollars buying some sandbags, we won't have to worry about the emergency.

Mr. Roy: The EMO isn't doing it. It is useless.

Mr. Deans: My friend from Ottawa East, who speaks so much and knows so little, doesn't appreciate that the EMO was doing it. Had it not been for the EMO and its efforts in that particular disaster, there would have been no one to provide the necessary

assistance to safeguard those properties and those people. If the member for Ottawa East thinks they were useless he can, of course, stand up at any time and make a speech. He is very good at it—making speeches—though not much of it ever makes sense.

Mr. Norton: He is not so good at sandbagging.

Mr. Deans: I want to tell the House that the government is making a mistake. There is no co-ordination of emergency services across the Province of Ontario at the moment and the relationship between full-time and volunteer fire services is, to say the least, not the most cordial. Therefore the effort that might be made at any given time to try to co-ordinate all of their efforts causes a number of problems. It was easier, more efficient and operated better, if you will, when there was an outside agency which had some authority to deal with it.

How do my constituents find out who to call when they live in an area served by a volunteer fire department and they have a flood and they want to get someone in to help them hold back that particular flooding? Who do they dial to get this done and who pays for it? That is one of the key points.
[9:15]

Mr. Eakins: The local member.

Mr. Deans: When you call the local fire department, they don't have either the facilities, the manpower or the money to provide the necessary equipment to do the job. There's a great deal of difficulty—

Mr. Mancini: Join the fire department.

Mr. Deans: The Liberals are funny about this. They think it's a big joke. My friend should have been there when the water was pouring in and tearing people's houses from the foundations. Then let him tell me that he liked it.

Mr. Roy: We don't think that's a joke, but you are a joke. All we said was that EMO was useless.

Mr. Norton: It wasn't the tragedy you described.

Mr. Deans: Wasn't it?

Mr. Norton: You misunderstand me.

Mr. Deans: Wasn't it? You should have been there and seen it.

Mr. Norton: You don't understand me.

Mr. Deans: I don't misunderstand you. I understand you very well. I didn't write the letter to the minister. I wasn't stupid enough.

Mr. Roy: You are going to vote against this bill.

Mr. Deans: At least when I support something, I stand up in my place and say so.

Mr. Roy: You are not afraid of your convictions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member direct his remarks through the Chair, please?

Mr. Mancini: Where were you on the vote today, Elie?

Mr. Martel: You guys are always changing your mind.

Mr. Roy: And you fellows are always consistent.

Mr. Deans: Inconsistency is one of those things my friend would know most about.

What I am suggesting is that if the minister takes an honest look around the Province of Ontario at the variety of minor and major disasters that have occurred over the last few years, he will find that in the greatest number of cases, the EMOs were very much involved in the co-ordination of all of the efforts that were made to try to resolve them. They spent a great deal of time and effort, and the money they spent was tiny compared to the amount of volunteer effort that was able to be generated because of their contacts and because of their continuous efforts.

I suggest to the minister that the government is making a big mistake. I said at the time it was announced that the government was going to abolish it, that it was making a mistake then; and, by doing what it is doing tonight, the government is simply compounding the mistake.

Mr. Roy: You are consistent.

Mr. Deans: We have to find some alternative way of dealing with it, because the majority of people do not have the ready access to the various ministries that the minister calls lead ministries. They don't know how to contact them. They don't have any conception of whether this government is prepared, not only to act but to pay for the actions of the others who have to act when there is no emergency assistance available.

I think that is where the government is falling down. The difficulty we have had all

the way through the thing is that, even though you try to get some help when it is desperately needed, it is hard to tell who is going to pay for it and therefore the municipalities are not able or willing to take the risk. I think the minister is making a mistake.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, it was with great interest that I listened to the comments by various hon. members about the debate on this particular bill. Some of the members talked about the question of what happens to the equipment; that, I think, is a valid point. When we phase down an institution where we were spending \$3 million a year, I think it's a valid question to ask what is going to happen to the equipment.

I can see the concern of one of my colleagues from Sudbury when he talks about certain communities that do not have certain facilities—

Mr. Martel: Sudbury East.

Mr. Roy: Sudbury East; but I call him the fellow from Sudbury, because he is known there. The concern of the member was about some of the unorganized communities in his area; but the problem, of course, is that EMO was not going in that direction.

Mr. Martel: In Sudbury they were.

Mr. Roy: If we felt on this side of the House that EMO was something that could have fulfilled the role that he was talking about, then we would have some concern about voting with the government on this bill. But, in fact, what EMO was doing was not what the hon. member was talking about. It was not even going in that direction.

Mr. Renwick: Of course it was.

Mr. Deans: That's exactly what they were doing.

Mr. Roy: We are saying, why keep an institution which is not serving you and, in fact, an institution which over a number of years has been consistently criticized by members.

Mr. Martel: You're wrong again.

Mr. Roy: I would say to the member for Wentworth, who has given me an awful lot of abuse here, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Nixon: He has even said he was inconsistent.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is leaving.

Mr. Roy: I'd love that member to stick around because I want to talk about some

of the things he's had to say and about the consistency of that particular member.

Mr. Nixon: A shame he is going.

Mr. Reid: If we would just have mirrors brought into the chamber he would stay.

Mr. Roy: The minister mentioned in his opening comments about members from all sides who, for a number of years, had sort of ridiculed the role of EMO, and with proper reason when we are talking about fallout shelters here and signs saying, "This is the way out of Toronto. In emergency, head in this direction," and all this. I think there was a touch of 1984 or Dr. Strange-love in the whole approach of EMO. Members have talked strongly about it—members on all sides of the House.

I thought I should look in Hansard and see what the members have had to say, and whether the minister was right that over a number of years members had ridiculed, had talked against EMO, and had proposed when the Attorney General was talking about it, to reduce the vote to nothing. I found it most interesting in following the member for Wentworth who talked about consistency and said to my colleagues on this side that we didn't know what we are talking about. I thought I should look at some of the things he had to say over the years about EMO. In opening the legislative debate on July 4, 1968, I'm reading from Hansard on page 5196—

Mr. Martel: Don't take it out of context.

Mr. Roy: —and I come back to the consistency that the member for Wentworth talked about; how consistent he was always in his approach. I read from page 5196 and here's what he had to say:

I have no little experience in this matter, having been at the fire department and having taken part in some of what was termed to be emergency measures activities. I can truthfully say that this is indeed \$1,633,000 being wasted.

Mr. Nixon: And he has experience as a fireman to support it.

Mr. Reid: That's what one calls NDP consistency. They can talk out of both sides of their mouths and chew gum at the same time.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Tell us more.

Mr. Roy: His anger did not limit itself; he went on, if I may assist the members of the House. He said:

If the Attorney General is looking for additional funds for forensic services, then perhaps this might

have been the place to get it. [From EMO] He could have taken it right out of this vote and used it for something of much greater concern, and of much more value to this community.

That's what he said.

Mr. Ruston: That's the NDP policy.

Mr. Reid: He is very flexible.

An hon. member: Where did he go?

Mr. Reid: He is out looking in the mirror.

Mr. Roy: He went on to say:

The emergency measures organization does not fulfil any useful purpose in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: I wish he was here because he's given me a lot of abuse here. He said I didn't know what I was talking about; I was inconsistent. Mr. Speaker, I must read on.

An hon. member: He is out getting his hair curled.

Mr. Kennedy: What is the date of that Hansard?

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: The member did not limit himself to that. He went on:

It is being run by people who are mostly out of date, out of touch, and basically a haven for people who enjoy playing soldier, fireman and policeman.

An hon. member: You said that?

Mr. Roy: No, that's the member for Wentworth.

Mr. Reid: The member who just spoke.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: The member who was going to vote against this bill.

Mr. Eakins: He has changed his mind.

Mr. Roy: He went on and said:

I really suggest that this entire portion of the estimates be removed voluntarily rather than have us vote on it. It would show the Attorney General to be a man of foresight and ability, if he would just take it upon himself to tear that part off the bottom of the page and forget it.

Tear EMO out of the estimates: "take it out" he said.

Mr. Reid: That's typical of the NDP policy.

Mr. Roy: He went on:

And then delegate the money over to the Minister of Trade and Development and use it for housing.

That's what he said. That was back in 1968.

Mr. Mancini: Did he say that?

Mr. Roy: I was interested in being fair to the member for Wentworth because I'm interested in people who are being consistent as he said that I was not.

So I looked in 1970. I thought I'll look at the debates in 1970—

Mr. Eakins: And he changed his mind.

Mr. Roy: —to see what the members had to say about it then. I looked at what the member for Wentworth had to say at page 4363 on June 23, 1970, and here's what he said—and this is important because he wants to be consistent and he says it here:

Mr. Chairman, to be consistent with my views of the EMO I wanted to say that I am disappointed to see this contained in this Act. I am convinced, and I spent some time trying to convince the Attorney General (Mr. Wishart) [He was consistent there, yes] that this whole thing is totally unnecessary and to allow for expenditures of funds in this municipality to perpetuate what I consider to be a useless operation—

That's what he said.

Mr. Reid: That's typical of the NDP policy.

Mr. Roy: He says: "—I consider to be a useless operation seems to me to be ridiculous. I just cannot, for the life of me, see why we would continue it." That's what he said.

Mr. Mancini: Did he say that?

Mr. Roy: Yes, that's what the man said. And then he went on. The Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) would enjoy this, because he participated in the debate with the member at that time. If I may read on, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very close to being finished, because I want to be consistent in my approach—he went on:

I would rather see the money that might be spent here spent in providing a more adequate fire service, or spent in providing some other service that would be available to people on a full-time basis rather than spent on people doing what they think may well be useful, but in fact something that may never, hopefully, be used; and even if it were to be used, to be totally inadequate when the time came to use it.

That's what he said.

Mr. Nixon: He is consistent all right.

Mr. Roy: And then the minister—back in 1970 the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. McKeough) was minister of—what was he minister of?

Mr. Nixon: Municipal Affairs?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Roy: Municipal Affairs—said to the member for Wentworth: “I am sure the member would agree that if the job is to be done it had better be done at a regional level rather than at a local area level—”

Mr. Nixon: Even then Darcy was regionalized.

Mr. Roy: And the member for Wentworth interjected and said: “Better not to be done at all.”

That’s what he said.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: So I say to you, Mr. Speaker, having suffered the slings and arrows from that member saying we were inconsistent here, I just want to say to the member he should be consistent. And maybe before he takes a position on the next piece of legislation in this House, he should read his own speeches in Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Brantford.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Is the member for Brantford in favour of this bill?

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, roused to get involved in this particular debate, and sort of listening to the chortling and the heckling and the inaccuracies and inconsistencies over there, I’d like to join the member in this debate, and I speak here as an individual—

Mr. Haggerty: Oh, as an individual now.

Mr. Makarchuk: —who originally had been very reluctant and has opposed the idea of an Emergency Measures Organization. The reason I opposed it in those years was simply because the organization was designed to convey the idea that war is thinkable—that an atomic war can be fought and, after the atomic war, we will all crawl out of our shelters and we’ll survive and we’ll all be happy and we’ll live for ever after.

Mr. Reid: If we get an NDP government, we will all be living in bomb shelters.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: That was the intent of that original organization, Mr. Speaker. And let me tell the members of this House that

when the bunker over here, at the corner of University and College St.—

Mr. Reid: That’s the Hydro building.

Mr. Makarchuk: —when that bunker was built, I was one of the individuals who organized the first protest around that bunker. I may have had something to say about the right to defence in this country, because at that time we were attacked by the local police who came from across the street and used force to try and break up that particular demonstration—

Mr. Nixon: You weren’t carrying an NDP sign then. You were carrying another sign.
[9:30]

Mr. Martel: That’s scurrilous. How could you, Bob?

Mr. Makarchuk: —but that is beside the point, and, Mr. Speaker, I join in this debate as an individual, as I said earlier, who was quite reluctant to support the idea, but I’ve also had the opportunity since that time to look at the role of the Emergency Measures Organization, to be one of the people in a local municipality who sat on the emergency measures board and participated in the events related to the Emergency Measures Organization. I have changed my mind on the basis of the fact that the Emergency Measures Organization in Ontario has also changed its mind. It has redefined its role.

The people at the local level in every municipality looked at it differently. They looked at their world as being one of support to the municipal services, to the police, to the fire department, to be able to confront and act in a reasonable and sensible way to overcome some of the disasters that can and do develop at a municipal level.

One of the things I want to stress to the minister right now, and this seems to be still the case as we discussed lab closings and discussed hospital closings, is the arbitrary and the cavalier manner that that government insists on dealing with agencies that are partially municipal or partially governmental. They still refuse to discuss their programmes. They still refuse to discuss what they intend to do with the municipality.

When the word came down to the municipality at the time I was a member of council telling them the government was going to cut out the Emergency Measures Organization, there was absolutely no consultation and there was no discussion. In other words, the people out there, out of this House, the

people in the province have nothing to say about what goes on in the province.

I have said this before and I am saying this again that the minister should be listening to what is happening and to what the people of Ontario have to say. I think that is one of the major mistakes at this time regarding the Emergency Measures Organization.

What really convinced me about the benefits of the EMO was the 1974 flood in Brantford. At that time I was, as I said earlier, on city council, and about 3 o'clock in the morning the flood knocked out the waterworks in the city. There were a few phone calls and we congregated. There was an Emergency Measures Organization and the emergency measures co-ordinator was active. He was on top of the situation, he got the elected officials together, he got the engineering people together, he got the fire people together, he got the police together and we started some action to see what we could do to try to cope with a situation that developed overnight.

When you have a city of about 70,000 population and your water service is cut off, that could be a major catastrophe; in fact it is. The emergency measures people at that time provided us with communication facilities and they provided us with contacts with other agencies in government. They knew where we could go, whom we could phone and where we could get water tankers. They had an inventory of the equipment that was available at that time. This is the kind of thing that can still happen and will happen in Ontario. As an example, there was the ice storm in Fort Erie, as mentioned by the member for Erie. This is a situation which can still persist and will persist in the province. At this time there is nothing within the municipal organization to take care of these problems.

This is why I feel that the government's desire to eliminate this organization is blind. It is not aware of what is happening out there and it does not really care about what may happen. The minister states that the services are out there. Nobody in the municipality knows that the services are out there. They really don't have anybody to turn to. They know there are so many policemen on duty. When an emergency arises one finds out that the policemen on duty and even the extra ones who can be called in are tied up. The police department is not really involved in co-ordinating and ensuring that the other extra services that are needed in an emergency situation will be there.

The Ontario Provincial Police really is irrelevant in the major communities. In the small communities it may have a role to play but in the larger communities it is really irrelevant. There is very little contact between the two police forces. There is certainly almost no contact between the OPP and the municipalities. So, what happens? Whom do you turn to when you have a serious situation? Those are the kinds of things that concern me and those are the kind of things that concern a lot of other people.

I would like the minister to realize that in addition to what may have happened, is the fact that we are in the position these days to have disasters. There is the matter of industrial disasters that can develop, the matter of chemical spills that can develop and the matter of gases that can be released over communities. It may not happen in some communities but certainly other communities are prone to these kinds of phenomena. Again, there is nobody in the communities at this time sitting, analysing, looking at the possibilities that can develop in the area.

I feel those are some of the roles that can be assigned to a continuing Emergency Measures Organization. One of its responsibilities would be to sit and analyse and find out what can happen, what possible disasters can occur, how they can be coped with if they happen, whom we call on, what equipment we need, where is it located, who has to be contacted, and all the things that have to be done to ensure that people are not injured.

In conclusion, all I can say is that the minister and the government are making a very serious mistake in this case. The federal government is still, I think, providing certain financing. It is not that expensive in relation to the whole budget, in terms of the potential damage that can result in a community because proper precautions are not taken. Under those circumstances I would suggest that the minister withdraw this bill, proceed to the extent of sitting down with the people he has in Emergency Measures Organizations and sitting down with the municipalities, and get away from this idea of planning for the nuclear war which we think we are going to win, or somebody thinks he is going to win.

Get away from showing those films in which, if a bomb goes off, one is supposed to get out of the car and slide into the ditch or climb behind a stone fence or something of this nature. Start looking at the realities of life in Ontario. We have floods, we have disasters, we have fires, we have storms. The

Emergency Measures Organization—a small group of people; a nucleus in every community—can sit there, analyse the possibilities and provide the solutions should these things hit the community. It is on that basis that I oppose the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. I am quite interested that the debate for the abolition of EMO is even more vehement than the debates used to be against government policy when it persisted in budgeting for EMO year after year. In those days, of course, the vote was always on an amendment in the estimates put forward either by the member for, now, Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) from the Liberals—

Mr. Deans: Oh, please; no. He's gone.

Mr. Nixon: —or could it have been the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) from the NDP? to reduce the allocation of funds to \$1. Now that the government is deciding to abolish this particular organization, there will evidently be a division again to keep it going.

I fail to see the consistency in this although I must say that the argument that has been put forward by a number of members, including my colleague from Erie, which calls for some kind of a co-ordinated organization in the event of disaster, is one that I am sure the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) must concern himself with. The flood in the Grand River has been mentioned by the member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) and I know the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), if he hasn't spoken about it, would be certainly prepared to give information in that vein.

In my own constituency, I can remember being very much impressed indeed at the way the community of Paris turned out to fill the sandbags, and at the way Consolidated Sand and Gravel brought the loads of sand down and dumped them appropriately and the mayor himself was out there directing the operation and working his head off. Of course, the provincial member was supervising. But talk about a community affair!

Mr. Samis: That's leadership.

Mr. Nixon: It's a great thing when, in the face of a real threat and a very clear threat and the water is rising, the community turns out to save its own property and for its own welfare. A programme that can co-ordinate that has to be a valuable one and one that must certainly concern us all and, very specifically, the Solicitor General, in whose ambit comes this specific responsibility.

The conservation authority was severely criticized for inadequate warnings in that case and not having a sufficiently well-planned programme in the event of a flood, but I believe we have organizations in the field now that, with proper co-ordination, can accomplish this sort of assistance for us.

Mr. Speaker, you may call me to order on this, but I feel I should register a bit of an objection when I hear the various members talk about the tremendous danger from our atomic facilities here in this province. I think there is a very real danger of us confusing the kind of facilities we have with the ones we read about in the United States. The programme is basically different, and I don't think we serve our own community as well as we might when we talk about the very real chance of atomic accidents in that sense. I hope I'm not being unrealistic in this, but it's a matter that has concerned me over a number of years and I just want to register a counter opinion in that regard. Nothing is impossible, but the chances of an atomic accident that might, in fact, spread poison and pollution over the Pickering community or even in a larger area are extremely remote indeed.

Mr. Breaugh: But we do have a plan.

Mr. Nixon: Extremely remote indeed. I just want to put that forward, sir. I personally am very much in favour of the repeal of the statute which established this organization. I don't want to spend the time talking about their decisions in the early days when there were people, and not all of them irrational, who were deeply concerned about the possibility of what we would do in the event of an atomic attack. It was discussed by rational people and there were very real fears felt.

It did seem a bit ridiculous here in this House, particularly when we read about the elaborate preparations for the governing of the the Province of Ontario by the cabinet, who would be taken by special secret routes out of this city to Base Borden, into a bunker which was well equipped with everything—except we found out they didn't have a women's washroom, Margaret, and perhaps you should know about that in case you're continuing to be a bit concerned about what we will do in any particular eventuality. That's one eventuality that they had not prepared for.

Mr. Roy: They were all male chauvinists. They haven't changed, they're all male chauvinists.

Mr. Nixon: I won't refer to the ingenuity of the minister in that possibility, but there really were some ridiculous expenditures of money at that time which, I think, put the whole EMO organization under a cloud from which it has not yet been able to escape. The federal government did reduce its support. I was interested when the member for Brantford indicated there still was federal support. I thought it had been all but terminated, because at the time when the reduction of the EMO support provincially was announced, as usual the blame was put on a federal initiative.

I thought at the time the federal initiative was a very proper one indeed, just as I believe now that giving a gentle coup de grace to the EMO is a very proper thing for this Legislature to do. This, of course, does not mean that our responsibility is at an end to see that there are adequate organizations, involving the provincial police, municipal police, the conservation authority and other organizations which can be co-ordinated with—what is that phrase? The minister might help me—lead ministry?

Mr. Renwick: Lead ministry, yes.

Mr. Nixon: Through the lead ministry process, the minister might explain more fully—

Mr. Renwick: The Premier (Mr. Davis) understands it.

Mr. Nixon: If in fact the Solicitor General is sort of the point of the flying wedge to protect the province, I must express a certain degree of concern. Perhaps he can allay my fears in that connection.

Mr. Martel: Lorne Henderson. He's the anchor man.

Mr. Nixon: All right. As the man responsible for the police there is no doubt some responsibility that devolves upon him, as it would undoubtedly devolve upon the police forces in the event of these disasters that undoubtedly will happen to us from time to time.

I look forward to voting for the repeal of the statute and perhaps we will get to it later tonight.

[9:45]

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker: I would like to speak very briefly on the bill. I want to speak particularly about an ancillary but important matter related to the winding up of the EMO programme because I am extremely concerned about whether or not I can, as a member of the opposition, speaking in oppo-

sition and speaking in a debate with the former acting Solicitor General, rely on the undertakings of the government given in the House.

I want the minister to listen very carefully to the questions which I put to the former member for Niagara Falls, Mr. Clement, who was, at the time of the estimates last year, dealing with the whole question of the cessation of the funding of the Emergency Measures Organization programme.

I refer to page 2019 of the Hansard of May 20, 1975, when I said to the minister, the acting minister at that time:

On this particular vote, as the branch is going to be phased out of existence, how many jobs are going to be displaced and what is going to happen to the people who are presently holding those jobs?

The acting minister at that time replied:

Insofar as individuals are concerned, I believe there are 33 provincial civil servants who will be affected by the phasing out of the programme. They are being assigned to other duties right now, within the government service, and with the co-operation of the Civil Service Commission. Some of them must, through necessity, stay on, in effect, for a week or two past Dec. 31, 1975, but the majority of them are being phased out over the next eight or nine months—between now and the end of the year.

I came back at the acting minister:

Mr. Chairman, on that point, may I simply have the assurance of the minister that no person in the employ of this branch is going to lose his position or his employment, or suffer a stepdown in his employment, because of the phasing out or change in policy of the government about this branch?

The acting minister then replied:

Your hoped-for understanding is correctly stated, Mr. Chairman.

I want to specifically ask the minister and, if necessary, if the answers aren't forthcoming on this second reading debate, it may be necessary, strange as it may sound, to put the bill into committee—assuming, as I now feel it will, that it will pass with the support, the ambiguous support albeit, of the Liberal Party—

Mr. Roy: Ambiguous? Consistent.

Mr. Renwick: I'd like to know what has happened to the director; what has happened to the two programme managers; what has happened to the one purchasing officer; what has happened to the one communications officer; the one communications technician; the one radiological defence officer; the six field officers, together with the secretarial and supporting staff, which together made up the 33 persons to whom the minister's predecessor referred at the time of the questions which I put to him. I want to know specifically what jobs they are in. What salary classification are they in? Where have they been

relocated within the civil service? And has there been any depreciation in the value of their services in monetary terms as a result of the winding-up of the branch?

This is a matter of immense concern to me because of the pride which the government now takes in its budgetary statement about the reduction in the complement of the Civil Service, indicating, of course, that it's been reduced substantially but that nobody ever gets hurt. We doubt it; we just don't believe it. I want the assurance from this minister, responsible at this time for the complete winding-up and the so-called burial of EMO, to tell me that the undertaking of his predecessor has been carried out to the letter, in the unequivocal way in which it was given to me at the time of those debates.

I'm not going to repeat a number of the arguments that have been put by my colleagues about the reasons for our concern. The distinction is quite clear. The origin of the Emergency Measures Organization was in the days of the sputnik and the overall sense of fear and apprehension which pervaded the North American continent after that particular night in June, 1953. The aftermath and the fall-out influenced so much of what then took place almost for the rest of that particular decade.

We, along with everyone else, realized that the initial impulse and motivation for the Emergency Measures Organization became quite ridiculous over a period of time. We agreed and we spoke about and we voted against on a number of occasions the perpetuation of a federally directed and supported Emergency Measures Organization whose sole and immediate concern was with respect to national defence disasters.

But we have noted over a period of time that this government has never had an adequate public safety programme—a public safety programme that will take into account the immediate response which must be made by people on the spot when a natural disaster occurs or when a man-made type of disaster occurs, such as an environmental disaster or accident of one kind or another.

That has been the thrust of the comments which we have made for some considerable period of time. It culminated in the debates which took place last year when the minister's predecessor announced the cessation of the federal funding and the cessation of the provincial funding, and said it was now up to the municipalities and this beautiful concept of the lead ministry was evolved as a method of response.

We are dissatisfied with the concept of the lead ministry as we understand it. What that

means is that after the event has taken place, after the actual emergency has reached its peak, then somebody is going to say, what can the provincial government now do? It will have been too late to have called in aid the services of the particular lead ministries of the government in response to the immediate emergency which may have occurred.

We are dissatisfied because the people on the spot have no way of knowing. There has been no publicity campaign, there is no coordinator available and there is no communications network available where people on the spot can be in instantaneous communication with the government at Queen's Park to say: "We need help, we need it now and we need it immediately." Time and time again, a disaster occurs in the Province of Ontario—and we're fortunate. We have what in disaster terms in other parts of the world can be considered only minor. But when they strike in the Province of Ontario, they are equally as horrendous to the people who are involved as any disaster anywhere.

It's that instantaneous sense of response to which my colleague, the member for Wentworth, was speaking in particular tonight. I mention him only because of the ludicrous attack made upon him by the member for Ottawa East. If there is one thing that the member for Wentworth has the capacity to do, which the member for Ottawa East does not, it is to learn.

Mr. Nixon: There is a great defence. What is your excuse?

Mr. Reid: If he changes his mind tomorrow, he will have learned a lot more.

Mr. Roy: It only took him six years; that is not bad.

Mr. Reid: That is the best line in nine years.

Mr. Ruston: It will go down in history.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Would you mind quoting from my wonderful speech of 1975?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Renwick: It is only the rules of the House that require me to respond in defence of my colleague, the member for Wentworth. Having spoken, he can't speak again.

Mr. Ruston: Hansard doesn't show your smile.

Mr. Renwick: If I may repeat, because I don't think the member for Ottawa East quite caught what I said, I said that the capacity of the member for Wentworth that distinguishes him from the member for Ottawa East is his capacity to learn and the member for Ottawa East's incapacity to learn.

Mr. Roy: It is getting better all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Given another occupation—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Ruston: He's never been on it.

Mr. Roy: It is a personal attack, is what it is. But I take it in good part.

Mr. Renwick: My colleague, the member for Wentworth, spoke in the same estimates debate last year on May 22, 1975, with respect to the question of his experience, which is far greater than the member for Ottawa East's or mine in the field with which we are concerned.

Mr. Roy: We weren't talking about that. We were talking about inconsistency.

Mr. Renwick: We are talking about his experience and his ability to learn from experience.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: I am sure he learned tonight. He will be more careful.

Mr. Ruston: He has not learned much yet.

Mr. Renwick: My colleague, the member for Wentworth, said to the predecessor of the present Solicitor General of the province:

I want to ask you about two things: One, now that you have disbanded EMO, and I realize—how do you propose that the work it had previously done could be undertaken, as it will undoubtedly have to be undertaken, by the volunteer and professional firefighters in most of the areas where there are emergency conditions that arise from time to time?

Then he went on to give the example of the flooding of the shoreline along the shore of Lake Ontario.

A year ago we had extensive flooding in the Hamilton area and down through my riding along Lake Ontario. It would have been impossible for the police or the fire service, whether professional or volunteer, to have undertaken the responsibilities for the work that had to be done and much of that work was done by the EMO.

Mr. Roy: What year was that?

Mr. Renwick: That was a little less than a year ago.

Mr. Roy: We can see the trend starting to develop.

Mr. Renwick: In June, 1975; I doubt if you were in the House at the time.

Mr. Roy: It started to develop from 1968.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Renwick: He went on again, a little later on—there were various exchanges between himself and the acting minister at the time. He said:

When I look back on it, it is a wonder the whole damn place wasn't washed away before anybody moved. The EMO people were the only ones I could get to go down right away and begin the process.

Somewhat further on, after a further exchange, my colleague from Wentworth said:

I want to tell you the difference between what you were doing and what you once had. You are talking about people whose primary function is other than in emergency situations. [He was talking about the police and so on] They don't have a great list of volunteer people. They know who will come out at a moment's notice, in the middle of the night and do the work. That was the one thing the EMO were able to do. They were able to co-ordinate those people who had a great deal of civic pride and who had a great sense of their responsibility to other people. They were able to mobilize them very quickly and to get work done. There's a voluntary radio service—

And so on and so forth.

Mr. Martel: You should apologize now.

Mr. Renwick: That's what my colleague's contribution was a little over a year ago when the cessation of the funding was announced.

Mr. Martel: You only gave half the story.

An hon. member: Typical Albert.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Renwick: That expresses what my colleague, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has said; what my colleague, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has said in very dramatic terms with respect to the unorganized territories of the province—

Mr. Nixon: He was opposed to EMO, too.

Mr. Renwick: —what my colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), has said; what the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) has said, lacking as he always does the support of his colleagues in the Liberal Party for any statement which he may make which is of considerable sense and weight for those of us who know him.

Interjection.

Mr. Renwick: That is what we said time and time again.

Mr. Nixon: Once more into the breach.
[10:00]

Mr. Renwick: There is no adequate public safety programme in effect in the Province of Ontario and we think it is wrong for the minister to have disbanded the one available service without having remodelled it and remade it into an adequate public safety programme. Mark my words, the minister is going to have to remodel and remake it. He is going to have to put it together because he is not going to be able to stumble along as he did through March of this year and as he has done on other occasions when these disasters strike without paying a political price in this province, because he has no conception of natural disasters and man-made disasters and he always passes them off, as the judge had to pass off the one in the area of Cambridge, that it was an act of God, as though that absolved the government of any fault or any responsibility.

By the dismantling of the Emergency Measures Organization, the cessation of its funding at a provincial level, the thrusting of the responsibilities on to the municipalities to look after it, and the failure to provide an adequate overall co-ordinating mechanism for the public safety programmes in the Province of Ontario, this government will reap the whirlwind when it happens. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, there is an immense feeling about this kind of disaster, and there's nothing that we know of that this government is prepared to institute to maintain that kind of active enterprise which will permit the co-ordination of the civic virtues of people when disaster strikes a particular area.

There's nothing more difficult or awkward than to be able and willing to respond and to find that there is no adequate leadership or mechanism by which a response can be made, because when disaster strikes everybody starts to look after themselves since they realize that there is no way, by joining together, that they can effectively bring about an adequate response to these severe emergencies which they face.

Because it is a matter of immense concern to me, I revert to the remarks I first made: What has happened to the 33 people? Were they protected, in what way were they protected and what positions do they now have?

Mr. Martel: Are you going to apologize, Albert?

Mr. Roy: You fellows make St. Paul look like an amateur.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot has the floor.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize that during the very severe flooding in 1974 along the Grand River, the EMO personnel in the Waterloo region, particularly in that part of it in Bridgeport and Cambridge, did perform very heroic and much-needed service, very significant service. That's something, as I say, that needs to be recognized and pointed out.

Mr. Deans: Unlike your colleagues, I paid tribute to them.

Mr. Sweeney: However, one of the difficulties, even at that time and certainly more recently, was that the personnel had a very difficult time in recognizing just who their boss was and just where they got their funds and their supplies from.

Mr. Martel: They couldn't find any atomic bombs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sweeney: One of the changes which has now taken place, and which in my area in particular is definitely a change for the better—and I have confirmed this with the people back in that area—is that the same personnel now are members of the local municipal and regional governments—

Mr. Wildman: Are you in favour of regional government?

Mr. Sweeney: They are still there, able to perform the services that need to be done, but there is a recognized line of authority at the present time. For that reason, I believe the change that is taking place is, in fact, a change for the better. Going back and repeating what I said, I recognize the excellent, needed and very meritorious work that was done by the EMO people when they were in place. But the time has come to accept the changes and to recognize that the organization which is now in place is in fact a better one.

Mr. Davidson: Mr. Speaker, I suspect I can stand here as a new member and not be quoted out of old Hansards.

Mr. Martel: Albert will try. He'll look at your campaign speeches.

Mr. Davidson: I suspect I can say things which I have very deep feeling for without

being contradicted either by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) or the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney).

Mr. Samis: Don't count on the member for Ottawa East, though.

Mr. Davidson: I can say these things, because I am going to discuss some of the areas that they themselves have brought to light, namely and primarily the 1974 flood of the Grand Valley watershed—or the Grand River watershed, whichever you care to call it—and who in fact it was that brought some semblance of reality in putting emergency measures into effect.

Mr. Nixon: Your problem is that you are regionalized and the regionalized people don't know which way to turn. They didn't know whether it was the regional people or the police force. You were really screwed up.

Mr. Davidson: In Cambridge it certainly was not the local municipality and it was not the local police force. I say this in all honesty to my friend from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, it was as you say the people from the Emergency Measures Organizations—

Mr. Nixon: It was the municipality that was all screwed up.

Mr. Davidson: —who really dug in, found out what was taking place and applied themselves to the task of making sure that what could have been a far worse disaster than what it was did not occur. It was a disaster resulting in over \$5 million damage alone to the city of Cambridge, but it could have been far worse than that and, gratefully, because of the work they did, there was in fact no loss of life.

Mr. Roy: Did you read the old speeches of the member for Wentworth?

Mr. Samis: Also our wage and price controls.

Mr. Davidson: No, but I will suggest to my friend from Ottawa East that it's far better to change one's mind from 1970 to 1976—

Mr. Nixon: That is called learning.

Mr. Davidson: —than to change it from Monday to Wednesday in one period of a week.

Mr. Samis: From Tuesday to Thursday with tennis in between.

Mr. Nixon: Whatever do you mean?

Mr. Roy: We are a lot more flexible than you.

Mr. Speaker: Order:

Mr. Davidson: I'd like to convey to the minister just a couple of words of wisdom if I may and I don't intend to take too long in speaking.

Interjections.

Mr. Davidson: A lot of what I would have liked to have said has already been said.

Mr. Samis: What tennis does to some people!

Mr. Davidson: I cannot agree with the so-called lead ministry profile or whatever it is the minister cares to call it. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, of a little incident that has happened, and I'm quite at odds to wonder as to why my friend from Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) didn't raise this.

In 1974, following the flood, the Grand River Conservation Authority through the Minister of Natural Resources said to everyone around that watershed, including Brantford and the Kitchener area, the Bridgeport area, Cambridge, that never again would such a situation occur without adequate warning being provided to the municipalities along the Grand River.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me suggest this to you, that approximately three weeks ago without warning the municipalities of New Hamburg and Ayr were flooded. Questions were raised by the mayors of both communities, by the mayor of the city of Cambridge and by the regional councillors and officials as to how such a thing could possibly happen. The answer they got after two years following the flood was that they haven't as yet hooked up the so-called warning system.

I would like to suggest if that is the speed under which the ministries of the government operate, then if it does away with this organization and we are faced with the same situation in which we were faced in 1974, we may not again have the opportunity of coming out of a situation without loss of life and we might certainly have far more of a loss—at least in one community—than \$5 million.

Mr. Wildman: I rise in opposition to the repeal of the Emergency Measures Act but not in support of the Emergency Measures Organization as an anachronism set up to fight the straw man of nuclear attack or whatever, but basically because I'm opposed

to or have a lot of questions about the concept of lead ministries.

In my area there is a large number of unorganized townships as was referred to by the member for Sudbury East. There isn't even any municipal organization to co-ordinate any kind of approach to an emergency situation. I think back to Nov. 11 last fall when there was a severe storm all around the Great Lakes. There were large areas which were damaged along the eastern shore of Lake Superior and the north shore of Lake Huron. Along the eastern shore of Lake Superior where there are very few organized municipalities there was a lot of damage done. When people appealed to me for help I contacted the Minister of Natural Resources, who I believe is in one of the lead ministries that the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) referred to, and he replied to me after quite a long time to the effect that the municipality in the area must apply to the minister to find out what kind of aid they can receive in a disaster. I then pointed out to the minister that there is no municipality in the area to apply, and in that case he said unless the government itself in Toronto—here, in Toronto—decided to declare the area a disaster area then nothing could be done.

I submit that that is going to take a little bit of time and really is not the kind of response that is necessary when people are facing large losses because of flood or storm. In that case there were areas along the shoreline where large amounts of soil were eroded away at a great loss to the property owners. Commercial fishermen lost their boats and so on, and to this day nothing has been done for those people; not one thing. Despite repeated letters to the Minister of Natural Resources on my part, there has just been nothing done.

I question whether lead ministries are really a way of handling an emergency in an unorganized territory. I can also point out many other examples, but there is one other example that comes immediately to mind. A few years ago in an unorganized township near Sturgeon Falls, just outside of the organized municipality, there was a fire. The fire department from Sturgeon Falls went to the border of the organized municipality but did not go across, because they didn't want to set a precedent. Natural Resources wasn't available to fight that fire so the fire burned the house down. Natural Resources has fire equipment but its main responsibility, obviously, is to protect against forest fires and if the equipment is occupied in fighting a forest fire then the people living in an unorganized municipality are not protected.

They just have to get out of the house and let it burn.

Also, even if we look at areas that are not unorganized, if we look at small municipalities—and there are a large number in Algoma—which have a low tax base, they just don't have the kind of money which is necessary to provide the equipment and the expertise necessary in an emergency.

For instance, volunteer fire departments in small municipalities cannot receive any grant at all from the provincial government for fire equipment. They have to debenture and they have to pay for it out of the tax revenue, and if they don't have the tax base necessary they just go without.

I understand that last fall the Ontario Fire Marshal was studying the problem and was prepared to recommend that the government institute grants through the Solicitor General's ministry for small municipalities for fire equipment, but because of the restraint programme that has gone by the wayside.

Mr. Haggerty: In 1965 that was available.

Mr. Wildman: That's right. What are the small municipalities to do? They haven't been able to get grants since the early 1960s. They can't provide the protection that's taken for granted in large municipalities, and with the withdrawal of the Emergency Measures Organization there isn't any organization at all which might be expanded or developed or moved into these areas which might co-ordinate the equipment necessary and the personnel necessary to cover large areas to face emergencies in time of disaster. I just question the whole concept of lead ministries and the idea that other agencies can handle it. [10:15]

Even if we look at the OPP, in my area in the north there are large numbers of people who get lost during the hunting season and the Ontario Provincial Police, of course, are responsible along with other agencies—volunteer agencies usually, and the federal government's air rescue—to search for these people in the bush. They just don't have the personnel but at the same time they don't have the right, or apparently are not given the right, to train local agencies to do that. The local agency has to be organized and request aid from the OPP.

I wonder if perhaps the Emergency Measures or some other organization like that, instead of being abolished, might be expanded to handle those kinds of emergencies and to provide for the needs that are obviously there and which are not being met right now. The MNR just doesn't seem

equipped to handle the emergencies as suggested by the minister, and the other agencies, especially in small municipalities, just do not have the personnel, the capital or the expertise. For that reason I will be voting against the bill.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I will keep my remarks rather brief considering most of the arguments have been made on this subject. I think most of us over on this side realize that the basic reasons for the EMO have changed over the years. We accept that the whole nuclear threat and the scare which probably developed at that time and accelerated the growth and development of the EMO has probably subsided to the extent that if we judge it purely on that basis it wouldn't be justified. I think there still is a limited role for the EMO to justify its continuance, possibly in a reorganized, possibly even in a more limited role.

My colleague from Algoma has already outlined, in terms of unorganized communities, the value it could serve and my colleague from Oshawa used the example of what happened on the Ottawa River recently. They relied on the army and if anyone is familiar with that particular incident, obviously it was useless because of the instantaneous nature of the disaster and the implicit unpredictability of the whole thing.

I think the whole question of lead ministries leaves a lot of people in small communities in great doubt as to the appropriate channels and the quickness and the responsiveness of a bureaucracy in this particular situation.

I would almost be willing to accept the government's bill in the context of restraint if we had the restraint equally applied across the province. When I see a government closing down hospitals, restricting social services and dissolving the EMO, I can accept that if the restraints were applied equally; but when I see the giveaway to the big corporations, the \$400 million tax and how that is still being continued even this year when we see the OHIP premiums going up—the big boys, many of whom are American, are still getting their tax giveaway—obviously there is an inequity in this whole restraint policy. I think, for the amount of money involved, the security and the limited role in the case of an emergency still justify the existence of the EMO. On that basis, I would oppose the bill.

Mr. Godfrey: Mr. Speaker, I view this bill as another example of fanfare and foulup which characterizes the action of the party across the floor. It was announced with a

great fanfare, trumpeted as being the answer to all of our problems, and now ends in a typical foulup which characterizes what went with Krauss-Maffei, the Niagara Escarpment, the Toronto-centred plan and the North Pickering development. All of them were highly bruited, only to be pulled back into the kennel after a suitable period of time.

The minister says the actions of the EMO will be substituted for by the OPP. I ask where is the budget by which the OPP can take over the duties the EMO is carrying out? I point out to him that at present in my riding we have 18,000 acres of land which is a federal enclave in the midst of Ontario. This land is not policed by the Mounties as normally federal land is. Barns are burned. We have difficulty getting fire protection. We are second-class or third-class when the firereels go out. Houses are destroyed. We are unable to call on aid in emergencies in which the EMO would be a factor.

The railroad crossings are even marked as private. When one drives down the road, one comes to a sign which does not say, "Careful. Railroad crossing." It says, "Private. Railroad crossing. Cross at your own risk." Surely here is an area where emergencies can happen at any time and where the EMO can be fitted in.

There is a serious question as to whether automobile or other types of insurance apply when one rides on these federally owned lands which are no longer under the jurisdiction of anyone in the area. Indeed, this is a time of disaster out in that area and I submit we do need the Emergency Measures Organization in a new and fuller role to help us.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of entering substantively or at all into this debate, but there was one comment of the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) which intrigued me. He rather sotto voce, in his support of this bill to eliminate EMO, conceded that there was need for some sort of a co-ordinating body. Then he said to the Solicitor General, "I hope he will address himself to this problem."

Now, I'm rather cheesed with the consistency of a position in which he concedes that there is need for co-ordination, he acknowledged that in its new approach of recent years EMO has emerged into that co-ordinating role—

Interjection.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, you won't, eh? Well, others have. And indeed that it has the capacity to provide that co-ordinating role; and the consistency of the hon. member in asking for the Solicitor General to give some thought to this matter of concern, when in fact he's going to create a vacuum, rather intrigues me.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo North.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, I rise only for one purpose and that is to set the record straight on some of the fabrications that have been put forth here tonight by members of the NDP. The member for Brantford (Mr. Makarchuk) had indicated that the first warning given to the city of Brantford was by the EMO at 3 in the morning. Let me read from the "Report of the Royal Commission Inquiry into the Grand River Flood, 1974":

Mr. Middleton, the city engineer of Brantford, received the first call from Mr. Stevens of the Grand River Conservation Authority at approximately 10 p.m. on May 16. Mr. Stevens advised that in Brantford there would be no serious risk during the night but that there would be flooding the next day.

Mr. Stevens advised that he would call back in the morning—

Mr. Roy: What's wrong with your research over there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brantford rises on a point of order.

Mr. Roy: What's wrong with your research?

Mr. Makarchuk: At no time, Mr. Speaker, did I discuss the times that the engineer, the city police or anybody in Brantford received the warning from the Grand River Conservation Authority. I'm not sure what the member is talking about.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo North will continue.

Mr. Good: I would like to proceed. If Hansard proves that I am wrong I will retract what I said, but I distinctly remember the member for Brantford stating that it was 3 in the morning when EMO first warned the city officials in Brantford.

Mr. Markarchuk: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: That's what I heard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, once again I reiterate what I said, that at no time did I discuss any of the times or warnings that were received by the city of Brantford in my speech this evening. I would suggest to the member, once again, that he either retracts the statement or talks about something he knows something about.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Good: I will proceed to read from the report.

Mr. Roy: We'll look at Hansard tomorrow.

Mr. Makarchuk: Do that.

Mr. Deans: Read it all.

Mr. Good: It says:

Following the call from Mr. Stevens, Mr. Middleton took action. He testified he took all flood warning as a serious matter. He immediately called his work superintendent to arrange for the night duty men to check the river level. At 9 a.m. the next morning, Mr. Middleton, the city engineer, met with Mayor Bowen and the chief of police and advised them that flooding was to be expected. At 9:30 a.m. the Grand River Conservation called again and advised Mr. Middleton—

Mr. Martel: You have convinced us you can read. Now what are you trying to prove?

Mr. Good: I continue:

Mr. Middleton, at 10 a.m., called the Grand River Conservation Authority and was advised by Mr. Kao that the flooding would be severe and the river would rise 17 ft, more or less.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is simply this: That the NDP can fabricate and get emotional about any subject to suit their own purposes. I'm not discounting for one minute that the EMO did not play a part in the flooding along the Grand River, but I do want to make this one point: It was 10 o'clock the next morning—

Mr. Davidson: Does the member agree fully with that report?

Mr. Good: —that during the same period the Brantford police received a message from Mr. Roberts of the EMO, stating "Probable flood expected Brantford." Now, the report goes on to show and to explain that the advance warning in the city of Brantford was taken seriously by the city officials. The advance warning given to the city of Cambridge was not taken seriously by the city officials and no one was notified.

The point I really want to make is simply this, the member for Brantford clearly stated that it was the EMO who first warned the officials in the city of Brantford—

Mr. Makarchuk: On a point of order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, tonight in the House, as I said earlier—and I thought the member had the decency to accept my explanation—at no time did I discuss the hours, the appearance or anything about the warning that was received from the Grand River Conservation Authority by the city of Brantford. I am well acquainted with the circumstances of that case, and what the member is reading in Judge Leach's report is probably accurate, although I question some of Judge Leach's findings. But the point the member attributed to me is something that I did not say, and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the member retract those comments.

Mr. Renwick: Withdraw or resign.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: We will wait for Hansard.

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker, I only want to say a brief word about EMO. I remember back in the days—

Mr. Nixon: This will be good.

Mr. Ferrier: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ferrier: Let the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk take notice.

Mr. Reid: Which side are you on?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ferrier: There was a motion in this House to abolish the EMO, and at that time

I got up and spoke in favour of the work that EMO had done in the Chapleau fire.

Mr. Nixon: And Deans spoke against it.

Mr. Ferrier: It had had a very beneficial effect and had co-ordinated activities in the city of Timmins and environs to provide emergency assistance for those people. Very great work was done in those days.

Having spoken at that time of the great work that EMO had done and then to vote against it was something which was very unusual, I suppose, and I had to do some fancy footwork in the election.

Tonight, I would say to my friend from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that I think that EMO did fulfil a function, even though a lot of Tories seem to be the ones who were the personnel in charge. That being as it may, I think it did fulfil a useful role back in 1970 or whenever it was I said it was good; now I am going to vote in favour of its retention, and I might bring about some redemption of the fall I made back there in those days.

Mr. Nixon: Never give up on that redemption.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate?

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I rise to bring to your attention that while it's true what the member for Ottawa East said with regard to—

Mr. Reid: No point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will listen to the hon. member and then decide on the point of order.

Mr. Deans: Thank you. While it's true what the member for Ottawa East quotes as having been attributed to me in the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and, I believe, in 1970, I decided on the basis of the work that was then being done by the EMO in 1973, 1974 and 1975 that they were worthwhile.

Mr. Reid: Very generous of you.

Mr. Nixon: Very good.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other hon. member wish to take part in the debate? The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I hardly thought that such a simple little death notice would bring about this kind of debate. I think it deserves more than a half a minute reply.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate that tomorrow we will carry on with this discussion and then we will have a more positive point of view expressed tomorrow by

the Solicitor General. Following that, we will carry on with the legislation as set out in the order paper.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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 (Chatham-Kent PC)
 Meen, Hon. A. K.; Minister of Revenue (York East PC)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 Norton, K. (Kingston and the Islands PC)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)
 Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
 Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
 Samis, G. (Cornwall NDP)
 Stephenson, Hon. B.; Minister of Labour and Acting Minister of Health (York Mills PC)
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 Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, April 9, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Premier (Mr. Davis), who is attending a funeral in Ottawa this morning, I am tabling the response of the government of Ontario to the proposal of the Prime Minister of Canada for two conferences of first ministers. The first meeting is proposed for early in May to discuss oil and gas pricing, and the second for mid-June to discuss shared cost programmes.

The Premier has asked that these two items be discussed at a single meeting in May and urges that these be discussions in public. In frank terms, Mr. Speaker, a brief private luncheon at Sussex Dr., as has been proposed, is not in our opinion the most appropriate form to resolve matters of such broad import to all Canadians.

In addition, it is the government's view that the shared cost item be broadened to include other aspects of federal-provincial financial arrangements such as equalization and the revenue guarantee. This will ensure that oil and gas pricing is considered in the full and proper context of federal-provincial financial relations.

I have a second statement and documents to be tabled which can't be done until 11 o'clock and I shall be asking that we revert to statements at that time; perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you will want to allow another five minutes of questions at that time.

Mr. Lewis: Can the Treasurer give us the subject matter?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The constitution.

SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, young people in the province are already discovering that the summer job market is extremely tight this year. As many as 600,000 students may be looking for work.

To assist in meeting this demand, the Youth Secretariat has co-ordinated the efforts of 15 ministries and agencies in offering summer employment to 7,800 young people. The Experience '76 programme was announced last February and since then thousands of applications—almost double the mail at this time last year—have poured into the Ontario government.

We recognize that government alone cannot meet all of the demands for summer jobs, but to assist in meeting some of the need, I am pleased to announce today that we are expanding the Experience '76 programme to provide for an additional 1,300 positions. This will bring the cost of the programme to \$12.3 million from \$10.3 million, and will provide about 9,100 jobs through Experience '76.

I would like to note that approximately another 10,000 jobs have been offered through the government's programme of hiring students as replacements for vacationing staff and for special projects carried out during the summer months by the various ministries of the government.

As the members are already aware, the deadline for applications from post-secondary students for the Experience '76 programme was extended by one week to next Monday, April 12. Students in the secondary school system have until April 30.

As I have already indicated, the Ontario government alone knows that it cannot meet the student employment problem, but we do hope that the Experience '76 programme and the summer replacement programmes will encourage the private sector to join with us in the recognition of the desire and the needs of many of our young people to be gainfully employed this summer.

FEDERAL HOUSING GRANTS

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the hon. members of a new federal-provincial agreement that will enable Ontario municipalities to obtain federal grants designed to stimulate the production of modest-sized, medium-density housing.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. will provide a \$1,000 grant for each unit of medium-density housing of modest size and price for which the eligible municipality has issued a building permit.

In order to be eligible for the grants, any Ontario city, town or village whose council forwards a resolution to the Ministry of Housing stating that the funds will be used to facilitate housing production, will be issued a certificate of eligibility that will qualify that municipality to apply for the federal funds.

This programme is an incentive for municipalities to permit the development of more land for medium-density housing and generally to encourage a more economic use of land.

Units eligible for the grant must be for permanent residency, self-contained, connected to municipal water and sanitary services, and on roads which have a gravel surface or better. They will range in size from 400-sq-ft bachelor suites in apartment buildings to 1,300-sq-ft, four-bedroom units in other types of structures. Mobile homes on site and ready for occupancy, and bearing CSA certification No. Z240, are eligible.

House prices must not exceed the top limit established for the community under the federally assisted home ownership programme. These maximums range from \$34,000 in some municipalities to a high of \$47,000 in Metro Toronto.

We are talking about two density ranges, 10 to 45 units per acre for "mature" lands and 10 to 30 units per acre for all other lands.

I should perhaps emphasize that these grants are not home buyer grants but grants made to the municipality for the specific purpose of assisting in the production of housing. Municipalities that participate in the programme will be required to provide my ministry with an annual report showing how the federal grants were spent.

We welcome the programme and view it as an opportunity to help ease the burden that housing can impose on a municipality. I invite and encourage Ontario's municipalities to utilize this programme, which will assist us in our efforts to make more housing available at prices people can afford to pay.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a question for the acting Minister of Health. Since the minister

said in Hansard on April 1, about Matachewan:

The union is most enthusiastic about the Ministry of Health's efforts and the Ministry of Natural Resources' efforts to clean this plant up. . . .

The workers within the plant are anxious to have it function as well and they are co-operating tremendously well in the process of improving the environmental health. . . .

how does the minister account for the fact that less than one week later the workers at Matachewan walked out in protest against the absence of any obvious improvements in the conditions in the plant, and have effectively closed that plant down until some intervention occurs?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the plant is not closed down. About one-third of the picketers who were picketing in this wildcat strike yesterday have, in fact, gone back to work. The plant is running—

Mr. Wildman: Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and yesterday, as a result of the information which we received from the unanticipated visit—unanticipated by either the company or the union—of the inspectors from the health protection branch on Monday and Tuesday of this week—

Mr. MacDonald: Is that the first time?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh, no, it is not the first time. But there was a meeting yesterday in Toronto with the president of the company and ministry officials of both Health and Natural Resources. The president of the company is now much more aware of the responsibilities which the management—

Mr. Reid: How much does it take?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —has apparently not transmitted to him as fully as they should have, and we are again hopeful that as a result of his increased knowledge and increased awareness, there will be real action to clean up the plant.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary, if I may: Just by way of clarification, did the minister say there was a meeting between the president of the company—based in Quebec—and the ministries?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Officials of the ministries.

Mr. Lewis: Were any workers involved in the meeting?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yesterday?

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, the workers were involved in the meetings in Matachewan yesterday.

Mr. Lewis: What kind of cozy little relationship do we have when they bring the president down to meet with the ministries, which have been unable to clean up the plant, and they do not have the workers there, who are wanting the plant cleaned up and seem to be the only people who understand what needs to be done?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The meeting, Mr. Speaker, was held at the request of the president of the company.

Mr. Lewis: Very nice to accommodate him.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It was not "a cozy little arrangement." It was a meeting at which—

Mr. Lewis: It certainly was.

Mr. Renwick: You ought to refuse such meetings.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —the president was very firmly informed of the intentions of this government regarding the health protection of the workers in that plant.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: How does the minister explain, after all this time, that such a meeting should even be necessary? Is there something wrong with the communications between those two ministries and the plant and the people there? Why do we have to wait, and why do the workers have to put up with this for this length of time?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is certainly at this point no lack of communication between the ministries. The lack of communication was apparently between the management of the plant in Matachewan and the man who owns the company, and that's where the problem lay.

Mr. Bain: Is the minister aware that the men claim that, in fact, conditions at the plant have worsened since the visit by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier)?

Mr. Lewis: Because of his visit.

Mr. Bain: Is she also aware that the men are ready at any time to go back into the plant if the company will shut the plant down and, with the men, clean up the mill and get the machinery in proper working

condition again? The company refuses categorically to do this. What will the minister personally do to intervene and get the company to respond in a reasonable fashion?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware the workers say the conditions are worse. I am also aware that Mr. Rajhans, who visited the plant on Monday and Tuesday, has not reported that in his initial report. He does not have all of the monitoring test reports available to us, but his verbal report was, in fact, that conditions were not worse; that there was some slight improvement. I am not aware that the workers have said they will go back to work if they close down—

Mr. Lewis: You are such an inveterate apologist!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —but I am aware that this suggestion has been made to both the union and to the company.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, another question along that line: I don't understand why the partisanship in this place requires the minister to become an apologist for the company. Why is it not possible simply to do what every intelligent person wants her to do—close down the plant, clean it up and then reintroduce the workers into the environment?

[10:15]

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think I have not functioned as an apologist for anyone. I am trying very diligently to ensure that the standards which are set in the Province of Ontario—and which are, I would remind the Leader of the Opposition, the most rigid in Canada—are met by a company which is beginning a new plant and is having engineering and management problems with that plant—which, I think, is of some vital economic resource to the people of that area. During that period we protect the workers as best we possibly can. That's precisely what we are trying to do. An apologist I am not.

Mr. Reid: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final supplementary on this question.

Mr. Reid: In view of the seriousness of the situation, instead of sending somebody in on spot checks, does the minister not consider that it might be worthwhile to have someone from either the Ministry of Health or Ministry of Natural Resources—preferably Health—on duty day to day until the mess is cleaned up?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting suggestion which I shall consider very seriously.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? No, that was the final supplementary. This is getting to be a long prolonged debate. The Leader of the Opposition with further questions.

Mr. Germa: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I said that was the final supplementary.

LAND SPECULATION

Mr. Lewis: I would like to get back to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, our favourite adversary in the Legislature.

May I ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food, following from his suggestion to me yesterday that I spend some time at Guelph and learn something about agriculture, is he aware of the land market characteristics material which Guelph is using on farm land in Ontario, dealing with Pickering, Markham and Oakville, showing that in the period from 1968 to 1971 the transactions which took place in those areas were 99 per cent speculative in Pickering; 82 per cent speculative in Markham; and 96 per cent speculative in Oakville? Has he any evidence or is there any work in his ministry to demonstrate that that trend has been reversed?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, can the member give me the dates? What were the dates when that was done?

Mr. Lewis: The period from 1968 to 1971; they went to the registry office.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I can speak from personal knowledge on that particular situation. I would like to particularly point out concerning Pickering, where I live, and land speculation, that there was a tremendous period in that period of time, actually from about 1966, I would say, until about 1972 when the land speculation tax and the land transfer tax came in. I don't know exactly the dates they came in. Was it 1974? From that point on, whenever it came in—

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It was 1974.

Hon. W. Newman: I can tell the member there have been about three farms—actual farms—turned over in the rural part of the municipality. It has come to a halt.

Mr. Godfrey: Three?

Mr. Lewis: You have got to be kidding. Where you represent them you mean?

Hon. W. Newman: Pardon?

Mr. Lewis: You mean in Durham North?

Hon. W. Newman: No. I was referring to the township of Pickering—the town of Pickering, sorry.

Mr. Lewis: Town of Pickering.

Mr. Deans: Why doesn't he speculate?

Hon. W. Newman: In the south end of the town of Pickering, where it's zoned industrial and residential, yes, there has been a turnover of land. But, by and large, in the agricultural area the speculative thing has basically come to a halt.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, does the minister realize that the speculative transactions in those areas and other areas involved sale prices then of \$2,460 an acre on the average in Pickering; \$3,346 an acre on the average in Markham; \$2,587 an acre on the average in Oakville?

Can I ask him what he would think of Mr. Hoffman's comment, in his special article in 1975 for Guelph, in which he says: "Land valued at \$2,000 or \$3,000 or more per acre today is unlikely to be used for agriculture. Indeed, there seems to be a strong indication that currently there is little profit in growing common field crops on land with a value greater than \$500 per acre"? How is the minister going to rescue all this land he is talking about if Hoffman is right?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member asked that question because I think it is a very important question. Again, I will come back to Pickering. The last farm—I don't know if it was sold—was a distress sale by a certain person whose husband died. It was at about \$1,400 an acre. The land down in that great county where our Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) comes from, which is some of the most productive land in the Province of Ontario is selling in the range from about \$1,500 to \$2,200 an acre—

Mr. Lewis: Higher than that.

Hon. W. Newman: It may be even higher in some instances—

Mr. Lewis: It is higher.

Hon. W. Newman: It is being used for agricultural purposes at this point in time.

Mr. Lewis: Is the minister feeling very confident about his facts about land around Chatham? Does he know what's happening in that part of the province in a serious way?

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, sure.

Mr. Lewis: He really does?

Hon. W. Newman: Fairly well.

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, I have a—

Mr. Lewis: Maybe we will deal with that at some point.

Hon. W. Newman: Okay, fine.

CLOSING OF CHEESE FACTORIES

Mr. Lewis: One last question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food, if I may: Is he aware that the number of cheese factories across the province has declined by 60 per cent in the last four years; and that in the eastern region of Ontario itself they have declined from 45 in 1970-1971 to eight in 1975-1976; and is there anything in the world that can be done in the agricultural industry to protect these cheese factories from major absorption by the conglomerates?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I think with the quota allocations to the cheese plants in eastern Ontario now, the cheese plants are doing all right. There was a major consolidation a few years ago under the former minister when there were some problems, but now I think by and large most of the cheese plants—as the member knows there are applications—

Mr. Lewis: No, I don't know.

Hon. W. Newman: —before the milk industry branch now for further plants and they are being looked at at this point in time. These are applications to build new plants.

Mr. Lewis: How many applications are before—what body is the minister talking of—before which board, the OMMB?

Hon. W. Newman: The milk industry branch.

Mr. Lewis: How many applications are before them?

Hon. W. Newman: I believe there are two at this point in time.

Mr. Lewis: Two applications do not represent a startling increase.

Hon. W. Newman: One is for a cheese plant and the other is for a whey utilization plant.

Mr. Lewis: One application—in the singular—for a cheese plant, despite the fact that the minister has lost over 60 per cent in the last four years.

LAND SPECULATION

Mr. Lewis: One last question: What detailed research is the ministry doing in the Province of Ontario to look at the increase in the acquisition by private companies for speculative purposes of land that is now farm land? What breakdown has the minister, county by county, of the value of the land transfers, the sales of farm land, in the last year to two years and the consequence for food production? And what information has he precisely on the acreage that is being returned on a county by county basis?

Hon. W. Newman: We do have some figures on some counties on a county to county basis on the amount of agricultural land that has come back, and the figure in the statement I gave yesterday—

Mr. MacDonald: Which one—7.8 per cent or 6.6 per cent?

Hon. W. Newman: At least the member is beginning to agree that the 26 acres he was talking about is a lot of nonsense.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh no, I'm not.

Hon. W. Newman: Oh, yes, he is. He is finally backing off because he knows he is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister is answering the questions.

Mr. Renwick: He is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. MacDonald: We are talking about land return. Was it 7.8 per cent or 6.6 per cent which is on the minister's sheet?

Hon. W. Newman: We don't have a full tab, county by county, of the actual amount out and in. We do—

Mr. MacDonald: So the minister is guessing.

Hon. W. Newman: No we aren't. We know the figures.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: I know the difference between land return and land going out of production.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister is answering the question.

Hon. W. Newman: In the best productive land in this province we have lost very little farm land percentage-wise compared to northern Ontario where the poorer farm land is; and this comes out very loud and clear.

Mr. Lewis: Oh that's rationalization of the worst kind.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Rainy River is leading off?

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Rainy River. Order, please, by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: There are too many interjections this morning.

The hon. member for Rainy River.

Mr. Lewis: This is the Liberal front bench asking the questions.

BUDGET FIGURES

Mr. Reid: We figure it takes only one of us to handle the rest, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I have a question of the Treasurer: Can the Treasurer explain the discrepancy in the budget papers in regard to imports and exports? In the 1976 budget it shows a greater volume of exports than imports for 1975 and 1974. However, the 1975 budget shows the reverse situation, a far greater volume of imports than exports for the same year; and in his 1976 budget he shows a very marked increase in exports. Considering the fact that the Treasurer spent almost five minutes telling us about the sad state of the auto pact, which is the large part of our Ontario exports, can he explain first of all the discrepancies in those figures; and second, can he explain to the House where he expects that large increase in exports is going to come from?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Well in manufactured goods, in part; certainly we expect an increase in auto parts this year. We would expect to see a much healthier situation, for obvious reasons, in the pulp and paper industry. And there are some indications we

will see greater exports of some of the base metals.

Mr. Ruston: Supplementary: When the Treasurer talks about an increase in exports and part of it being in the auto industry, is he aware of the qualms of Ford Motor Co., who are contemplating moving a motor plant to Windsor, but they've been advised they'll be closed down in the United States if this move is made? How are we going to rationalize on that basis? Are we going to have to look at the auto parts industry, which would involve Canadian manufacturing, rather than, let's say, American companies? The problem they're going to have is that they may face a major strike in the United States because of moving an operation from Detroit to Windsor.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nobody is suggesting moving operations either way, in my view, as a right thing to do. I'm not anxious to see people thrown out of work in Toledo simply to have more employment in Windsor. I think the thrust of the paper was and is that we are not getting our share of the growth, and these presumably are the new jobs, the add-on jobs. Inevitably, there is always some dislocation in redundant plants or old plants or because of vagaries of the marketplace. But I am not specifically aware of the Ford Motor case which the hon. member mentioned.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary, if I may: Can the Treasurer indicate why there is a difference in the figures for exports and imports in the two years of the budget? I wouldn't ask this question but we couldn't find anybody in the Treasurer's offices this morning to answer it. Can he explain the discrepancy?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I assume the figures given in 1975—I don't have the 1975 budget here—were our estimate as to what would happen in 1975. Our figures in the 1976 budget are our estimate of what is going to happen in 1976.

Mr. Reid: The figures in the 1975 budget, those for 1974, when it was found what actually happened, don't agree at all. And the figures for 1973-1974 in the 1976 budget and in the 1975 budget don't agree.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Without being able to give any details, certainly our exports during 1975 were not as high as we had originally hoped at the time of the budget in 1975. A big part of that, of course, was pulp and paper and a more severe decline in the mining industry than we had anticipated.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In view of the millions of dollars spent on Krauss-Maffei and the Urban Transportation Development Corp., can the minister indicate what his approach is to the Toronto Transit Commission, who indicated that they would be interested in the American proposal to standardize light rail transit and that possibly they would buy rail cars from that country? Can the minister explain why our Urban Transportation Development Corp. is not in fact in the market, designing standardized cars? And is he going to allow them to buy outside of the country?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I read something in the press that obviously was similar to what the hon. member read; and it's as confusing to me as it is to him; I have not had an opportunity yet to look into it but I certainly will. This is certainly not my understanding as to what is taking place. In fact, I have good reason to believe that some of our manufacturers of rail cars in Canada can look forward to very considerable export orders in the very near future.

Mr. Reid: May I ask, by way of supplementary, is the minister aware whether, in fact, UTDC is designing a standardized car that can be used both in Canada and the United States?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I'd like to know what type of a car the hon. member is referring to.

Mr. Reid: One that's standardized so it can be used all across the country, with the gauges and everything being the same. Surely the minister knows something about that.
[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Snow: Certainly all the design work that is being carried out by the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is with a view to very large export business outside of Ontario, within Canada and also all over North America, and really worldwide.

LOSS OF TREES

Mr. Reid: I have one further question if I may. I'll have to ask this of the Resources Development Secretary in the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). Is the minister aware of the CBC programme last night, and other reports in the paper, that the Ministry of Natural Resources is killing valuable timber on some 1,200 acres of land

in Bethune township in the Parry Sound district?

Would the minister be prepared to investigate to find out why an agency of this government is killing trees when they could possibly be used for salvage or given to small sawmill operators who are going without in that area?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the report but I'll certainly be happy to look into the matter and report to the member.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. This being April 9, the day on which the health council had to make its report to the Ministry of Health, and given there has been a tremendous effort put forth by a number of citizens in Hamilton to provide information to the ministry upon which a better decision might be based, is the minister now prepared to extend the period of time in order that a proper study can be conducted, in order to ensure that in fact the health care delivery system of the area will be both adequate and sufficient?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I met this morning with representatives of the district health council of Hamilton-Wentworth, who have presented a report—a very long and well documented report—which will be considered very seriously by the ministry, and I'm sure we'll have a response to that district health council regarding all of the items which the member raises by early next week.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question: Can the minister indicate whether she believes it is worthless continuing with the background information gathering that is currently going on? Will that information be made use of by the Ministry of Health, and will there be sufficient time made available to the people who are doing it in order to make sure that all of the pertinent information is, in fact, before the ministry prior to making another decision?

Secondly, if I may, can I send to the minister something she may probably be aware of already, but there is a message to be delivered to her on behalf of 85,000 people in the city of Hamilton, signed by their own hands, and I would be happy to send over the 85,000 signatures just for her own use.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, am aware of that petition. I think the answer is yes, that the council has done a very good job of documenting all of the information. I think the documentation is extremely com-

prehensive. It will take some time to explore it, and when it is thoroughly explored, the ministry will be responding to the district health council, whose responsibility it is to make the recommendations.

Mr. Lewis: We trust you will read it name by name.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think I will ask you to do that.

Mr. Germa: You are not doing anything else, may as well do that.

ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Riddell: Maybe this dialogue could be carried on at some other time. I have a question of the acting Minister of Health. Would the minister give us the results of her ministry's investigation into the possible conflict of interest on the part of a full-time staff member at the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital, who is reported by the Provincial Auditor to have billed OHIP for large amounts of money while receiving a full-time salary as a full-time staff member of the hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, some preliminary study of this problem has, in fact, taken place. One of the things that we have discovered is that that psychiatrist, who did function very well as a full-time staff member in that institution, also served the community in later hours of the day and on weekends as a psychiatrist, providing direct care for certain members of the community.

The investigation is not as yet completed and when it is, I shall be happy to report.

BUDGET MESSENGER SERVICE

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Revenue: I wonder if the minister would let us know the basis upon which two score or more employees of his ministry were paid and given expenses to deliver copies of the budget to certain of his friends and my friends after 8 o'clock on budget night. My friends elicited the information that not only did the messenger resent this, he felt he was being paid by government to get information to certain friends prior to the opening of the stock market the next morning. I wonder if the minister would clear this up for us?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that. Certainly I thought there were a number of people who should receive the budget quickly so they would have that; I thought that was a nice courtesy to extend

to them. I will look into that and get the details for the hon. member.

Mr. Reid: At government expense?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Sure, it's a government document.

Mr. Young: Supplementary: Might I ask the minister if this is general policy as far as the ministries of the government are concerned, and is the same privilege extended to members of the opposition?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't catch that. Would the hon. member repeat the question?

Mr. Young: Is it the general policy of other ministries in the government and is the same privilege available to members of the opposition to have this kind of messenger service?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Well, I am inclined to call that a sort of one-shot affair, in the sense that a budget comes down once a year and one has the budget documents to be got out. I think it wouldn't apply ordinarily in other ministries—perhaps it does in Treasury and Economics, but I couldn't say if any other ministries besides my own would be interested. People in the financial world are interested in the budget and they have to know, in many cases very quickly, how it affects themselves, their employees and their actions.

Mr. Lewis: They find out naturally. What about the rest of us?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: Is the minister trying to tell us that the government and the people of Ontario have subsidized the financial world by getting these budgets to them quickly? Is he trying to tell us that and that he thinks that is a good philosophy to follow?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, there are all kinds of documents that go out from my ministry, and I would presume also from Treasury, at 8 o'clock on budget night, not the least of which is something like this bulletin about the retail sales tax, which went to every merchant; and of course that went out at the expense of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Reid: Were they hand-delivered?

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: Would the minister on Monday table for us a list of the members of the financial or related communities to whom specific copies of the budget and budget material were sent, courtesy of the special work which was done within his

ministry on Tuesday evening last? Just let us know to whom this material is sent.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Perhaps I should 'fess up now that we made extraordinary arrangements to get a copy of the budget to the Premier of Manitoba following 8 o'clock. I would want that on the record.

Mr. Reid: Who else?

Mr. Lewis: Presumably Schreyer and Blakeney will appear on the list, but I would like the other ones as well, just out of curiosity.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why I couldn't get that information. I don't know whether I can have that by Tuesday, but certainly I will undertake to get it.

Mr. MacDonald: Good. Make sure Schreyer is on it.

Mr. Reid: Will the minister also check with his other colleagues to see if they took a hand in this or did the same thing on their hook and will he present those lists if that was done?

Hon. Mr. Meen: I could, Mr. Speaker.

LIE DETECTOR TESTS

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General before he leaves the chamber. Has the minister inquired into the use of a lie detector by the city of Windsor during a recent investigation concerning missing equipment, and does the minister approve of such a use? Will the minister follow up on this and explain government policy concerning the use of lie detectors as far as municipalities are concerned?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of any specific government policy related to the use of lie detector tests. Quite frankly, I don't know at the moment how that is controlled. I have no hesitation in stating, though, that my own personal view is that a lie detector test should be employed only as an investigative device in relation to, and, I think, should be restricted as much as possible to criminal investigations, and that no one, particularly employees, should be obliged to take these tests.

I personally have no hesitation in expressing to the Legislature as a whole my concern with respect to the use by employers of these

lie detector machines, which have been demonstrated to be most fallible, to put it mildly. If it can be demonstrated to me that there is any useful action which could be taken by this government to discourage the use of lie detector tests in relation to employer-employee situations, I would be very happy to have the advice of the members of the Legislature as it's something I'd like to discuss with my colleagues.

Mr. Renwick: You should prohibit it by law.

Mr. B. Newman: Will the minister look into the use of the lie detector test in the city of Windsor recently and report to the House?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I'm not so sure, Mr. Speaker, what jurisdiction I have in relation to investigating the use of a lie detector test by the city of Windsor. There's no suggestion that the city of Windsor has, or any of its employees have committed a criminal offence by the use of such a machine. I will make inquiries and I will be obliged if my hon. friend opposite could supply me with any information which is in his possession.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT ON FOOD

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the three-year study at the University of Guelph revealing the detrimental effect of fluorescent lighting on various foods, especially milk and butter, displayed for sale in stores.

Mr. Riddell: Did you quit drinking milk?

Mr. Burr: What is the ministry doing to require light-protective packaging for these foods?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I assume that any results of a study of that nature would be reviewed in our ministry by the officials responsible for the building code. If there's a hazardous product effect, I would remind him that a new federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is responsible for hazardous products, has just been named.

Mr. Burr: A supplementary: Could the minister refer me to some other minister in the cabinet with whom I might pursue this inquiry? The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) doesn't seem con-

cerned. The Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) doesn't know much about it.

Interjections.

Mr. Burr: This minister tries to tell me it's a building code violation.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I didn't say it was a building code violation. I said presumably we would look at it, in the light of any comments made by the researchers, to indicate whether or not there are required changes in the building code. We're not responsible for the inspection of lighting equipment after it has been installed. We are responsible at the time of installation.

Mr. Lewis: This is too much.

Mr. Deans: It is a health hazard.

Mr. Lewis: There is a hazard there.

Mr. Burr: The consumer's health is being harmed by the fact that the lights are damaging the food. It is suggested in this report—

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question, please?

Mr. Burr: —that light-protective packaging might solve the problem.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, if it's packaging—I just don't follow the hon. member's question. He says the health of the consumers of the Province of Ontario, as distinct from all other consumers in Canada, is being harmed by a special kind of fluorescent light which is being used in groceterias or supermarkets. I'd have to look at the report; I'd have to examine it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If it's a health problem it's not my intention to assume responsibilities in the area of health. If it's a consumer protection problem in terms of price or quality then certainly we'll take a look at it. I assure the hon. member we will look at the report.

Mr. Burr: That will be fine.

nursing homes of approximately 30 per cent without a comparable increase in the incomes of these people.

Does this come under the jurisdiction of the rent review legislation? Are these people given 90 days' notice as is required? Is the minister aware that there was an increase in January and that the nursing homes are about to ask for a further increase in the fall? Could the minister respond to this?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, within the limits of my responsibility, I can assure the hon. member it doesn't come within the rent review legislation.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, may I redirect and ask whose ministry it does come under?

Mr. Speaker: We can't use a scattergun approach. The member may name a minister; he's asked a minister and it hasn't been redirected.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I would believe that, if it is within the Ministry of Health, the Minister of Health should be asked the question. My response was for rent review, and it doesn't come within that jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: You may redirect the question to the acting Minister of Health.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The question was, am I aware that an increase has in fact been approved for nursing homes? I think this is scarcely a rental situation. In nursing homes, the patients are provided with care. They may be provided with some hotel-like accommodation, if you will, but I would not believe this falls within the purview of the rent review programme at all.

I am not aware that the nursing homes intend to come back in the fall for yet another increase.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary: Could the acting Minister of Health tell us how much the increase is for, please?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I believe that it's something of the order of \$2 per day per patient.

NURSING HOME RATES

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, with respect to daily rates in Ontario nursing homes: I understand that a ministry of the government is just about to approve an increase in the daily rates of

PROPERTY TAX INQUIRY

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the provincial Treasurer with regard to the commission which is to be set up to study property tax changes. Is he prepared to include in the terms of reference, consideration and clarification of the Edmonton commit-

ment, so that the municipalities will know what they can expect under that commitment from year to year instead of the way it has been worked out recently, and also consideration of the allocation of some points of income and corporation tax and sales tax to local government?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The answer to both questions would be no. The commission or committee or whatever it ultimately is called is to design a new municipal tax system based on the property tax component of the expenditures and revenues of local governments. It does not include relationship to provincial transfers. It may well be that the other committee which we've suggested will be taking a look at the Edmonton commitment.

My answer to the second part is that municipalities and school boards effectively are sharing in 30 per cent of the personal income tax, the corporation tax, the sales tax and everything else—every other tax. They're getting 29 point-whatever-per cent it is. We're not prepared to increase taxes further and pass them unilaterally to the municipalities.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: Will the commission examine the regressivity of the property tax as part of its terms of reference?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I doubt it very much because it has been well documented that it isn't regressive.

Interjections.

YOUNG FARMERS' CREDIT PROGRAMME

Mr. Haggerty: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food about the matter of the Ontario young farmers' credit programme. I believe it was announced some time last July or some time during the election, and it could have been an election promise. What success, if any, has this programme had in assisting young farmers to obtain loans?

Hon. W. Newman: With regard to young farmers' credit loans in the Province of Ontario, there's the Farm Credit Corp. As members are well aware, this is the federal agency which does most of the lending for actual purchase of land. The kinds of loans that we have are for purchasing of equipment, material, livestock, etc. I don't know that I can give the exact figures that have gone out on loans, I just get a monthly report in the amounts of the loans that are

going out to young farmers, but it's substantial.

Mr. Lewis: God forbid you should support young farmers!

Mr. Haggerty: Is the minister aware that many farmers are having some difficulties in obtaining loans through this programme, that the banks have the final say and under the present interest rates the farmers just can't compete with this? They are eight per cent or 8.5 per cent.

Hon. W. Newman: Our loans go out on the basis of how much they already borrowed, how much debt they have and how much mortgage they have, because we don't want to get these people into a situation where they're in so deep they would have difficulty in getting themselves out. Each application is viewed on its own merits by our staff. If there's guidance needed, we are prepared to offer field guidance to that particular young farmer on things he could do.

If the member has a specific case where there's a specific problem which he feels has been unjustly dealt with by our staff, let us know.

Mr. Makarchuk: Is the minister aware that there appears to be a direct policy by the banks at this time to deny farmers farm improvement loans for the simple reason that they can make more interest by lending that money out to somebody else?

Hon. W. Newman: No, I wouldn't say that necessarily, because I think, by and large, a lot of the loans at the banks are guaranteed by the province and I don't think there is any major problem there. I know that banks are making a great move to cater more to the agricultural people. I am finding that other banks are moving into the field much more so than they were just a year ago. Again, if there is any particular problem let me know about it, but as far as I am concerned I think the banks are co-operating with us.

Mr. Riddell: Will this be readily available to those farmers who are having great financial difficulties because of the cut in quotas and subsidies on industrial milk, and the fact that they have loans from the IMPIP loan in order to increase their production, and now because of the decrease in the subsidy they are finding that they are not able to pay off their loans? Will this loan be readily available, or can the minister suggest some other way that these farmers might get themselves out of that particular financial difficulty?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have said it on more than one occasion, I think I have said it in most of the current publications, I have said it when I have been speaking and I will reiterate today what I said about the IMPIP loans, as those are the loans the member is talking about: Because of the overall surplus of milk that was created throughout Canada through the policies of Ottawa—and don't get me wrong, I don't think it was Mr. Whelan's fault, I think it is the government's fault down there—but because of that programme we had a loan programme to build up our base in the Province of Ontario to meet the requirements that were asked of us by Ottawa, and subsequently, because of the fact they were paying 90 per cent on the base and moved it back to 60 per cent and also—and this has been announced since yesterday—the new policy was to be announced on Apr. 1 on the industrial milk programme. It has not been announced as yet, and the agreement was to be announced then. Unfortunately, the Province of Quebec has given notice of pulling out of the industrial milk field.

As far as our IMPIP loans are concerned, we haven't, on a broad basis, said yes we will extend them all, because many of our shippers who have market share quotas are also fluid shippers. What I am saying is those people who have particular problems with their loans should contact their ag rep. We are dealing with them on an individual basis to try and help them through, and we are prepared to try and extend the loans where they have a particular problem. We feel that many of them who have a big fluid milk base are carrying their payments and they have paid their loans off already. We are doing it on an individual basis and where there is a problem we are looking at it and working something out for them.

ROADS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Mr. Yakabuski: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that the construction of the Queensway West from Kanata to Highway 44 has been delayed some two years at the request of March township and the Kanata area? I saw in the roads programme tabled yesterday that this is scheduled for construction this year. Can the minister assure the people of the townships of West Carleton and the county of Renfrew that this programme will go through in this fiscal year?

Mr. Singer: So much for local autonomy.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, it's certainly the ministry's intention to proceed with the project this year. The jobs that are listed in our highway programme will start at varying times during the year. I do not have an exact schedule as to when that contract will get under way. As members know, I believe, there have been negotiations for the depressing of this particular section of highway. It did hold up the project, because an agreement was entered into between the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, I believe, the township of March, a development corporation and the ministry for the sharing of the costs of depressing this highway through the town centre. That agreement, I believe, has now been finalized. I believe the design has been revised and is being reviewed by all parties now. I expect the job will go to tender some time later this year.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Yakabuski: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, the oral question period expired a moment ago.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Introduction of bills.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Leluk moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Religious Institutions Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to expand the Act to include the various eastern religions as set out in the bill.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch tabled the answers to questions 13 and 14 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 1247).

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is also my understanding that by agreement we would revert to statements at this time.

Agreed.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I make it 11 o'clock and I am sure you do, too.

FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am tabling an exchange of correspondence between the Premier (Mr. Davis) and Mr. Trudeau on the constitution.

This matter has occupied a good deal of attention recently and we are concerned that a matter of this importance to the federation is being treated by the government of Canada in such a peremptory manner. The government of Ontario continues to be of the opinion that serious constitutional proposals should proceed on the basis of complete federal and provincial agreement.

The new proposals put forward by the federal government differ in a number of significant aspects from the Canadian constitutional charter which came out of the meeting in Victoria in 1971. They will therefore require careful consideration before any formal and substantive response can be made. Moreover, it is clear that our consideration will require, and greatly benefit from, the opinions of all Canadians and an exchange of views among their governments.

To this end, the Premier has suggested that this issue should await further action until after the provincial Premiers have had the opportunity to discuss it at their annual conference in August. Members will recall that at the 1975 Premiers' conference it was agreed that patriation should be dealt with in the context of a more general review of such aspects of the constitution as the distribution of power, control of resources and other related matters, and that this discussion would be held at the 1976 conference.

In this regard, a copy of the letter that Premier Moores sent to Prime Minister Trudeau on Aug. 28, 1975, communicating to him the views of the Premiers, is included in the material that I am tabling.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order which I think is appropriate: The city of London has so often been abused and misrepresented in this House by Tories and Liberals alike that it will reassure everyone to know of the presence of Mayor Jane Bigelow this morning in the Speaker's gallery.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The third order, resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 12, An Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Act.

EMERGENCY MEASURES REPEAL ACT (concluded)

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was unable—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Had everyone spoken and was it agreed that the minister would sum up then? I wasn't in the Chair at the time but I understand that's the agreement. The hon. minister.

Mr. MacDonald: The member missed his chance.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't part of the agreement. Surely, I can say a word on the bill? The bill is still before the House.

Mr. Speaker: The minister had started his remarks at 10:24, I believe, last night.

Mr. Singer: If he had started them, yes, but my advice was he merely moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Mine was that he did, so the hon. minister, I believe, has the floor quite properly.

Mr. Ruston: He didn't start, though; he had a half a minute.

Interjections.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I would have liked to have had the support last evening of my good friend whose support you have denied me today, because he at least was one who has been consistent throughout the whole matter of the Emergency Measures Organization and should, I think, be heartily in favour of the bill that we are now discussing. But, sir, it is correct that I started to speak last evening.

Regrettably, like many a politician, the Emergency Measures Organization seems to have reached the zenith of its career in its graveside eulogy. I say regrettably because EMO did accomplish many successful missions of rescue and did do many humanitarian things. But I say, sir, its detractors were legion and its supporters were few. However, those who served it so well over the years can take some comfort from the epitaph that has been given to it in the late hours of yesterday evening.

Its demise was announced a year ago. Why this simple, three-clause bill, with an intervening election during which I recall no

mention of EMO at any time during the campaign, should now evoke such spirited response is, I must say, a little surprising to me; and I was surprised by the enthusiasm with which the official opposition entered into the debate last night.

However, let me comment on some of the misconceptions which seemed to exist last evening. First of all, not all municipalities established EMO committees. This bill does not disband municipal committees, which may continue; and I understand about 20 of approximately 46 will be so carrying on.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is far too much noise in the chamber.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: The bill simply removes a responsibility which many communities did not assume with the original bill. The Emergency Measures Organization was not meant to deal with individual emergencies or to replace either fire or police forces. There were some questions by various members last night as to what people were going to do now, particularly in remote communities, for house fires and things of that nature. EMO was never envisaged to look after that type of thing.

I mentioned last night that we have established a lead ministry; that lead ministry concept took some abuse and perhaps I was at fault in not explaining it more thoroughly. But as it so happens, if there is an emergency at any time, I think the public, in the first place, think of their police force; they don't necessarily think of EMO. But if it is an individual emergency—and as I say, the hon. members were talking about some of those situations last night—who do the public turn to? They think of the police; that is the body that is organized to deal with all emergencies, whether small or large, throughout the province under this lead ministry concept. If it's some kind of environmental problem, the EMO was not equipped to do it before; it had to call in the environmental people. Now the police will immediately call in the environmental people. We envisage the lead ministry concept as actually an improvement on the work of EMO. For instance, if it is a flood that we're concerned about, if anybody can predict a flood, who is likely to know faster than the Ministry of Natural Resources? They will probably have the information that a flood is likely to occur before it does occur.

Mr. Reid: They are called the Ministry of Natural Disasters, so that may have something to do with it.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Well, my friend may

call them that in certain places in the north, but I know how often the people in the north call upon them for assistance of various sorts, and not only arising out of the type of emergency that EMO was supposed to deal with. I know they do various types of work. I had a report on my desk about them flying out the body of a hunter who had died in a remote spot. That report crossed my desk this morning. So I know they're called upon for many types of things. As I say, the lead ministry concept should be better, should work faster and I think will be an improvement, because we have the various techniques immediately available when they are called upon.

As I say, there was some criticism last night that the public didn't know whom to call. I say they now call the same people as they probably would have called all the way along and that is, their local police. If the public don't know, certainly the police forces in the communities across the country have been well notified and, as I said before, it is all being co-ordinated under the OPP. Chief Inspector Fullerton is the one who is doing that work, and I understand he has been in contact with all of the various police forces across the province and they know exactly what the procedure is.

It surprised me last evening how many of the people praised EMO and then went on to criticize its work in past emergencies, and gave a number of bad examples. That's the type of thing I think the lead ministry will avoid; that is, if there is an answer to it, it will now be attended to faster and with more expertise than ever before.

I regret we do not have, nor did EMO have, a strategic task force all across the province that could respond to any type of emergency with such alacrity that that emergency wouldn't happen. It seems to me that was the kind of philosophy that I was receiving from the official opposition benches last night, and I suppose that's really why the New Democratic members take exception to taking this bill off the books. In their philosophy, it seems to be that an all-powerful government should be able to stem any tide, should be able, like King Canute, to tell the tides to go back, or to call off a wind storm or an ice storm or some kind of tragedy of that nature.

I regret that no emergency measures organization nor the strongest NDP government in the world can accomplish that sort of thing. In other words, there will continue, regrettably, to be disasters and emergencies of one sort or another, but the philosophy of

this government is how to deal with them as best and as quickly as possible after they do occur. There is no thought that we can keep them from occurring, and anybody with any logic realizes that to be the case. As I say, we have prepared a plan that will allow us to do this as quickly as possible.

Mention was made of the ice storm that affected southwestern parts of the province about a month or so ago. The Emergency Measures Organization didn't have trained linemen to go in and repair those lines. It had to call, of course, upon the services of Hydro and upon the Ontario Municipal Electric Association across this province which has a great and expeditious arrangement to look after the repairing of hydro lines. In other words, if there is a storm in one municipality, very quickly all the other municipalities rally to the aid of the one which is in need, and that will continue to be.

Certainly, the Emergency Measures Organization at no time had any means of stopping hydro lines from falling under ice, or repairing them in a hurry. All it could do was to ask the Hydro and its existing system to look after the matter. Under the old system or under the new, we could not have prevented the ice storm. Similarly, we don't suggest that there is any way to prevent floods.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, as I know you yourself are personally concerned, about the situation in unorganized municipalities. Again, however, I say that EMO was not meant to deal with fires in these communities. I don't know the answer to dealing with fires in small locations, where there may be four or five houses in a community and those houses widely separated one from another. We know that every farmhouse can't have a fire pumper close by, and farmers have recognized that for years. The only protection against that sort of thing is prevention itself. Fires will continue to happen and fires do happen, even in places like the city of Toronto, where lives are taken, and no kind of government organization is going to stop them from happening. We can only do our best.

When we are speaking of unorganized municipalities, and this has nothing to do with EMO, we do have equipment on hand now for experimental pumpers in such places as Nestor Falls and Minaki, and we're looking at one other place, sir—and I know you've spoken to me about the possibility of Pickle Crow—to put these pumpers in. There are problems in training enough people to look after them and having enough people available to man them, and also in storing the

equipment. It is not an easy problem when we deal with the tragedies that fire brings about in the unorganized communities. I wish I did have an answer for it. I don't think money itself is the answer.

Mr. Reid: EMO never did any—

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Dealing specifically with some of the questions raised by various members, I must compliment the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) on the admirable research which he did. He was a bit of a lifesaver for me last night when I thought all the winds were blowing against me. I must admit that he went further in his research than I did. I did, however, look to the question that the member for Riverdale asked when the Solicitor General's estimates were before the House a year or so ago. He did ask me last evening to supply him with specific information as to the 33 employees in the provincial EMO organization. I have supplied that to him this morning.

Mr. Renwick: And I appreciate it.

Mr. Singer: The member for Yorkview made a lot of speeches like that, too. He made a lot of speeches over the years.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't know whether or not he is satisfied with it but I think it is all complete. The only person who hasn't yet been placed is the director himself and we are trying to find a job suitable for him, commensurate with his talents. The others all have been placed—I shouldn't say that; one or two have reached retirement age and I think two have, in fact, retired. I think one has died. I have given the member the information and I gather he is relatively satisfied with it.

Mr. Renwick: Would the minister permit just one question on that?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Yes, sir.

Mr. Renwick: Is their tenure in the civil service secure?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I am not sure whether they are members of the civil service or not; I assume they are. I can perhaps get that information and I think, if they are members of the civil service, certainly their tenure is as secure as any other members'.

There is only one other question I wanted to deal with and that was from the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) who seemed to be complaining that the matter of funding when a disaster of some nature took place was not being expeditiously looked after.

The old EMO was not to supply finances for individual communities in time of disaster of one nature or another. It was simply to move in and try to do its best to rectify the damage which had been done.

The matter of funding was still a matter for the Treasurer and the cabinet to deal with, as to whether the disaster was such as to warrant general public assistance. There is no change in that; that remains the same.

I think in a general way I have dealt with the matters raised last night and I will rest the debate at this point.

The House divided on the motion for second reading of Bill 12, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS
Auld	Bain
Birch	Breaugh
Cunningham	Bryden
Eakins	Burr
Edighoffer	Davidson
Evans	(Cambridge)
Gregory	Davison
Grossman	(Hamilton Centre)
Haggerty	Deans
Hall	Dukszta
Handleman	Germa
Henderson	Godfrey
Hodgson	Grande
Irvine	Lewis
Johnson	Lupusella
(Wellington- Dufferin-Peel)	MacDonald
Jones	Martel
Kennedy	Moffatt
Kerr	Philip
Lane	Renwick
Leluk	Swart
MacBeth	Warner
McCague	Wildman
McKeough	Ziembra—22.
McKessock	
McMurtry	
Meen	
Miller	
(Haldimand- Norfolk)	
Newman	
(Durham North)	
Newman	
(Windsor- Walkerville)	
Norton	
Parrott	
Reid	
(Rainy River)	
Rhodes	
Riddell	

AYES

Ruston
Scrivener
Singer
Smith
(Hamilton Mountain)
Snow
Spence
Stephenson
Sweeney
Taylor
Villeneuve
Welch
Wells
Worton
Yakabuski—48.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 48, the "nays" are 22.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 12, An Act to repeal the Emergency Measures Act.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the House we would like to revert to introduction of bills.

Agreed.

CENTRAL ALGOMA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTE ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Central Algoma Board of Education and Teachers Dispute.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think I should explain the bill just briefly, and perhaps with the indulgence of the House I can give a very brief explanation. This bill is to bring to an end a strike and a stoppage of school for the pupils in central Algoma, which has gone on some 35 days or so.

The Education Relations Commission held a hearing in the area last Tuesday evening. At that time, the teachers in that board jurisdiction—indeed, in one school, which is all that is involved in this situation—indicated they were prepared to go back to school immediately if the board would go to arbitration, be it voluntary arbitration or final offer

selection. At that time the board refused. The Education Relations Commission has reported to me, and we are now making that report public, indicating that the pupils' programmes are in jeopardy.

I indicated to some of the members of this House that we would introduce a bill today. That bill has been drafted and I have now introduced it. Subsequent to our drafting of this bill, I have had further discussions with the teachers and with the board, and I am happy to tell the House that the teachers in the central Algoma board jurisdiction have agreed to end their strike and will be back in school Monday morning.

At this point in time, I can't tell the House that the board has agreed to put the matter to arbitration. The challenge now rests with the board over the weekend either to do that, and if they do not, leave it to us to put the matter to, as this bill provides for, final offer selection of those matters, and they are a very limited number, and that's why we suggest final offer selection.

It is my intention that if events go as has been indicated to me they will go, we will remove certain sections of this bill, the back-to-work sections, which will not be necessary if, indeed, the schools are open. The bill will simply deem the parties to be in final offer selection starting the day this bill receives royal assent.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

BLIND PERSONS' RIGHTS ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 13, An Act to provide for Certain Rights for Blind Persons.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to ensure that blind persons accompanied by dog guides are given access to all accommodation, services and facilities generally available to other members of the public without additional charge.

No doubt some proprietors of restaurants, taverns and hotels refuse to admit blind persons with their dog guides out of a misunderstanding of the present provisions of the law. The law permits those operating businesses which involve food handling to admit the dog guides without risk of penalty. Some reluctance by operators of such facilities is simply the result of a lack of knowledge concerning the extensive training of both dog guides and user. If these were the sole causes of the denial of fundamental rights to blind persons using dog guides, a programme of

public education would perhaps be sufficient to rectify the situation. However, our investigation and information now available indicates that this is not the case, and that legislation is required.

This remedial legislation is consistent with various government programmes aimed at assisting handicapped individuals to live as normally as possible within the community. Approximately 40 American states and the Province of British Columbia have legislation similar to, although commonly not quite so extensive as, that contained in this bill.

Section 2 of the bill provides, in effect, that a blind person accompanied by a dog guide has the same rights, privileges and obligations with respect to places to which the public is invited or has access as a person not accompanied by a dog.

Section 2 further provides that a blind person who keeps a dog guide may not be denied the occupancy of any self-contained dwelling unit by reason of that fact. The bill provides a maximum fine of \$1,000 for contravention of section 2.

The bill retains the substance of provisions which presently are included in the White Cane Act.

[11:45]

Subsequent to the first reading of this bill on March 10, I invited comment on the bill from various organizations representing blind individuals, including the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Assuming that Bill 13 receives approval in principle, I shall be moving an amendment to section 4 in response to the comments received. The amendment would be to delete reference in the bill to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and to replace it with a reference to the Ministry of the Attorney General, which would result in my ministry being responsible for issuing identification cards to blind persons using qualified dog guides. As I indicated, this amendment is at the request of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Speaker: Any comments on this bill?

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, I think it is worth having on the record that the general common law having to do with the rights of the blind, particularly in the area of tort law—that is, the law of harms or injuries inflicted upon blind persons in public thoroughfares or elsewhere—is contained in a House of Lords decision in *Haley and the London Electricity Board, 1965—Appeal Cases 778*. It's a lengthy judgement and a terribly interesting one, because it recites the back-

ground of the law over many centuries with respect to the rights of blind people; and, a little extraordinarily perhaps, it makes reference to American decisions in this particular regard and branches out into a wide area of responsibility under doctrines of negligence within the law of tort as it has been framed under the British common law.

I think it would be worth the trouble of reading a paragraph or two of Lord Reid's judgement in this particular regard.

In deciding what is reasonably foreseeable one must have regard to common knowledge. We are all accustomed to meeting blind people alone with their white sticks, on city pavements. No doubt there are many places open to the public where for one reason or another one would be surprised to see a blind person walking alone, but a city pavement is not one of them. And a residential street cannot be different from any other. The blind people we meet must live somewhere and most of them probably left their homes unaccompanied.

I will break here for a moment. One of the arguments of counsel on behalf of the respondents, that is the London Electricity Board, was that no special obligation or responsibility was to be accorded to blind people if they left their homes unaccompanied. That was thoroughly rejected out of hand; and statistics, which will appear in a moment, were given in the course of the case as to the very great number of blind people.

Mr. Singer: What kind of action was it?

Mr. Lawlor: To quote:

The blind people we meet must live somewhere and most of them probably left their homes unaccompanied. It may seem surprising that blind people can avoid ordinary obstacles so well as they do, but we must take account of these facts. There is evidence in this case about the number of blind people in London and it appears from government publications that the proportion in the whole country is near one in 500. By no means all are sufficiently skilled or confident to venture out alone but the number who habitually do so must be very large. . . .

No question can arise in this case of any great difficulty in affording adequate protection for the blind. In considering what is adequate protection again one must have regard to common knowledge. One is entitled to expect of a blind person a high degree of skill and care because none but

the most foolhardy would venture to go out alone without having that skill and exercising that care. We know that in fact blind people do safely avoid all ordinary obstacles on pavements; there can be no question of padding lampposts as was suggested in one case. But a moment's reflection shows that a low obstacle in an unusual place is a grave danger; on the other hand, it is clear from the evidence in this case and also, I think, from common knowledge that quite a light fence some 2 ft high is an adequate warning. There would have been no difficulty in providing such a fence here. [And, of course, it wasn't provided.] The evidence is that the Post Office always provide one and that the respondents have similar fences which are often used.

I think that is enough at the moment. The American judgement given in the American restatement is a very concise and a very searching definition of what the range of obligations is in this particular head of the law. Fitting this particular legislation into that, it goes one step further and is highly beneficial from that step further.

In the case in question in Great Britain, there was no dog involved. With a dog involved, obviously many more hazards and obstacles can be readily and adequately avoided by a blind person. To give this range of rights with respect to public transportation and to liberate them into the greatest amount of freedom possible for a citizen is part of the job of the law. It isn't always the job of the law to bring an umbrella down over people's heads.

The law is not designed specifically, except in a particular theory which you and I were taught in the law schools, to be restrictive, to be oppressive, to keep people down, to say that human nature is of such a kind as to constantly need chaining and that man is a beast of prey type of thing. That is not what the law is about and this kind of law shows it. This law is preventive. This law is protective. This law is alleviative. It frees human beings and doesn't bind them. And for that very purpose we should see more of it and a little less of the muscle-type or imprisoning type of legislation which is too often brought before this House and in the Parliament at Ottawa.

That being the case, I have just one other remark. The White Cane Act that is being repealed here this morning has some very antiquated and curious clauses in it. I am glad to see it go. It doesn't provide much help to blind people in any case. I see that there is a clause in here that it doesn't apply to anyone who is not a resident of Ontario. I

always thought that rather mysterious, but since it is going down the drain, we will now flush it.

Mr. Singer: My colleagues and I have no hesitation at all in saying that we will support this statute. It's good Liberal type of legislation. It takes care of people who are not able to take care of themselves as well as most citizens of the community. This kind of legislation is probably long overdue but it is here now and it is good legislation. We will support it.

I can't refrain from asking the Attorney General now that he is going to issue the identity card what kind of a system he is going to have for identifying the dog guide? Will he have a picture which describes them by size, by colour, by shape? It is going to be quite interesting as he sets up his canine adviser in the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Mr. B. Newman: A canine appeal board.

Mr. Singer: Will there be nose prints or paw prints maybe? It will be quite interesting.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Would you like the job?

Mr. Singer: I also wanted to mention in regard to this statute that my colleague, the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. B. Newman) has for many years in this House questioned the government about types of legislation which would facilitate a variety of handicapped people getting around and being able to manoeuvre and carry on as well as can be arranged by government action in the community. He has persisted in this kind of comment for most of the years that he has been here and he deserves a little credit too, I would think, for having this kind of a statute presently before us.

Mr. Germa: I would like to add my support to this legislation. It is not too often that we as members of Parliament come into contact with blind persons. I am interested in section 2, and I will pose a question to the minister. Section 2 provides that there shall be no discrimination as it pertains to accommodation as a result of a person being in control of or controlled by a guide dog.

It seems strange but I did have such a matter brought before me and it did relate to a government department, in fact, Ontario Housing Corp. in the city of Sudbury. I was contacted by a blind person who is in control of a guide dog and he was having trouble with the manager of the Sudbury Housing

Authority which is a rent-geared-to-income proposition. Very many of our blind people, of course, are on pension on a very low income and they are prone to being put into this type of accommodation. There was some confusion around this person gaining accommodation as a result of his dog, and it was only after I had contacted Ontario Housing Corp. to get an opinion that we were able to circumvent the problem which was being posed by the general manager of the Sudbury Housing Authority.

The question is, is there no doubt in the minister's mind that section 2, does in fact apply to governmental properties and agencies or boards and commissions? It seems strange that the only problem I've ever had as a result of a situation of a blind person and a guide dog was through a governmental agency. If the minister can assure me that this, in fact, is what section 2 means—that there is no equivocation whatsoever as to whom it relates to, including all governmental boards and agencies—then I have no doubt whatsoever that the legislation is long overdue.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think I could certainly give the assurance to the hon. member for Sudbury that he desires; namely that there would be no such qualification as it would apply to any government facility to which the public is customarily admitted, and certainly the facility described by the hon. member would fall into that category.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, doesn't that end the debate?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I'm sorry.

Mr. Singer: The Attorney General has entered the debate at the beginning and presumably at the end.

Mr. Renwick: The Attorney General was answering a question.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The Attorney General was just answering a question.

Mr. Singer: I don't think he made that clear. Perhaps the Attorney General should get a little more familiar with the rules of procedures.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We have just made it clear.

Mr. Singer: I have no objection to the debate going on, but maybe the Attorney General should—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we could continue with the debate by the hon. members before the Attorney General responds.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I want to express a few observations concerning the legislation. As my colleague did make mention, I've been very keenly interested in being of some assistance to those who suffer not only a blindness handicap, but other physical handicaps. In fact, I do have legislation on the order paper now that would eliminate discrimination because of a physical handicap, where the physical handicap does not interfere with the performance of the services needed.

I'm very pleased to see that the Attorney General has introduced this legislation. As my colleague from Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) made mention, it is overdue, but it is here and we support the legislation.

I can recall, not too many years ago, a blind lady attempting to get accommodation in one of the Windsor housing units and being denied the accommodation simply because she happened to have a leader dog. Since then she has been accommodated in the unit; the Windsor Housing Authority eventually saw the reasonableness of the young lady's request and did provide her with accommodation. With this legislation there will be no more problem for those who may have a blindness handicap in relation to government housing accommodations.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make two comments in connection with the bill. First of all, I'm delighted that the Ministry of the Attorney General is going to assume the responsibility for the issuance of the identification cards. I think it's important that the person holding such a card have the status of a card issued by the Attorney General, which forecloses any questions with respect to validity of the card and those who have the use of the card.

My second comment is a somewhat wider one, and that is that we, of course, as we have said, support the limited objective that this bill was designed to achieve. There is, however, the much wider objective with respect to handicapped persons of all kinds, which the Attorney General referred to very briefly in his opening remarks.

It does seem to me, and I make this suggestion to him, that at the point in time when the Ontario Human Rights Commission is holding the public hearings, which I understand are going to be held soon, with respect to receiving recommendations and briefs about possible changes and improve-

ments in the Human Rights Code, the whole question of the non-discrimination against handicapped persons, overt or covert, be a matter which would be of significant concern. It is one of the areas in which the Ontario Human Rights Commission, when it holds those hearings, whatever its terms of reference for the hearings, should include that kind of reference.

[12:00]

I am particularly concerned that perhaps the government has been somewhat slow in moving on the question of access to buildings of all kinds by persons who are handicapped in the sense of having to use wheelchairs or that type of conveyance in order to get around. I would hope that the Ministry of the Attorney General, along with whoever of his colleagues are associated with those questions, would begin to make it a requirement—an obligatory requirement—to be complied with in a very limited period of time that all buildings—with whatever necessary exceptions have to be made—which in any sense can be called either multiple residential buildings, government buildings or office buildings do have access for persons who have to use wheelchairs of one kind or another.

In this particular regard, I think it would be at least symbolically wise if arrangements were made for the installation of ramps for entrance to this building.

So far as I'm aware, there is no access by way of ramp to this building either from the front entrance, the north entrance or either the east or west doors. I think, symbolically, that would at least give an indication of the government's interest and concern in that specific area.

Mr. Kennedy: I wanted to rise to speak in support of this bill which I know will be well received in our area. We have a field chapter of the Canadian Council for the Blind which is a very active group. There are problems as outlined in this bill and which are remedied to a degree by this bill which I know will be well received by our local chapter.

Only recently, I had a visit from representatives of that chapter and one of their big problems is the need for transportation. Their visit was to see if we could work out something whereby they might be assisted in transportation. Of course, they need drivers and it's not always convenient to arrange transportation to the many activities which they attend and have a right to attend and which make life so much more interesting for them.

The one thing we discussed—and it hasn't been proceeded with further—is whether a Wintario grant might be utilized; or whether this type of assistance might be provided through a Wintario grant. I don't know. One is the capital cost of, say, a small bus which would be suitable. The second and, I guess, major ongoing cost is the operating cost which is mainly a driver who can be on call. Of course, it wouldn't be any 9 o'clock to 4 or 9 to 5 day; they have activities through all normal hours of the day—evenings, mornings and afternoons—just as many other groups and associations do.

I bring this out but I particularly wanted to say how much this measure will be appreciated by not only our own local chapter but all chapters of those who have this affliction.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the answer I gave to the hon. member for Sudbury, out of order as I may have been, in relation to any accommodation, services or facilities which are owned and operated by the Crown.

In rereading section 2, I note that the section does not specifically bind the Crown and, notwithstanding my complete confidence that the Crown agencies would comply with such legislation, I would like to announce my intention to amend that section to bind the Crown specifically so there can be no doubt at all in relation to that. I apologize to the House for my first response which, I think, was a little misleading.

I will then before third reading or on third reading be introducing that amendment as well as the amendment in relation to the identification cards. Our thinking at the present time is to have an identification card which would probably have the photograph of both the blind person and the guide dog.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Some hon. members: To committee.

Mr. Singer: Yes, it needs it.

Mr. Speaker: The committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

COUNTY JUDGES ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the County Judges Act.

Mr. Singer: Can we get a preliminary statement from the minister?

Mr. Lawlor: Is the minister making a statement?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I read a preliminary statement but I am very happy to repeat what I believe I said at the introduction of the bill.

Mr. Lawlor: That's right. He has said all he has to say.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The purpose of this amendment is to establish for each office of a judge of a county court the additional office of supernumerary judge of that court; and to complement this by amending the provisions of the Act which set out the rank and precedents of judges among themselves; and the provision permitting a judge to give judgement on a matter which he has previously heard after he has given up the regular duties of a judge of the court.

The provision allowing for supernumerary county judges was enacted in the 1973-1974 amendment of the federal Judges Act, proclaimed in force on July 4, 1975. The provision allowing for supernumerary Supreme Court justices was first enacted in 1970 and the office was created in Ontario in 1972 by the enactment of section 5(a) of the Judiciary Act.

The Judges (Canada) Act states:

Where there is provincial legislation creating the office of supernumerary judge, a county judge may elect to give up his regular judicial duties and become a supernumerary judge if he or she has attained the age of 65 and has continued in judicial office for at least 15 years; or if he or she has reached the age of 70 and has held office for at least 10 years.

Supernumerary judges perform the functions assigned to them by the chief judge or by provincial law. Of course, the salaries of such judges continue to be paid by the federal authority. The benefits of having experienced judges to assist in adjudicating causes and to fill in for judges who are ill are too obvious to mention.

In recommending this amendment to me, His Honour Judge Colter, chief judge of the county and district courts, indicated his awareness of the potential cost this amendment might have if supernumerary judges were provided with additional office space and secretarial assistance.

The judges of the county court have been advised that if they elect to become super-

numerary judges they cannot expect to have offices allocated to them or additional secretaries. The executive of the county judges' association has accepted this principle.

Mr. Lawlor: This piece of legislation offers a twitting circumstance for asking quite serious questions of the Attorney General in the introduction of the legislation. First of all, before launching into the twit, I want to congratulate—not the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), Lord help us—I want to congratulate Mr. W. C. Alcombrack, QC, chief parliamentary draftsman to this assembly, with respect to the new format of this legislation. I don't know if it has been mentioned previously. In any event, I would like to do so.

Two or three years ago the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and myself, during the estimates, did raise numerous points about clueing us in in a deeper way, when we open a piece of legislation, to direct us directly to the point. Previously, we had to go through quite an intricate process in some statutes at least to dig out what was really the intent, what was being amended, what was being changed, and then from that had to dope out the *raison d'être* of that particular move.

Now, while the format isn't precisely the same as I understand that at Westminster to be, a great improvement has been made. In other words, the section being amended is now set out in italics, on the inside cover, and underlined are the areas that are being substituted or amended or in any way altered over against the previous section or portion of the legislation. That is extremely valuable, particularly as I saw in the Income Tax Act yesterday afternoon. There was none of the explanatory notes, but the context in which that particularly complex type of legislation is set forth is highly beneficial to the members of all sides of the House now and the staff should be commended in this particular regard.

Now, down to this particular legislation. I am sure the Attorney General is aware that there is a Law Reform Commission report on the administration of the Ontario courts, and I am sure that he has perused with diligence a section of page 136 and subsequent couple of pages of part 1 of that report, which is a thorough review and possible revamping of the structure of the courts. Under that particular section D, the section talking about the number of judges—of the Supreme Court admittedly, but the same principle is applicable here today—there is a section on supernumerary judges. I will ask the indulgence of the House and you, Mr. Speaker, to read perhaps at a good deal greater length than

is customary in the debate, because all this is wonderfully apposite to what we are doing. It says:

A supernumerary judge is to "hold himself available to perform such special judicial duties as may be assigned him from time to time by the Chief Justice." Existing Supreme Court judges who have reached the age of 70 and who have been in office for at least 10 years may elect to hold office as supernumerary judges by notifying the federal Minister of Justice and the provincial Attorney General of his desire to do so. The judge's salary of \$35,000 [well, that was the salary at the time] continues until the judge reaches the normal retirement age of 75 or resigns or otherwise ceases to hold office.

Before these provisions for supernumerary judges become effective in a province, the provincial Legislature must provide enabling legislation to establish the office of supernumerary judge. The enabling legislation for Ontario is contained in Bill 242, an Act to amend the Judicature Act which received royal assent on Dec. 15, 1972.

I am breaking from the reading and saying this chapter 159 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1972, to which the Attorney General referred when he was making his introductory statement. It's set forth in the law, and what's happening this morning is that, as with the applications of the Supreme Court judges, now we have similar clauses and similar wording and a similar application to the county court judges, and that's all very well and good. I have got nothing against supernumerary judges but I have some reservations, as we will see. To continue:

It is probable that in the future, supernumerary judges will be available for duty in the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice from time to time. If supernumerary judges were available, the Chief Justice of Ontario or the Chief Justice of the High Court respectively could presumably assign a supernumerary judge where necessary to alleviate overloaded trial lists or to clear up accumulations in certain trial centres. This would give greater flexibility in the administration and management of the High Court circuit system.

[12:15]

And, of course, it's applicable here as the county court judges are the local domestic judges.

To continue with the Law Reform Commission report:

We have had some reservations as to the present provisions for supernumerary judges

and the recent amendment to the Judges Act. First, the Act does not indicate the extent to which a supernumerary judge is to "hold himself available." Does this mean that he is to be available for assignment by the Chief Justice at all reasonable times, that is, five days a week, 11 months of the year, excluding statutory holidays, in the same way as if he were a regular judge of the Supreme Court? Or does it mean that a supernumerary judge is to be available for a reduced number of weeks or months per year? If so, who is to determine which weeks or months? The Act also speaks of a supernumerary judge performing such "special duties as may be assigned to him from time to time." Under these provisions would it be open to the Chief Justice [or here in this particular piece of legislation to the chief judge of the county court] to assign a supernumerary judge to sittings in any one of—

I'm sorry, it won't apply in this particular case.

I think it's good to get on the record the objections of the Law Reform Commission as to the operation of the matter and to the failure to spell out in terms of definitive legislation what the various responsibilities and guidelines may be. In this particular section that I'm reading now and applying not only to Supreme Court judges:

Under these provisions would it be open to the Chief Justice to assign a supernumerary judge to sittings in any one of the 32 trial centres of the High Court, or would such special judicial duties be restricted to Toronto?

If the purpose of these provisions is to allow a Supreme Court judge at age 70 to take advantage of a form of semi-retirement during which he can participate as a judge on a part-time basis in situations of his own choosing, their adoption may not make much contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice in the Supreme Court.

Ditto, I say, for the county court situation here. I would like the Attorney General to address himself to this issue and say what are the plans and what are the perspectives in which we're working. Under this rather skimpy piece of legislation a single clause seems to encompass a great deal. To continue:

There are other considerations. Assuming that in Ontario as of July 1, 1972, the enabling legislation had been provided to take advantage of the amendments to the Judges Act, five judges of the Court of Appeal and seven judges of the High Court would have automatically qualified to elect to become

supernumerary judges. If all these judges were to select and were assigned judicial duties on a regular basis, the change would be tantamount, at least for a time, to increasing the High Court by seven. And such a development is not, however, likely to occur. It is not fallible that all who qualify to elect to become supernumerary judges will so elect. Nor can it be assumed that it is the intention of the Act that they should continue to give full-time service as judges. [I'm almost finished.]

We think the legislation should have specified the extent to which supernumerary judges are to be required to be available to perform their judicial duties. They should be available to be called on, on reasonable notice, to perform the duties assigned to them and they should remain within the jurisdiction, except for personal vacation periods, the times for which should be arranged in advance with the Chief Justice. A supernumerary judge should not be assigned—

I won't read that; that's the circuit situation of the Supreme Court judges, that they should not be assigned there on certain terms.

I would ask the Attorney General, in reviewing his legislation generally, to give some thought to this with respect to the Supreme Court judges. But we will address ourselves this morning exclusively in the field before us. Just in passing, by the way, there is another animadversion—to use a big word—in the Law Reform Commission reports about the use of the term "junior judges" which the Attorney General is perpetuating in the course of this legislation. They think that's a derogatory term or at least it has some kind of connotation of putting a man down. Basically, all judges are of equality just as the minister and I and everybody in this House is of an equal status. We don't have any precedence, one over the other at all insofar as this chamber is concerned.

Mr. Singer: Some get a little more money.

Mr. Lawlor: Yes. Well, you can see how little money counts. In our parity of members, we leave that out of account completely.

In any event, that is the basis upon which I do take some exception to the legislation. I ask if it has been given the thoroughest type of perusal with all these various concepts in mind as operating. In other words, what I seem to be saying is that the legislation might have been fleshed out a bit more, with a few more subsections saying what the intent was in this particular regard and clarifying the very points raised by the Law Reform Com-

mission in the whole area of supernumerary judges.

We are not going to object to the legislation in principle, but it's in detail that I am addressing these remarks to you.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting piece of legislation, but it is supplementary to federal legislation. I agree with the hon. member for Lakeshore that the questions he raises are worthy of careful consideration, but I wonder about the power of the Attorney General of Ontario to say that county judges, either regular ones or supernumerary ones, shall do such and such. I don't think he has that power or even, if he did have it—because they are not his judges—that he would want to exercise it. We tread a very difficult line—

Mr. Lawlor: I would dispute that, because he has to do with the administration of the courts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: He has to do with the administration of the courts; that's quite right. But I just wonder what right the Attorney General of Ontario has to say to anyone, "You will go where Judge X directs you to go." I would think that perhaps the member for Lakeshore and I would be amongst the first to wonder about how that power would be exercised, and we would probably make great speeches saying not that the present Attorney General would abuse his power but that his successor might choose to.

In other words, I think the less of this kind of interference—and this is the difficulty—that Legislatures try to attach to judges' duties and responsibilities, the better it is for the independence of the judicial system; and how you weigh the very legitimate question put forward by the member for Lakeshore as against the theory of independence is a very important matter.

Sometimes it causes difficulty. Perhaps if there were any such thing as a lazy judge, it might have been heard to be a problem when a judge said, "Well, I have done my work for this week. I am going off to take a rest." Now, I don't know that that has ever been suggested, but I have heard it whispered about, in circles that might not choose to be quoted, that some judges perhaps might not be prepared to do what their Chief Justice or senior judge has suggested. We get to the point where a judge can say, quite rightly: "I am independent. I am put here to be an independent person. I don't want the Attorney General of Ontario to tell one of my col-

leagues that he has the power to tell me where to go and when to go."

I don't know how one weighs those two problems. I suppose one then comes back to the usefulness of this Act; and I think it is a useful Act, because it answers a number of problems that did exist. It allows us to employ older persons who sit on the bench in an extra capacity. It allows us to supplement busy court schedules, to take advantage of many years of experience and training, and to use the talent of people who may be older but still able to do a good bit of work. In that way, it is very helpful.

It also clears a spot on the bench, because the Supreme Court bench and the county court bench are fixed by numbers, although we are going to be dealing shortly with an amendment to the Judicature Act that will change the number of Supreme Court judges for Ontario. And just as an aside, where is the companion amendment to the County Judges Act? I guess we will see that later. It hasn't been brought before us yet; I wonder why it wasn't included in this, but we will have to see that later in accordance with the statements made earlier by the Attorney General.

But I think the idea of having supernumerary judges serves a very useful purpose. On the way by, I wonder if I could ask the Attorney General to point out to his colleague, the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), that the payments for the Supreme Court judges and the county judges are not really reflected in his colleague's budget, which he introduced the other night. They are paid for by that terrible group of people who govern out of Ottawa. And while the Treasurer takes credit for a lot of things, I don't think he should take credit for paying more Supreme Court judges or more county court judges. He can take credit for paying more provincial judges when they are appointed.

Mr. Lawlor: That's the nicest word that's been said about Ottawa for weeks.

Mr. Singer: Some of us have to look at the merits that are there and comment on them from time to time.

Mr. Swart: It's difficult to find them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Singer: I think that, in balance, this is a good statute. I think, in balance, it is going to serve a useful purpose. I am a little concerned, though, about one remark the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) made this morning about offices and secretaries.

It is going to be very hard, recognizing that there is this independence, to say to Judge X, who has decided to take advantage of the supernumerary position: "Come on, Judge X, would you go and sit in the courthouse at Toronto because our schedule is very long? We're not going to give you an office to hang your hat in and if you want to write a long judgement or dictate a judgement, you're not going to have a secretary to do it or you are going to have to take your chances."

Somewhere along the line, I think the blanket statement that they are not going to have offices and/or secretaries perhaps should be looked at. If the minister is going to expect these people to do any kind of job of work he has to provide them with some facilities.

Those facilities, at least, perhaps could be common facilities. The minister sets aside a few rooms in the courthouse or in some appropriate public building and has a secretarial pool, because if these people are going to work, they should have reasonable facilities with which to work. We're going to call upon them for a substantial job in the administration of justice and we should be prepared to supply them with reasonable facilities to allow them to do that.

We will support the bill that is before the House now.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, in reply to some of the remarks made by my friend, the hon. member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) in relation to the function and the control of the supernumerary judges, I would like to refer my friend to the federal Judges Act. As he knows, and it has been pointed out, it is the enabling legislation so far as creating the position of a supernumerary judge is concerned.

I'm referring to section 20, subsection 2, of the Judges Act which creates the position, subject, of course, to the provincial legislation which must follow. It indicates, and I'm referring to subsection 3:

A judge who is elected to hold the office of supernumerary judge of a county court in any province shall hold himself available to perform such special judicial duties within such one or more territorial divisions or other areas of the province as may be assigned to him from time to time (a) by the Chief Judge of the court if the court is presided over by a chief judge; or (b) pursuant to provincial law in any other case.

A week or so ago I did indicate, in my own contribution to the Throne debate, a problem

which I think is underlined once again by remarks from my friends opposite. That is, we still are having some difficulty in establishing a mutually acceptable definition of the respective roles of government and the judiciary in the courts' administration. This, of course, is particularly true when it comes to the problems related to case-flow management.

Mr. Lawlor: It's the great conundrum of our time.

[12:30]

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I want to indicate to my friends that I'm very much aware of the problems to which they have made reference and that at the present time we are exploring very carefully various vehicles which might be made available for more effective court administration. We are simply not satisfied with the present system and I hope that I will have something to announce in the not too distant future which would indicate we are making some progress in respect to this very difficult challenge.

In relation to the matter of the offices, I would hope that adequate facilities would be provided for these members of the judiciary. As quite properly pointed out by the hon. member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer), they do provide a very essential service. Some of them are more available than others, and I think the only impression I intended to convey was that an office didn't automatically come with the job. Perhaps I could have stated it better, more accurately.

Quite frankly, I agree with my friend's remarks in relation to the term "senior" and "junior" judges. I would much prefer to leave the term "judge" and "senior judge." I must confess I don't totally appreciate the historical significance that might be related to the term "junior judge," but I intend to explore an avenue of just eliminating that term because, certainly expressing a personal preference or bias, it doesn't seem to be of much value.

In relation to the matter of the additional judges who will hopefully be appointed by the federal government in the county court, my belief at this point is that no legislation is necessary, provincially, to provide for these additional judges. It's not as if there was a specific number set out in the Judicature Act. My understanding is that we simply request the federal government to make the appointments and no provincial legislation is necessary.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Attorney General a question? He may be

entirely correct in his last remarks, but I seem to recollect a number of times where we have statutes saying that there shall be X number of judges in this county and Y number of judges in that county. I think there are such statutes that exist, and from time to time, as it has been determined that we need more judges in a particular area the Attorney General of the day has brought in an amendment. It may be that my memory is faulty, but I would appreciate the result of the Attorney General's further research into this, because I think there are some precedents relating to this question in this Legislature.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I certainly will make absolutely certain before the day is out that I am correct in my assumption.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 14. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. Lawlor: Committee of the whole House. The minister hasn't answered my questions.

Mr. Speaker: Committee of the whole House.

JUDICATURE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Judicature Act.

Mr. Lawlor: This bill contains three points; it's not a bill which will engender any great acrimony or even any particular eloquence. It is a housekeeping measure, and what it does is increase the number of high court judges by five, from 31 to 36. There are further certain provisions made with respect that the judgement of a divisional court—as is presently the case as I understand in the court of appeal—if a judge gets sick or is absent or resigns, then the judgements may be given by the other two judges; and that interlocutory motions of all kinds may be heard by a judge. I don't think I have a great deal to say about the legislation. It's fine.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wilson-Heights.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, we will support this bill.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further debate on second reading? Does the hon. minister wish to comment?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: No. I have no further comments, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 15. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 15, An Act to amend the Judicature Act.

EVIDENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Evidence Act.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, it's a very short clause. Up to the present, when preparing an affidavit on a motion or affidavits affecting judicial proceedings, it is the normal practice to take it down the hall or to go down the street to another solicitor—the client usually takes it down and has himself sworn—which creates a sense of distance thing or an arm's-length situation with respect to the affidavit. As I understand this bill, it says that's a lot of malarkey, that we have a considerable measure of confidence in the integrity of the bar and in lawyers drawing their affidavits, and there is no reason why a partner next door can't do this, and alleviate all the inconvenience and fuss about having it sworn in a particular way. It must have risen out of some proceedings, etc., when somebody questioned the validity of the affidavit since it was probably taken in the office. Now we are trying to obviate that difficulty, and I see no harm in the legislation at all.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see us slowly doing away with some of these old ideas of what is proper and what is improper. I've never really been able to understand why

it was deemed to be such a heinous sin if one appearing in court happened to introduce an affidavit sworn in one's own office. It really was a throwback to the darkest ages, I guess, when lawyers didn't trust each other, and if you had a matter in your office you couldn't be deemed to appropriately swear an affidavit if it came out of your own office. I've never been able to understand that.

Slowly, we whip away some of these ancient superstitions. This is another one that should go. I have no hesitation in saying we'll support this bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to take part in the debate? Does the hon. minister wish to respond?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Only to say that I heartily concur in the remarks of my friends opposite.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be referred for third reading.

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 16, An Act to amend the Evidence Act.

SURROGATE COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Surrogate Courts Act.

Mr. Lawlor: Briefly, Mr. Speaker, there is a wonderful bill called C-47 in the Parliament of Canada—I suppose it's through by now—which alleviates this province and provinces generally with respect to the payment of county court judges who are, as the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) has pointed out, paid through the federal government, and not provincially, for their work in the surrogate court.

I would like to say just one word about the surrogate court in this regard. There is very little in the Law Reform Commission report about the restructuring and definition of that court as to its continued operations, but I suppose that sort of remark is for another day. I think this is the way it should be; now, if the Attorney General will begin to move

in on the Extra-Judicial Services Act and confine the judges to the courts, we can get that volume rolling and streamline the operation a little bit, apart from what Mr. Williston may tell us about it, and take away the blockages and backlogs that are accumulating.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, this statute makes good sense. It has been indicated for a number of years that judges' salaries should come only from one source. I never could understand why we always had an extra bit of legislation and an extra substantial expenditure of money which gave the judges a little bit more for being surrogate court judges; why the municipalities could give them something for being on police commissions and that sort of thing.

If they're going to serve on police commissions they're going to have to do it for free and for the love of the job. They're not going to get any extra money. That marvellous newspaper, the Globe and Mail, wrote a fascinating editorial suggesting that by a reverse process we might get the judges off the police commissions. If we take their pay away, which Ottawa has done, perhaps they wouldn't be so anxious to serve.

I would hope the Attorney General will grasp this problem firmly and say: "Off the police commissions come you county court judges, particularly since you're not going to get any more money for it."

Surrogate courts, fine. I underline the additional comment made by the hon. member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) that some very good look should be taken at the whole surrogate court procedure. There is a gentleman in Toronto, Mr. Ridout, the registrar of the surrogate court for the judicial district of York, who has many years of experience and who, I know, has a great number of ideas about simplifying procedures within that court. The paper war continues and mounts in the surrogate court office and in the registry office and so on. The more pieces of paper lawyers have to hurl around on behalf of their clients, the more complicated and the more expensive the judicial system becomes.

Maybe, arising out of this, the Attorney General could commission somebody to have a look at surrogate court procedures and perhaps ask Mr. Ridout what views he has—and others as well; I'm sure there are other persons throughout the province, registrars of surrogate courts, who have a lot of good suggestions to make. We could streamline that procedure and make it of greater benefit and greater simplicity for the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am interested in my hon. friend's remarks in relation to a review of the surrogate procedure but as we both appreciate it is not the subject matter of the bill before the Legislature. I certainly will explore that; it seems to me to be a very worthwhile suggestion.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 17, An Act to amend the Surrogate Courts Act.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Public Authorities Protection Act.

Mr. Lawlor: Now Roy, when are you going to pull up your socks?

Mr. Reid: Is that parliamentary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Maybe we can speak to the principle of the bill rather than the minister's wearing apparel.

Mr. Lawlor: I thought this was a bill having to do with haberdashery. All right.

He has not been there long enough yet and there's no use being harsh. The whole business of statutes of limitations has been before us since 1969. A massive report was presented and the various defects and anomalies which are written into ancient and hoary statutes with respect to limitation with hardly any rationalization, having taken place for centuries, are just a bonanza for a young, aspiring, dancing Attorney General; it's a tempting, succulent pie he can bite into. He hasn't done anything yet and I'm waiting. That's why I said my first sentence.

This is a niggling move. It's been plastered and in a flibbertigibbet kind of way touched here and there in the past two or three years. This is another instance of making an amendment and it's all to the good.

The fact is that it has to be attacked frontally, systematically, and in one overall

satute. That's not all that difficult and my contention is there has been time enough. Succeeding Attorneys General have promised it and succeeding Attorneys General have dropped by the wayside and gone up to be cultural people—their hair has got slightly longer—and they have left it sitting in alevance. So the limbo of limitations is what the situation in Ontario is at the moment.

[12.45]

The first section has to do with extending the period of six months with respect to tort causes against public authorities from the time when the act was done to the time when the cause of action arose. In other words, the injury may not show up, or whatever is the difficulty may not come to the surface, for some time afterwards. When that happens then that's the time to start the time running, and it does great benefit to people in this particular regard.

I think this is retroactive in some of its features. The role of the sheriff and land registrar on a six-year limitation is preserved in the statute, and we certainly have no objection to the law.

I am simply saying it's a piecemeal business. I do find that objectionable and I would ask, since this is a splendid opportunity and since the Attorney General has the role, to seize his function in a full way, that would be to see the beginning again of the flow of the rather massive mountain of documentation we have before us, ready to be passed into law and needing to be passed into law, so that these lots of human ills can be alleviated.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of limitation periods has been subject to debate in this Legislature on many, many occasions, and it is set out so well in the report of the Law Reform Commission along with recommendations. It continues to haunt us and the province continues to neglect to have a uniform approach to the whole idea of limitation periods. It shows up regularly in medical negligence matters and hospital negligence matters. Sometimes if one wants to claim against a municipality for damage in the road he must send them a notice and at other times he doesn't have to.

It goes on and on, and the complications are so obtuse that hardly anyone can work his way through these various problems. Why can we not make these things simple and why can we not have uniform limitation periods? When there are great complaints the Attorney General of the day rises in his place and says:

"Well I am going to extend the limitation period for such and such a cause of action from one year to two years." In the Highway Traffic Act recently there was an extension. If they were made uniform that would be a great service indeed to the community.

The other thing about the Public Authorities Protection Act—and every time one of these statutes is brought forward it raises a number of questions—is there a complaint that I have been receiving recently, and I understand the member for Lakeshore is familiar with this too, from justices of the peace—or from at least one person who was a justice of the peace—who came to the conclusion there is no protection at all for justices of the peace under this statute or apparently any other statute. So, rather unlike many other people who are public authorities, justices of the peace don't seem to be. When we come to that section of the Attorney General's estimates, I dare say he is going to hear a word or two about the justice of the peace situation as it exists in the Province of Ontario and the many complaints that arise in regard to it.

There's nothing wrong with this statute. It should be supported, but surely when a statute of this limited kind of application comes before us, the Attorney General and his advisers should begin to wonder and worry about the broad implication of the limitation period; of who should be protected and so on. He achieves a little bit, but he is really not effecting any important law reform when he brings this statute before us.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. minister wish to respond?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, briefly, Mr. Speaker. I think it is a little bit of law reform, but I concede that it's on a piecemeal basis. I would agree that limitation periods generally have been the bane of the existence of most practising lawyers. As some of my friends opposite are so determined to return me to the practise of law as soon as possible, I naturally have a great interest in seeing a complete reform of these problems of limitation periods.

The report from the Ontario Law Reform Commission is a very important document. The statute of limitations which will incorporate all these limitation periods is presently being drafted and, I would hope, will be introduced into this House in the reasonably near future. I think my friends do appreciate that it is a matter of some complexity, but I intend to do everything within my power to provide the necessary momentum to get this statute to the House as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 18.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 18, An Act to amend the Public Authorities Protection Act.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate the order of—

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, if the House Leader would allow me to interrupt, we would be quite prepared to have somebody move Bill 20 in the absence of the minister.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) isn't ready to proceed with that yet.

Mr. Renwick: They have no comment to make on the bill?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, the minister had spoken to me about that. I think there was something he wanted to raise, but thank you very much for the offer. It has been a very productive morning even without that.

Mr. Lawlor: It should all be productive legislation such as this.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Well in legislation such as this from the Ministry of the Attorney General, that can't be otherwise.

Mr. Singer: Beware of offers from the member for Riverdale.

Hon. Mr. Welch: May I interrupt the exchanges, then, to indicate what the programme for next week will be? On Monday we would proceed with the teachers' legislation, if it is required, and then we will turn to Bills 26, 46, 47 and 48. If there is still some time, we will then go back to the order paper for other legislation.

There will be the private members' hour on Monday at 5 and the House rises on Monday at 6.

On Tuesday of next week there will be the budget reply of the official opposition,

following which we will return to legislation; and on Tuesday we rise at 10:30.

On Wednesday there will be the budget reply of the Liberal Party followed by legislation; and on Wednesday we rise at 6.

Are there any questions at all on that? The House then will stand adjourned from 6

o'clock Wednesday until 2 o'clock on the following Tuesday.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 1228)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

13. *Mr. Ziembra*—Inquiry of the ministry:

How many first time home buyers grants were sent out before Sept. 18, 1975? How many first time home buyers grants were sent out after Sept. 18, 1975? How many investigations of home buyer grant applicants are under way? How many investigations have resulted in charges? What percentage of applied for grants are being presently investigated?

Answer by the Minister of Revenue:

Prior to Sept. 18, 1975, 27,616 first time home buyer grants were sent out; while in the period between Sept. 18, 1975 and March 19, 1976, 54,122 grants were issued.

Ontario home buyers grant applications and payments are subject to extensive pre-audits and post-audits.

Firstly, in the area of pre-audits, 100 per cent of the applications received are reviewed to determine if they and the supporting documentation are complete and if the applicant has met all eligibility criteria. If the application is questionable, it is referred for further investigation. Currently, there are 978 applications being reviewed. Furthermore, as a result of this screening process, 4,096 applications have been disapproved.

Secondly, all approved applications are subject to post-audit review, with 746 currently being investigated. This post-audit review will continue through the remaining two years of the programme.

Thus a total number of 1,724 applications are presently undergoing further investigation resulting from pre-audit as well as post-audit, which is 1,724 (or 2 per cent) of the 92,436 applications received as of March 19, 1976. In total 3,639 (or 4 per cent) of the applications received have either had audits completed or are in the process of being audited. At the present rate of post-audit processing it is expected that between 8,000 and 10,000 additional audits will be performed this year.

As a result of the audit programme 14 charges have been laid. To date, 13 of the cases are before the courts, while one conviction, resulting in the return of the first payment as well as a \$1,000 fine, has been obtained.

14. *Mr. Breagh*—Inquiry of the ministry:

When will the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) complete her review of the arbitration process? Why should it take more than a year to carry out the decision reached by an arbitration board chaired by a George Ferguson, QC in a grievance between Custom Concrete and Teamsters Local 230?

Answer by the Minister of Labour:

The Ministry of Labour is undertaking a complete review of the collective bargaining process, with the view to recommending substantive changes to reduce the incidence of industrial conflict. This review will include a study of the existing arbitration process, and will offer appropriate recommendations for changes.

The tripartite board of arbitration, chaired by Mr. George Ferguson, QC, in a grievance between Custom Concrete and Teamsters Local 230 was privately chosen by the nominees of the parties without reference to the Labour Management Arbitration Commission. A hearing was held on March 19, 1975 in Toronto, and the board handed down its initial award on April 29, 1975. The alleged violation of the collective agreement, which caused the board of arbitration, arose when the company dismissed the grievor, a truck driver, because he wore ear muffs on the job. The grievor alleged that this was due to a hearing problem, and was not just cause for discharge. The board of arbitration's award concluded that a medical specialist should be designated to examine the grievor to determine whether he was able to perform his job without ear muffs.

The award stated that the union and the company should attempt to agree on the designation of a medical specialist, but if they were unable to do so, the board of arbitration would make the designation. The board of arbitration has been advised that the parties were unable to agree upon a doctor.

On June 3, 1975, the board of arbitration notified the parties with the name of two doctors. The parties chose one doctor from this list, but unfortunately that particular doctor had been ill and was unable to perform his duties for the board. Another doctor was contacted but delays were caused because of his other responsibilities.

As this matter is within the purview of a private board of arbitration, the Ministry of Labour cannot intervene. However, the chairman of the board of arbitration has called a meeting of the parties for Friday, April 9, 1976, in an attempt to resolve this particular problem.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, April 12, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature will recall that about two weeks ago, accompanied by my deputy minister and a number of senior civil servants from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Natural Resources, I made a surprise visit to the United Asbestos plant at Matachewan. At that time, we did a very careful examination of the plant itself. Surveys were taken of the air quality.

We had indications from previous samples that the levels of asbestos in the air were at an unacceptable level. We gave instructions to the plant at that particular time that the 50-odd men who were working in the mill there, must wear masks and that smoking was prohibited as of that moment on. Since that time and that particular moment, you'll recall, Mr. Speaker, I indicated that a regular surveillance would be undertaken by the Ministry of Health and my own ministry.

You are aware, sir, as other members of the Legislature are, that there are 180-odd jobs there and that the economic base for the town of Matachewan is closely connected to this particular asbestos development. However, the health of the miners and the workers in our mines and in the industries of this province are far more important to this government.

The tests reported to me this morning following a sample survey taken last week indicate things are getting progressively worse. In fact, the report reaching me just about two hours ago indicates the levels are unacceptable. There is an increase in the amount of fibre in the air.

Therefore, an instruction has gone out as of about an hour ago, on the instruction of my deputy minister and staff and in consultation with the Ministry of Health, that the mine cease operations immediately—that the operators close up, they clean up, and they seal up before starting up. I also indicated to

the mine and will be indicating to the mine officials that the mining division of my particular ministry will be available to assist and to advise the company in its technical problems to resolve the situation and, of course, to meet the health standards that have been set by the Ministry of Health.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as mentioned in this House a few days ago by the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), and concurrent with a commitment made by the Minister of Health, the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), I was pleased to have an opportunity to review most carefully the appeal briefs submitted with respect to the scheduled closure of Clinton Public Hospital, Durham Memorial Hospital, Willett Hospital in Paris and Doctors Hospital in Toronto.

In terms of local community interest and convenience, the briefs made what must be considered meaningful cases for a careful consideration both by the Ministry of Health and the government as a whole.

The role of the local provincial members of the Legislature, of all political affiliations, is, I believe, also worthy of note with respect to the re-evaluation. In most cases, the local member worked diligently with the local hospital board and concerned groups in the development of the brief and the appeal.

The decision to reduce duplicated active treatment hospital beds and orient our system of health service delivery toward both an improvement of quality and a more appropriate allocation of health resources, is a policy decision which remains in the best long-term interest of the people of Ontario. The degree of dedication which the hon. Minister of Health applied to implementing this commitment in a fair, humane and frank fashion, is a tribute not only to his skill and ongoing capacity as an elected public servant, but to his humanity and sense of concern as an individual. The decisions which I am announcing now have, of course, been reviewed most carefully by the acting Minister of Health and by the Minister of Health himself.

With respect to Willett Hospital in Paris, it will cease operating as an acute general hospital on June 1. It will, however, remain open as an ambulatory care centre, with full primary care capacity, accommodating physicians' offices, laboratory and minor surgical facilities, and radiological facilities. The Willett Hospital will also be permitted to provide chronic care service at its present chronic care capacity, awaiting the report of the local committee looking into the long-term-care needs of the community.

Clinton Public Hospital will also close as an acute treatment facility on June 1. In recognition of the specific local concerns made clear during the appeal procedure, Clinton Public Hospital will be allowed to maintain the status of an ambulatory primary care facility after June 1, with x-ray, lab, and minor surgical capacity—along with physicians' offices on the premises.

At Durham Memorial, the full ambulatory care status will also apply after June 1, when it too will cease operation as an acute treatment facility.

Similarly, here in Toronto, Mr. Speaker, Doctors Hospital will also move from being an acute treatment hospital on June 1. It will, however, be allowed to provide its particular service to the ethnic and core community of the city as an ambulatory care facility with laboratory, minor surgery and x-ray capacity. Doctors' offices will also continue to be located in the hospital, as is the case in the other institutions I have mentioned.

In all cases, these community ambulatory facilities will be linked by ambulance to hospitals nearby. The important role played within the communities by each of these facilities will continue in every sense, excepting the acute active treatment function. In all cases the commitment of this government to find opportunities for those personnel who may be displaced will manifest itself in three concrete ways.

The government will negotiate transfer costs for those who find opportunity elsewhere in this province. The government continues to seek new opportunities through working groups, such as the Evans committee now working on the placement of staff members of Doctors Hospital. The government will expect neighbouring hospitals to be responsive with respect to clinic and admitting rights for physicians displaced by a hospital closing. Similarly, officials of the Ministry of Health will begin to work immediately to organize each of the four institutions for the transition to primary care and emergency services during the wind-down period. The ministry

will ensure the full transfer of any and all caseloads before the June 1 date.

The government heard the appeals in good faith. The decisions announced today are consistent with both the broad policy goals of the government with respect to health service improvements and the need for government to remain sensitive to local concerns and needs which are very often very particular indeed. I am pleased, as Premier, to be associated with these decisions and to associate my government with the fundamental sensitivity and fairness I believe they represent.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Ms. Sandeman: A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: On March 18 I brought to your attention an incident during which several of my constituents and those of other members were unable to gain access to us and you promised to check into that. Would you be able to give us any reason for what happened on that day?

Mr. Speaker: I did inquire and I found nothing particularly irregular. There was a large crowd outside, if the hon. member will recall. There were two or three groups and, as quickly as possible, the people were accommodated. I am not sure whether your people were with the larger group or came individually. It was the larger group which was dealt with. They were taken into each of the caucus offices, because that was the arrangement under which they were to meet.

I am sorry if your people were individuals rather than part of the group, but I can tell you the staff was busy getting the larger group either directly to the members or to the caucus offices respectively. If they weren't part of the group, your people should have been allowed in without any question and that instruction, of course, is very clear to the security staff. There is no question about that.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Without in any way questioning what you have said, surely when a member of the assembly raises an important point of privilege with respect to the access to him or her of his or her constituents, it is important that the Speaker consult with the member as to what exactly did take place in the circumstances and submit a formal report to the assembly, rather than the Speaker's having to be asked just what the situation was and then giving a totally inadequate reply, with great respect.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for your advice. I probably was negligent in that. It was my understanding, though, that the group was a part of the larger group and I have just determined now that that was not true. If I transgressed, I am sorry and I will not let that happen again.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Lewis: On a point of privilege—rather unrelated and very brief, Mr. Speaker, if I may: As one of the people who was in the lockup for the budget through until 8 o'clock, when only with difficulty were we allowed to escape at all, I would like the Speaker to take a look at the behaviour that was accorded the manager of the media studio, Mr. Andrew StuParick, who was in the lockup, left at 7:30 p.m.—a privilege given to no one else; media representatives or politicians in that lockup—and wandered about freely for fully half an hour prior to the budget with all of the information which had been shared through the course of the day. In no sense did he use it inappropriately, but clearly it called into question the very special status accorded this one person in comparison or contrast with all those who otherwise participated.

Since this is the second time that members of the media and the Legislature have been concerned about the privileged position of those who run the media studio, I would ask the Speaker to take a good look at it and report to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

[2:15]

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, may I please reply to the statement or request just made by the Leader of the Opposition? It is just this, that Mr. StuParick is sworn.

Mr. Lewis: Whether Mr. StuParick swears or not is irrelevant, but I must say, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Singer: Four-letter words or longer?

Mr. Lewis: —to the point of privilege I raised, the members of the media are also forced to sign a statement saying they will not reveal the information until 8 o'clock. The assumption, therefore, is that somehow Mr. Andrew StuParick is more honourable in his behaviour. He may be as honourable. He is certainly not more so.

Mr. Norton: The member for Scarborough West has already established how he can be trusted with confidential information.

Mr. Lewis: Can I ask a question now? Now is a bad time to feel unhappy about it, Keith.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition with his questions please.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Lewis: A question first, if I may, of the Premier: Can he indicate, in relation to the hospital announcement which he made, (a) how many employees these ambulatory care units at Willett, Clinton and Durham are likely to involve; (b) will Willett be allowed to extend beyond—I guess it must have had chronic care beds for around 25 or 26 when it was closed down—will it be able to extend beyond that if the Brant county study suggests it should; and (c) since the Premier is allowing Doctors Hospital to do minor surgery, will he allow it a small acute patient unit as part of the redefinition?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, while I have met personally with all of these groups and have some degree of technical knowledge, apart from the general principles that have been established, I would suggest that perhaps the more specific information would be handled by the acting Minister of Health who, I think, could answer more precisely, if that would be appropriate.

Mr. Lewis: Can I refer that, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: Did the minister recall—I am sorry that I didn't do that—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I remember all but the first question.

On the second question regarding Willett Hospital, we must await the long-term-care study for the Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk area and when that study is available to us, which I imagine will be late summer or early fall, we shall know what the bed requirement is for chronic beds in that area. If there is an increased requirement in that area, it will most certainly be considered but at the moment it will be the same number of chronic care beds which it has at the present time.

The answer to the third question, regarding the minor surgical units at Doctors Hospital, is no.

Mr. Lewis: The first part was about employment; how many people will be involved?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I believe—

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: —the member for Brantford—

Mr. Lewis: Can the minister answer the first part of the question?

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further answer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry but I cannot give definitive figures at the moment. This is one of the areas we are working on.

Mr. Riddell: A supplementary: As Clinton Hospital is the only one outside of London which has a dialysis unit, will it be allowed to continue the use of that dialysis unit?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, since an inpatient dialysis unit requires inpatient beds, the dialysis unit for inpatients will have to be moved. It is to be hoped that we will be able to develop an outpatient dialysis capability as well; at least, I should say, a home capability.

Mr. Makarchuk: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: Is the minister aware that the chronic care study committee has indicated to the Ministry of Health that at this time there is a need for something between 55 and 57 chronic beds which could be utilized and which could be put into the Willett Hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: At the moment I gather that although this figure has been stated, this is not exact. The long-term study which is being done, I think will be reporting within a reasonable period of time. Certainly if there is emergency need for chronic care beds, some beds might be utilized for that, but I think the future of that hospital depends upon the results of that long-term study.

Mr. Makarchuk: One additional supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr. Makarchuk: If a definite need is demonstrated immediately, is the minister prepared to relent and allow the extra beds which may become available in the Paris hospital to be used for chronic care?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we are always prepared to be reasonable and to assess the situation as it arises.

Mr. Lewis: A related but perhaps separate question: Now that the minister has worked

this out with such care and precision, I assume she can give to the Legislature today the changed estimates of cost saving which are involved for Willett, Durham, Clinton and Doctors hospitals, given the inclusion of ambulatory and other facilities?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition knows very specifically, that is impossible—

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —because the decisions regarding the eventual status of the four hospitals mentioned have not been totally decided. It will depend upon the input from the local people first before we can, in fact, establish what the savings will be. We can certainly, within a short period of time, give the members the wind-down costs for the institutions as active treatment hospitals. The cost of providing the services which are being suggested and have been suggested to the people in the area is something which we cannot estimate until they tell us what they hope to do with our co-operation.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, could I try it again; take another run at it? How can, specifically, a system of ambulatory care services be provided in these hospitals without having made an estimate, service by service, of the costs to the government if these things should proceed, as the minister surely knows they will? And why won't the minister share those figures with us, now that she has made the announcement?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, since the funding mechanism is different, for one thing, since we do not as yet know the scope of the services which will be provided in each of the places—

Mr. Lewis: She is just too embarrassed to show how little money the government is saving.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh, that is not the answer at all, Mr. Speaker. There will be, in fact, a shift from active treatment care—which is what we have been hoping to achieve—to ambulatory care, which will provide more services for more people more economically than can be provided through the active treatment mechanism.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: This ambulatory care which will be operated at these hospitals, is this intended to be in the form of physicians' private practices, who will now locate within the hospitals, or is it to be

billed on a yearly budget as part of a hospital service? How will the billing actually take place? Will OHIP be billing this through private physicians, or is this a service to be organized centrally?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is a decision which will be made when, in fact, the local group and the group from the Ministry of Health—

Mr. Lewis: This is too much. Just too much.

Mr. Reid: Did you make this up on your way here? What do all those planners do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will allow a supplementary. The member for Bellwoods.

Mr. Yakabuski: Mr. Speaker, how many supplementaries? Is this a debate?

Mr. McClellan: Since the minister is obviously waiting to finalize plans until she has had input from the local communities, is she prepared in the case of Doctors Hospital to pursue the suggestion that was made, I believe in the brief, that a community task force be established to consist of hospital, community, ministry and city representatives to have a look at the overall health needs in the community service by Doctors Hospital?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is our intention.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; the member for Huron-Bruce.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: In addition to the role outlined for Clinton Public Hospital, has the ministry done any study with respect to a possible role for that hospital insofar as a chronic hospital is concerned?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Not at the moment, Mr. Speaker.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Natural Resources, applauding the decision that was made and that he announced today: Can he indicate to the House whether he will attempt to waive the waiting period for unemployment insurance to which the workers at Matachewan would normally be entitled; and whether, if that period can't be waived, he will negotiate, with the company, continued payment for the workers during what one hopes will be the cleanup rather than permanent close-down, or, alternatively, the difference in income between

unemployment insurance and what their wages would otherwise have been had the company conformed to government directives in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure the hon. member is aware, the unemployment insurance aspect, of course, is of a federal nature; it is something that we don't get involved in. I've asked my staff, when they do meet with the company itself, that the aspect of continued wages is one area that they look at very carefully.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Might the minister use the exceptional powers of a provincial government to speak to the Unemployment Insurance Commission about this exceptional situation, and might he also report to the House the results of his discussions over wages?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On behalf of the workers in Matachewan, I would be glad to assist in every way possible. I will certainly follow up the Leader of the Opposition's suggestion.

LAND FREEZE APPEALS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the hon. Minister of Housing, if I may: What exactly does he have in mind by way of amending legislation to deal with the court's decision on the various land freezes around Ontario, apparently having had the provincial legislation declared illegal or inapplicable as it involved the Orangeville decision? Where does the retroactivity enter, if it does, or does the minister intend to apply new freezes or new orders across the province to the areas that might now be subject to litigation?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The intention is that an amendment will be introduced that would strengthen that particular section of the Act so that the situation we have experienced, as the result of the court case involving the Orangeville property, would not recur, and that existing orders would, in fact, be valid as they now exist on the various parts of the province.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, can the minister explain how he makes the previous orders valid retroactively, and what he might do with the many, many applications which, I gather, are now pending to challenge the law, in light of the amendment which he wants to bring in? I just don't understand the process. When is the minister bringing it in?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: First of all, I don't know that we can say there are a number of applications pending.

Mr. Lewis: I have heard of a number of cases that are coming up.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The member has a distinct advantage. I have not heard of those particular pending applications.

Mr. MacDonald: Did you read the morning Sun?

Mr. Makarchuk: We will put you on the mailing list for the brown paper bags.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people don't even support it.

Mr. Lewis: It is the procedure that you use.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: With the greatest respect, the member for Brantford receives an awful lot of material in brown paper bags.

Mr. Martel: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I read the Sun but—

Mr. Godfrey: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the land use in the area surrounding the Pickering airport was frozen in 1972 without the appropriate hearing, will the minister now lift the order and allow natural justice for the property holders in that area?

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you people talk about agricultural land going out of production.

Mr. Martel: You call it rough justice.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: As far as I am concerned, the decision that was made concerning the property at Orangeville was an isolated decision. I do not intend to lift any of the orders at this time, including those on the area the hon. member is referring to. The matter that was before the court was one case. It dealt with the matters that were before the court as they involved that particular application, and I do not consider that particular decision to apply universally across the province in all areas where there are ministerial orders.

Mr. Godfrey: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary.

Mr. Godfrey: I would like to ask the minister why he imposed the freeze in the first place, inasmuch as all of the things he wanted to do could have been done by regulation

under the Aeronautics Act, part I, clause 6. I would like to ask if he realized that he was pulling federal chestnuts out of the fire by his freezing order.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'm not going to debate the merits of the particular federal Act to which the hon. member is referring. But I do believe that particular Act covers only the heights of buildings and does not indeed cover the other areas within the noise cone that would have been developed had the airport continued to be constructed.

Mr. Godfrey: I would be happy to send the minister a copy of the Act.

Mr. Speaker: I announced this as a final supplementary, but we haven't had one from that section, so we'll allow this one from the member for York Centre.

Mr. Stong: In light of the reasoning that applied to the Orangeville decision and its applicability toward the province, whether the minister regards it as being applicable or not, what does he intend to do with respect to the Langstaff area, which has been under a freeze and where people have been unable to move because of that freeze? Is the minister considering compensation or lifting the freeze in that area?

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: No, Mr. Speaker.

DISPENSING FEES

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the acting Minister of Health: What steps is she taking to ensure that the 30-day limit on the supply of free drugs to senior citizens will be extended and that pharmacists will be stopped from multiplying their dispensing fees?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, if a physician writes a prescription for a period longer than 30 days, the pharmacist is supposed to fill that prescription. It depends on the way in which the prescription is written. We shall most certainly inform physicians of their responsibilities in this area, and pharmacists of their responsibility as well.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Is the minister aware of the contract the government enters into with the pharmacies, paragraph 5 of it, which points out that in special circumstances, when more than a month's supply of a drug is to be dispensed for eligible persons—such as when a person is travelling outside the province—the pharma-

cist is entitled to reimbursement of an increased amount of that paid to the pharmacy? In other words, if he dispenses six months' supply of drugs to a person who is leaving, he is entitled to charge six times the dispensing fee. If that is not the case, would the minister kindly explain what paragraph 5 means?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge he is entitled to an increase in the dispensing fee, but not to the level of six times or three times or four times.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Precisely what is the increase and on what criterion is that to be based?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would have to look up the regulation they're under to know the exact amount which is permitted.

Mr. Ziembra: A supplementary of the acting Minister of Health: Now that the minister has discovered the invoice in triplicate when it comes to private labs billing OHIP, would the minister perhaps consider using the same type of invoice in triplicate for pharmacies billing OHIP, to get away from delayed billings which the customer doesn't find out about in the event they leave the country? There have been cases in which billings have been submitted in a customer's name. Why involve those people in the OHIP billing?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been placed, I believe.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is a method of checking prescriptions and the dispensing of prescriptions now which I think is reasonably accurate and reasonably good. It does involve some accurate information which is given to the subscriber as well.

SALE OF FIREARMS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Natural Resources: In view of the general feelings which have been expressed by the government with regard to gun control, how does the minister condone the auction of seized firearms run by his ministry, including the sale to a 12-year-old—or to the father of a 12-year-old—of a pellet gun? Surely he has some views about this which we would like to hear, on whether the government should be condoning this and be a purveyor of firearms in this day and age and in this particular method?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, under the Fish and Game Act, section 87 I believe, as

I'm sure the member is aware, we have discretionary authority either to return or to dispose of the guns or the seized items in question after they have been used for evidence in the courts. This is done, in many cases, through an auction sale. I certainly wasn't aware that a 12-year-old or his father had been at an auction sale and purchased one of these guns. It certainly is something this government does not condone. I'll certainly check into it and follow it up further.

Mr. Lewis: No, he didn't say that.

Mr. Reid: I wonder if the minister could explain the comments attributed to him in the papers some two weeks ago, that he used his discretion to return some firearms which his officers had seized, to some people. I gather it was on the basis that it would cause them hardship? Can he explain how he arrived at those decisions? A lot of people I know are a little upset about this.

Mr. Yakabuski: That's not supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, under subsection 2 of section 87 of the Fish and Game Act, this is a discretionary power given to the ministry. In many cases it is a hardship and in this case it was.

Mr. Reid: Are they all in the Kenora area?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would say that the return of firearms is done right across this province. As I look around this Legislature, I can tell the member there are members sitting in this Legislature today who have personally called me on behalf of their constituents—

Mr. Singer: What has that got to do with it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —asking that this discretionary power be used and I have used it.

Mr. McNeil: Most of them sit on the other side.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Some who have called me are smiling at me right now.

Mr. Reid: I am not.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that in many cases when the conservation officers do make an arrest and confiscate equipment such as aircraft and cars, these are all returned so that there is no hardship imposed on those individuals once they have paid their penalty in the courts.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If the minister finds the exercise of

discretionary ministerial power abhorrent, why doesn't he remove it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated publicly that this is one area we are looking at very carefully.

Mr. Deans: You don't have to use it.

An hon. member: It is not that abhorrent.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I certainly think it is something that is worth looking at.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The supplementary got away from the original question and we allowed it. I think we should get on with new questions. If you wish to ask new questions later, that will be fine. The member for Hamilton West.

ERC CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells): In view of the heavy burden on the Education Relations Commission and the important job that it has to perform now, with many of the disputes in existence, can the Premier in fact condone the appointment of its chairman as the chairman of an arbitration board in British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would be quite delighted to discuss this with the Minister of Education to see just exactly what time is involved with respect to the chairman of the Education Relations Commission. I acknowledge that they are busy, and I am delighted to hear the leader of the Liberal Party acknowledge that they are busy, and by and large have solved the majority of the problems in negotiations across the province—

Mr. S. Smith: We have nothing against them; we just want to be sure they can do their job.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —even though we are left with three or four rather contentious ones. I would be relatively sure, but I will check this with the minister, that whatever other undertakings the chairman has taken on would not affect his responsibilities here, but I will confirm that with the minister.

Mr. Shore: Will it affect his salary at all?

STATEMENTS BY FORMER TREASURER

Mr. S. Smith: A further question of the Premier: Does the Premier endorse the opinions of the former Treasurer, Mr. White, the

former member for London South, that there will be no action by the government to preserve farmland until there is broader support for such policy, and this broader support must be forthcoming from churches and similar organizations? Does the Premier endorse that particular point of view?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think what the former Treasurer was saying, and I didn't have the pleasure of listening to the—

Mr. Reid: You used to have to interpret when he was here too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —very excellent discussion that took place—in fact, just thinking about those discussions Saturday, I understand the leader of the Liberal Party nearly entered those discussions himself; he came in the wrong door or something. I told some people who told me about this that he would have been very welcome and might have learned something about the matter if he had stayed.

Mr. Breithaupt: Just before they disbanded.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think what the former Treasurer was pointing out is one of the difficulties facing government with respect to land use. The former Treasurer was himself involved in the discussions over a period of years. However, I don't think he really said the government wasn't doing anything, because the fact is government is doing a great deal.

Mr. Good: You are watering it down.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the fact, in spite of what I read editorially in one of Toronto's foremost newspapers, is that in terms of the preservation of farmland and in terms of land-use control, if anything there are members of the general public who have made it very clear to some of the hon. member's colleagues that this government has been doing too much. While I think we have to weigh this in the balance—and I look at the member for London North (Mr. Shore) as being one of those members—

Mr. MacDonald: You are backing off.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: So is your friend, the member for Durham West (Mr. Godfrey).

Hon. Mr. Davis: —in terms of land-use control we intend to move ahead with the proper planning programme for this province. If the leader of the Liberal Party is suggesting an overall freeze on all agricultural land, I wish he would get up and say so.

We think we can find a solution. We are in the process, and it has been working, of

preserving by and large the prime agricultural land in this province. What the former Treasurer was pointing out is the area of contradiction. There is no question about it, when we get into some municipalities—and I can refer to my own—there are still some farmers in the great riding of the city of Brampton, where the official plan considerations are suggesting that that land be frozen in perpetuity as agricultural land, who are saying, "We are opposed to that. Why should we undergo economic disadvantage for the benefit of the urban dwellers if they are not prepared to pay the proper price for food?" and so on.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is a contradiction, Mr. Speaker. I think one needs only to look at some of the determinations made in the past two or three years to recognize that this government not only is conscious of the problem, but we are dealing with it and will continue to do so.

Mr. Cassidy: He really didn't say much.

Mrs. Campbell: It is a convoluted answer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member should just say she is going to freeze it and—

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Would the Premier, in view of the statement he has made about unwillingness to put financial hardship on people who now own agricultural land, and in view of his position—and the former Treasurer apparently is expressing the same view that the Premier holds about this—would the Premier please tell us precisely what possible options this government is thinking of adopting with regard to compensating people whose land might be frozen? Furthermore, could he tell us by what means we are going to be able to measure when sufficient public demand has come through via the churches and via the other organizations that the government will finally feel compelled to move? How shall we measure this precise response from the population?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't like to appear to be in disagreement with my former colleague—because, as I say, I wasn't there when he offered his observations—but I know we have discussed this issue, many of us, for a period of time. I think we have found ways and means of dealing relatively well with the problem.

Mr. Reid: When are you going to tell the rest of us?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the leader of the Liberal Party is saying simply this, that everybody whose land is zoned for agricultural purposes or recreational purposes, or for something other than future development, is to be compensated out of the public purse—

Mr. Ruston: Are you asking a question?

Hon. Mr. Davis:—then I would suggest he talk to the member for London North (Mr. Shore) or the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson)—anybody who knows anything about the economic factors concerned—and then he would know there wouldn't be enough money, even if he were to establish his own mint, which may be one of his policies, to undertake a programme of that kind.

Mr. S. Smith: No compensation, eh?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would also make it abundantly clear, in my brief answer to his question, that this government is prepared to protect and is protecting agricultural land; but we also are not going to prejudice the farmers of this province in the process, because we think we can work it out over a period of time in a way satisfactory to both.

Mr. Singer: You don't believe it.

Mr. Reid: You think you can have it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If he is saying to us, as part of his policy, that he is going to freeze all agricultural land in the Province of Ontario, he's lost 20 seats right here and now.

Mr. Ruston: The Premier lost more than that last time.

Mr. Reid: Now we know what motivates you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member has had a couple of supplementaries. Does the hon. Leader of the Opposition have a supplementary?

Mr. S. Smith: Is this what his policy consists of—neither freeze, nor compensation, nor planning?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition with a supplementary question.

Mr. Lewis: As one who has something fewer than 20 agricultural seats to lose, I thought I might ask a supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: Pure words.

An hon. member: Got lots to gain, though.

Mr. Lewis: Leaving aside the compensation argument, which I concede is a difficult one, does the Premier have any specific legislative undertaking which he expects to introduce this session that will flow from the tabling of the document last Thursday; any Act of the Legislature pertaining to agricultural land and its protection? Or will it simply be left to the outlines of that farm land document?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't think we are contemplating any further legislation which would in fact, as the Leader of the Opposition I think is suggesting—

Mr. Lewis: That's what you should have called it.

Mr. S. Smith: Eight pounds of paper; pure words.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They're suggesting that there be a form of legislative freeze on farm land—

Mr. Singer: That's what John White said.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and I have to say the government is not contemplating a legislative freeze. What the government is doing and will continue to do is in terms of official plan amendments, in terms of the planning documentation on the parkway belt and the Escarpment. I should point out that both the parkway belt and the Escarpment contain several thousands of acres of agricultural land which are now under control, a move which members of the Liberal Party campaigned actively against in their great desire to maintain agricultural land. Of course, they wanted the Escarpment totally eliminated in the process.

Mr. S. Smith: Why don't you say something truthful during one part of your speech?

Interjections.

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Davis: I look at one or two members across there—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, you guys did it and you know it and you can't have it both ways.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can't have it both ways; it is one of the very difficult issues.

An hon. member: Got to get a little high.

Mr. Lewis: That's what you should have called it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we do not contemplate legislation. We contemplate working through the existing zoning regulations, through official plans, through the planning documents that are there. I can only say to the Leader of the Opposition that in terms of planning, in terms of urban growth, in terms of controlling in a reasonable way the great pressures that have existed in this province—

Mr. S. Smith: We just sit back and watch.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —compared to any other jurisdiction in North America, this province has done a much better job than any other single area he can mention to me.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Anywhere on this continent, they don't compare to us here; and you know it.

Mr. S. Smith: Let the megalopolis come.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Hamilton West have further questions? All right.

The hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has the answer to a question asked earlier.

Mr. Lewis: It won't fly, Orville, it won't fly; but it sounds good.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's what they said to Orville, but it flew.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Look—order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: This is becoming a general debate and we've taken up 30 minutes—

Mr. Singer: Because you let the answers go on forever.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The supplementaries got far away from the original question, as I recall it. Order.

Mr. S. Smith: That was a speech; it was not an answer. It was a bad speech, but it was a speech.

Mr. Kerrio: They haven't got an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that 30 minutes have gone past, we'll give the hon. member a chance to come back at a new question in a few moments. The hon. minister.

RENT INCREASES

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I have the answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition on April 5, 1976, concerning the rent dilemma at 118 Overbrook Place where notices of rent increases were not given 90 days in advance as required under the Landlord and Tenant Act and the rent review officer claimed jurisdiction in those hearings.

A notice of application for judicial review has been served on my ministry as well as on the Ministry of the Attorney General as a result of another case, not unlike the case referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. I expect the question will be settled in the Supreme Court of Ontario. The hearing of this application should establish whether the rent review officer does have jurisdiction to hold a hearing and to make an order under such circumstances.

I further understand that the rent review officer's position was taken because of the provision in the Landlord and Tenant Act which suggests the 90-day notice is subject to the provisions of the Rent Review Act, which does not contain that provision.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for—all right, the member for Ottawa Centre; was this your question?

Mr. Singer: Make up your own mind.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary to this answer by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: In the meantime, is the minister prepared to give instructions to the rent review administration that when comparable cases come before it the rent decisions will take effect at the legal time under the Landlord and Tenant Act, rather than at an earlier date?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, there is no such discretion given to us in the Act. The only time this would arise is in those cases where the applications were filed before Feb. 29, which is the date specified in the Rent Review Act. So anything after that, we

would have to assume, will have the normal 90 days.

Mr. Singer: Provided you get a rent review officer who does what the Act says, which is too much to expect.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HIRING OF CANADIAN PERSONNEL BY UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Martel: A question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities: In a letter which I received from the president of Trent University, he makes the following statement:

In closing, may I emphasize that these moves are made necessary by all-party political pressure and are being taken in an attempt to ward off a legislated quota system or something very close to it.

This is to his faculty.

If in fact the universities make some improvement in the number of Canadians they're hiring, is it the government's intention to not introduce legislation to guarantee adequate hiring of Canadian personnel?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I believe some time ago I made a commitment to the hon. member, specifically on this item, that I would reply in detail during the session of the Legislature and I fully intend to complete that commitment. I'm wondering if the member might share with me a copy of that letter so I could share those thoughts with him?

NON-RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

Mr. Peterson: To the Minister of the Environment: Could he tell us what his official ministry position is with respect to municipal bylaws pertaining to non-returnable containers?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We have no objection to any municipal bylaw being implemented that is valid and upheld in the event it is contested in any way.

Mr. Singer: There is no bylaw that is upheld.

Mr. Bullbrook: The minister can't be doing this. I don't believe this.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: They are a great testing ground; they really are. But we would hope—

Mr. Bullbrook: Well it has not been upheld; read the paper.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I know that. He didn't ask me about London. He just asked a general question.

Mr. Singer: It is like the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) then. When the Supreme Court tells a rent review officer he is wrong, he is wrong.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As I was saying, in the case of any municipality that passes a bylaw that is valid in dealing with that subject, we have no objections to it. However, we would hope that it would be more effective if it was done on a province-wide basis under our own legislation.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: Could the minister tell me why a lawyer, Julian Polika, from the Attorney General's ministry, appeared before Mr. Justice Sam Hughes in chambers last week representing the ministry and said the ministry's position was against the bylaw? Can the minister tell me why that happened?

Mr. Singer: Oh that's those fellows. We don't believe that, that is the Attorney General's office. Who pays any attention to them?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member will have to ask that gentleman. He didn't represent my ministry.

Mr. Peterson: Who did he represent?

Mr. Singer: They don't talk to each other any more.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I can't hear the hon. member.

Mr. Peterson: If he doesn't represent the Ministry of the Environment, why is the Ministry of the Attorney General, that is, the government, against the municipal bylaws?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As far as I am aware, the government is not against such a municipal bylaw.

Mr. Bullbrook: Supplementary: Does the hon. minister not realize that the courts have now said there is no power under that municipal bylaw? If the government is true to its purpose as a government, will it bring in general legislation or won't it?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I realize that Mr. Speaker. I wasn't unaware of the decision in London.

Mr. Bullbrook: What are you going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: All I am saying is if a municipality through its powers passed such a bylaw that is valid and upheld, we have no objection to it.

Mr. Singer: If another court were to decide differently you will like that one too. Is that what you mean?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We also agree with the suggestion that it would be better on a province-wide basis; we agree with that.

Mr. Bullbrook: Why don't you do it?

Mrs. Campbell: Do it.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Natural Resources has the answer to a question asked previously.

KIRKLAND LAKE AREA BUILDING FREEZE

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, on April 6, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Bain) asked the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Irvine), in my absence, a question regarding a building freeze in the Kirkland Lake area.

For the information of the member: On Nov. 27, 1975, an interministerial meeting was held to discuss the purpose and objectives for maintaining the Swastika restricted area order. It was attended by representatives from the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture and Food, Transportation and Communications, and Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental affairs. Ontario Hydro and the Timiskaming health unit were also represented.

Among other things discussed at the meeting, such as province-wide policies, guidelines and regulations being appropriate, it was concluded from various inputs that the growth rate in the townships of Lebel, Marquis, McElroy, Boston, Marter, Otto and Pacaud was no greater than in other similar areas that were not under a restricted area order. Since this was the case, it was recommended that the restricted area order be rescinded.

My ministry does not wish to take steps to rescind the order until such time as other ministries, such as Housing, and Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, have had the opportunity to develop rural development control policies for the area. It is proposed that a study team be established involving the three ministries concerned.

The municipality of Kirkland Lake is applying to the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Interprovincial Affairs for assistance to expand its planning area, which would take in the townships now under the Swastika restricted area order.

Mr. Speaker: We will allow the member for Timiskaming a supplementary since he asked the question.

Mr. Bain: Is the minister contemplating setting up a committee that would involve citizens from these separate townships? They are perfectly happy to work in conjunction with officials from his ministry and others: is the minister going to involve them in coming up with a plan to replace the freeze?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it has been policy to involve the public to as great an extent as possible. I might say we hope this policy would not take longer than six months.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York South.

Mrs. Campbell: He asked a question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for York South.

LAND USE

Mr. MacDonald: I have a question of the Premier: In view of the Premier's earlier statement this afternoon on agricultural land use, how does he reconcile that with the following statement:

Ontario is moving towards tough controls on southern Ontario land that will prevent farmers from using their property for anything but agricultural uses . . . Farmers are demanding that areas must be designated for the preservation of agricultural industry just to ensure the basic food supply.

Since those are quotes from the Premier in a speech in Maxwell under the sponsorship of the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, how does he reconcile that with his complete reversal in the statement earlier this day?

Mr. S. Smith: Same with the mortgage subsidies; very easy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I recall that speech very well.

Mr. MacDonald: I'll bet you do.

Mr. Reid: Is John Smith not writing your speeches?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As I recall the question this afternoon, and I think my recollection is reasonably accurate, I was asked by the hon. member's leader a question as to whether or not we plan legislation—and the answer to that is no. In terms of existing policy, in terms of existing legislation, there is no question we can maintain the vast majority of agricultural land in this province and we intend to do so.

Mr. MacDonald: All the parties say no.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, they are wrong. The legislation is there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources: In view of the fact his ministry is enforcing the regulations on fishing in Lake Erie, is he aware it could create a hardship for some of the small fishing operators who have been fishing for many years on the lake?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware of, I suppose the laxity maybe, in some of the controls we should have been applying on Lake Erie. I am sure he is well aware of the situation of the fish population in that particular lake. In fact, there is a real concern regarding the perch population and the pickerel population in Lake Erie, and the fishermen are concerned as we are. The restrictive measures we have taken will have some economic impact on a short term, but I can assure the hon. member if we get the co-operation of the commercial fishermen in that particular lake they can be assured long-term activity with regard to commercial fishing.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the ministry prepared to support these fishermen, who could be forced out of business?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, we don't think anybody will be forced out of the commercial fishing industry. There may be certain cutbacks and there may be a short period of readjustment, but we don't expect anybody will be put out of work.

Mr. Makarchuk: Supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary. The member for Brantford.

Mr. Makarchuk: To the same minister: In view of the fact the fishermen will have to acquire different mesh nets, which would take some time and certainly would involve an outlay of money, would the minister be prepared to adjust the July 1 date in order to give the fishermen time to acquire the necessary equipment so they would not catch the smaller-sized perch?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, in our discussions with the commercial fishing industry, we arrived at this July 1 date. It was an extension of the normal time given. I have to say to the hon. member that if it's brought to my attention there is hardship being imposed upon these commercial fishermen, then I would be prepared to reconsider a longer period of time.

HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

Mr. Grossman: A question for the acting Minister of Health—to return to Doctors Hospital for a moment: I wonder what arrangements might be anticipated for those doctors who, say, have surgery scheduled for the middle of June or middle of July? What can they tell their patients in the next two or three days?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, any physician who has not, within the next few days, had an application to other hospitals in the area accepted should, I think, apply immediately to the Evans committee, which is patiently awaiting applications from the physicians of Doctors Hospital, or any other hospital in the Province of Ontario where there is a closure of beds. The committee is prepared to deal with applications of those who wish to be transferred to other institutions.

Mr. Shore: Are they eligible for unemployment insurance?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.
Presenting reports.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener presented the report of the Public Service Superannuation Board for the year ending March 31, 1975.

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: Motions.
Introduction of bills.

TOWNSHIP OF BOSANQUET ACT

Mr. Eaton moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Township of Bosanquet.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Deans moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Deans moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS ACT

Mr. Kerrio moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Niagara Falls.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST CARLETON ACT

Mr. Yakabuski moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Township of West Carleton.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

WELLAND-PORT COLBORNE AIRPORT ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Welland-Port Colborne Airport.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS OF ONTARIO ACT

Mrs. Campbell moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Grossman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

DOVERCOURT BAPTIST FOUNDATION ACT

Mr. Lupusella moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Dovercourt Baptist Foundation.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

SUCCESSION DUTY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Succession Duty Act.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my comments on second reading of this bill will be quite brief, and I will ask that when second reading has been given that the bill be put into committee of the whole House so we can discuss certain of the provisions at somewhat greater length.

I need not repeat the position of this party with respect to the need for an adequate taxing statute dealing with the taxation of wealth in order that the wealth of the province may be properly distributed on a realistic social and economic basis. I spoke about a year ago in the assembly and set forth the position which this party takes, which we had hoped each of the other parties would take, with respect to the need to evaluate the taxation of wealth in the province by means of a green paper, by means of public discussion, by means of obtaining the kind of information which we require in order that an equitable tax system may be constructed for the province in the area of wealth taxation.

On that occasion we voted against the amendments to the Gift Tax Act and the Succession Duty Act in order to bring our position before the assembly. I will not repeat those remarks; they were made on April 24, 1975, and reflect the position of the New Democratic Party in this particular field.

The major provision of the bill which is now before us basically deals with a significant change—but a somewhat less than full change—in the taxation by the Province of Ontario of land passing from a person domi-

ciled in Ontario on the death of that person to another person domiciled in the Province of Ontario. Little did I think I would be in the assembly when a Minister of Revenue of the Crown reintroduced the principle of Lord Baltimore and Penn which was decided in 1750 and which from that time on, eliminated the taxation of foreign real estate.

I'm pleased to see that the minister has accepted the proposition that foreign real estate should be included in the definition of a transmission for the purpose of succession duties in the Province of Ontario. I am at a loss to understand why the minister did not see fit to accept the proposal made by the advisory committee on the Succession Duty Act that we should move from the transmissions concept to the accessions context and tax a recipient domiciled in Ontario on any property coming to that person, regardless of the domicile of the person upon whose death the property is to pass.

There is an extensive statement in the advisory committee's report on the Succession Duty Act with respect to the need for the concept of accessions to take the place of the concept of transmissions. I would, at some time when we are in committee, choose to deal briefly with the minister as to why he will not move to accept that principle as recommended by the committee which was established for the very purpose of making recommendations respecting the Succession Duty Act.

We will support the bill on second reading. We will deal with some of the other matters when the bill is in committee and I think we can have a useful but brief exchange at that time.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I will just say a word or two about Bill 26. This bill appears to make a number of changes and, of course, also includes a number of changes which were suggested and introduced in the 1975 budget.

I believe most of the questions really should be raised during the discussions of committee of the whole House because, as I say, most of these were in the budget and, as I understand, agreed by members of the Legislature. However, not being a lawyer, I do have trouble with some of these sections and I had hoped that the minister could, some time during the discussion, refer to section 8 which is part of the regulations section and which I'm afraid I really don't understand. I think the explanatory note is sort of a legal—I don't really know what to call it, but if I may just put it on record. It's something I really can't understand and I

hope the minister could explain this.

This is the explanatory note:

The new clause (f) will permit the making of rules for valuing bequests of income that are expressed as a percentage of the deceased's estate. The actuarial value of such bequests computed under the present rules under the Act is frequently greater than the capital producing the income because the income currently produced by such capital is more than double the income assumed by the present rules for the actuarial valuation of the income interest.

I would be very happy to have an explanation of that.

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I must confess I am surprised that this debate has gone so quickly, but certainly we will have an opportunity in committee of the whole to discuss the various sections, section by section.

The member for Riverdale raises a question with respect to the recommendation of the committee and I must say that I don't know exactly why we did not go that total route. I have asked the staff to get me some material on that point. My recollection, vague though it is, is that it hinges on the constitutionality of whether it is or is not a direct tax and therefore within the competence of the provincial taxing jurisdiction. I will get some further details and perhaps be able to elaborate on those when we get into committee debate on the bill.

The amendment itself is intended to block a couple of loopholes which have developed recently by which competent and very capable estates planners could arrange to have assets of otherwise taxable or dutiable estates in the form of real estate in another jurisdiction which, on the death of the testator, might then in the one case pass to the beneficiaries here in Ontario or, in another and perhaps more sophisticated case, pass to a company the shares of which were held by beneficiaries here in Ontario. In either of those two instances, those being covered in subsections (i) and (ii) of the amending section, there now would be tax attributable and collected here with respect to the beneficiaries here in Ontario.

My staff have sent me a note which hon. members might find useful if I were to read it. It helps, I think, to clarify the point raised by the member for Riverdale, if he cares to listen or perhaps he would simply prefer to read it in Hansard. "The accession principle, that is the beneficiary in Ontario, would be

taxed by Ontario regardless of where the—"
if I can read the writing—

Mr. Foulds: It would help to have a typewriter.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, it would have helped if we had had a typewriter. It says, "the deceased died in the world was recommended, as indicated by the member, by the Langford committee. It hasn't been adopted by us at this time as it is part of the general review of the Act and it is still under review."

I am advised also that it is not necessarily a constitutional question.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I would just observe that there are a number of extensive items on the whole question of succession duty which are under review in my ministry. In particular, I hope to achieve a dramatic simplification in the structure of succession duty taxing. All of this is an ongoing process which may take some months yet before we can reach a conclusion.

The member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) has raised what is probably one of the most difficult things to understand in this particular bill. I think perhaps the best way to describe it to him—I could reserve this, I suppose, for committee but I think I might as well outline it now—would be to give him an example.

Mr. Martel: You don't have to read it.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I will certainly read the example because I, too, had spent some time reviewing this section in order to understand what the actuarial types were saying in pointing out what is really a tax avoidance technique which has recently come to our attention. This technique takes advantage of the methods prescribed by the Succession Duty Act to value income interest as is indicated in the explanatory note.

Briefly, the technique involves providing for the income produced by the estate to be paid to the surviving spouse but for it to be an amount not less than, say, eight per cent of the value of the estate in any year. The surviving spouse is, of course, wholly exempt from succession duty on any amount received; and this is why this becomes a loophole—because of the fact that the surviving spouse, under recent amendments to the Act, is totally exempt.

Section 3(4) of the Succession Duty Act prescribes the method to be used to value income and annuity interest, and it's based

on a notional four per cent yield factor. In other words, the assumption is that there will be a yield of four per cent in the estate. As an example, an estate of \$1 million would therefore be deemed to yield \$40,000 per annum for the purpose of determining the interest of a life tenant. However, where the terms of the will provide that the income paid is to be an amount of not less than, say, eight per cent, as in the illustration I just gave, the Act requires that a yield of eight per cent be used.

The actuarial value of the income interest passing to the non-taxable spouse, when the spouse is non-taxable, using an eight per cent income factor, would work out to be greater than the capital producing the income if the spouse were 57 years of age or younger in this illustration. By raising the percentage where the spouse would be older at the date of death of the deceased or by providing escalator clauses in the will, then the same result can be achieved. I might just point out that if, for example, the spouse were expected to be 59 or 60 instead of 57, the testator could then draw the will to make a provision that it be nine per cent, 9½ per cent or something of that sort, so that the entire amount of the capital, for actuarial purposes, was represented by the life estate of the surviving spouse.

The direct result is that the whole of the aggregate value of the estate is attributed to the non-taxable income of the beneficiary. The beneficiary, the spouse, has a complete exemption under the Succession Duty Act, leaving no amount to be taxed to the remainder men, who fall into possession of their interests on the death of the spouse.

Mr. Good: It's a good idea.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, it was a smart lawyer who thought it up. Clearly, where the estate is invested to yield a rate of income greater than the percentage provided for in the will, no encroachment on capital will be required to be made for the life tenant, and the whole of the estate, plus any capital appreciation, will pass tax-free to the remainder men on the death of the life tenant.

I did a few calculations recently on this particular illustration to see what the present value of that particular life estate would be to a 57-year-old spouse. Let us assume, for example, that the \$1 million in the estate could be invested at roughly 10 per cent—and that wouldn't be hard to do; it would be very easy to do right now—let us assume it was invested at 10 per cent but was payable at eight per cent out of the estate, or \$80,000

a year to the life tenant, whose age is 57; she has a life expectancy, by the tables, of 19.6 years.

If we put that into our pocket computer for interest at 10 per cent—19.6 payments at \$80,000 each—the present value comes out to \$676,464, which is a whale of a lot smaller than the \$1 million in the estate. But if we use the figures that are presently provided for in the Act, which take into account the same life expectancy—because it's worked out for various life expectancies—but a rate of four per cent, it wipes out that figure. My people tell me that that table, at \$80,000 times 12.6, comes out to \$976,000 or so—very close to the \$1 million in the estate—and the estate therefore would be free of succession duty in that particular case. That's the situation we're seeking to remedy by this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support from both sides of the House.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the minister wants it to go to committee.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, committee of the whole House.

Mr. Speaker: The bill is ordered to committee of the whole House.

Clerk of the House: The 11th order.

Mr. Speaker: Would the minister like to move?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, just a moment please, Mr. Speaker. I'm prepared to go with the Retail Sales Tax Act, and I am in two minds as to whether we might want to go into committee with the Succession Duty Act. But there are other bills standing, as I recall it now, on the order paper, for the committee of the whole House, so perhaps it would be more appropriate if we followed the 11th order as called.

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 46, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak again briefly on Bill 46, being the Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act. Again, we will support the passage of the bill, but we will ask that the bill go into committee of the whole House, because again a taxing statute with specific changes in specific sections of a technical and intricate bill is not

properly the subject of a debate on principle on second reading.

I do have two or three comments which may be helpful to the minister when he's considering the matters which we will be raising in committee.

I'm extremely concerned—and I'm going to try to put my concerns in order—about the tough penalty which the minister is imposing under section 4 of the bill, amending as it does the accounting by vendors under section 10 of the Act for the tax which they must collect. It does seem to me that that penalty, coupled with the provision with respect to regulations contained in section 13 of the bill, seems to me to be somewhat Draconian in nature, and there must have been some obvious reason for the minister to move in this way in a drastic sense against vendors who have failed to account. He must feel that there's been a substantial loss of revenue or a substantial problem about collection which would lead him to impose such penalties.

The second matter, which is one, of course, of immense concern to us—we'll not oppose the bill on second reading because of it, but we'll deal with it in committee—is the whole procedure which occupies a substantial part of the bill relating to the point in time when machinery and equipment for production purposes will be subject to tax in an endeavour to have that tax imposed at the time it becomes affixed to the realty and paid by the person who owns the real property to which the production property is affixed.

We can deal with the technical amendments, all of which will not come into force until Jan. 1, 1977, but of course that points up what has been a major concern to this party and that is why there should be a continuation in the budget and a continuation in this bill of the provision which was enacted last year under the Retail Sales Tax Act granting what, in our judgment, is an exorbitant exemption with respect to the imposition of sales tax on machinery and equipment used in production.

We are, obviously, in favour of the reduction in the sales tax which applies with respect to the definition of fair value in connection with a specific defined type of mobile home, and we're also obviously in favour of those homes being subject to tax on only one occasion—that is, in the first instance and then only at the lower rate—and not on any subsequent transfers.

My last point, on second reading of the bill, is this whole question of the extent to which people coming into Canada and bringing tangible personal property into Canada are, in fact, declaring it to the Treasurer or

to the Minister of Revenue so that the tax which is imposed on property brought into the Province of Ontario by persons returning to Ontario is subject to tax. I must say, my impression is that it's probably more honoured in the breach than in the observance in many cases, and there must be a significant loss of revenue to the province in its endeavour to tax that kind of tangible personal property when brought into Ontario, having been purchased abroad.

Perhaps those points and a number of other points can more usefully be dealt with in some greater depth when we deal with the bill in committee of the whole House. We will therefore support the bill and ask that it go to the committee of the whole House.

[3:30]

Mr. Edighoffer: In reference to Bill 46: In the brief time we have had to review this bill, I have to say firstly that we in this party strongly support the amendment regarding the reduction in tax for mobile homes. I know this has been brought up with the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) on a number of occasions and we were certainly pleased to see that this was forthcoming.

Again, the majority of this bill is set out in the budget. We will have ample time to discuss the changes that are taking place and I can say we are in agreement with most of the changes.

I wonder sometimes when I look at a bill such as this. I know there are exemptions for thermal insulation materials and I just wonder why some of these things aren't set out a little more clearly in legislation. However, I suppose many of these things are done in a hurry.

But we will support the second reading of this bill and, as the previous member said, look forward to the discussion in committee.

Mr. Cassidy: I want to make a couple of comments on the bill. One is that I don't think the bill should be passed without remarking on the fact that without a stroke of the pen and without an Act of this Legislature the Ontario sales tax was increased from five per cent to seven per cent at the end of December and—

Hon. Mr. Meen: With respect, Mr. Speaker, that isn't so, because it was provided in the amendment made about this time last year that the tax would be reduced from seven per cent to five per cent for a specific period of time. And so it was by an Act of the Legislature that it went back up to seven.

Mr. Deans: He said "without a stroke of the pen."

Mr. Warner: An election gimmick.

Mr. Cassidy: Without one stroke of the pen. The electoral situation had changed very substantially. I hope the minister is aware of it and if he isn't aware of it then something is wrong with his perception and he has delusions of grandeur.

Mr. Martel: The minister has been around here long enough.

Mr. Cassidy: He still sees the rump over on this side, Mr. Speaker.

I don't think it should be allowed to pass unnoticed that the Ontario government did, in effect, allow that enactment to go forward without coming to consult the Legislature. That is a habit that you have had more and more, Mr. Speaker—not you personally, Mr. Speaker, but—

Mr. Warner: A bad habit.

Mr. Speaker: That's not a part of this bill, though.

Mr. Cassidy: No, of course it isn't.

Interjection.

Mr. Cassidy: The point I want to make in relation to the bill is a point of principle and that's why I raise it right now. The deputy minister is looking at it to give some more elucidation and maybe having output of the minister. It is proposed in here that a retail tax on newspapers be levied by the Province of Ontario and the restrictions of that tax be laid down by legislation. I think that is a very dangerous provision and I would like the minister to consider very seriously redrafting that particular amendment or taking it out completely.

As I understand, in the past, newspapers, books and other such articles have quite properly been excluded from the sales tax. The government of the Province of Ontario has hesitated to tax them because the tax on newspapers is a tax on information and is a form of censorship. The government has now breached that particular barrier and it appears to be coming to deciding that it will, in fact, tax newspapers.

If the minister intends that certain kinds of advertising circulars, which do not contain news or comment of any variety, that are now being exempted because they are falsely classified as newspapers, should be taxed, it might be possible to find the necessary

language to carry out such an intent in the legislation. But I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that this language is quite unacceptably broad. It means that if the minister or the government saw fit they could by regulation deem that one of the classes of newspapers to be taxed was newspapers with a circulation of over 400,000 published in the afternoons in the city of Toronto, thereby picking out only the Toronto Star; or tabloid-sized newspapers appearing in the morning in the city of Toronto; or all weeklies published within 100 miles of the Manitoba-Ontario border which would take in the Kenora and Fort Frances newspapers and none other.

It would be quite possible to discriminate against particular newspapers by use of this particular device. The minister is aware that the regulations committee has no power to govern the use of this particular power which he proposes to give unto himself. There is no provision for reference back to the Legislature apart from the minister's estimates and there is therefore no effective legislative control. I would ask the minister to agree that, whatever the intent here, it has been inadequately carried out and it should be reconsidered in committee this day.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister a few questions concerning the bill as it relates to the matter of section 24(b) section 3, which relates to "thermal insulation materials, as defined by the minister, that are purchased exclusively to insulate a building the construction of which has been completed and that is occupied permanently or seasonally for residential purposes . . ."

The question I want to ask the minister is, is not having that paragraph or that phrase put in the bill encouraging a number of cottagers in certain areas to live in these places year round, perhaps in violation of local bylaws? I can cite a couple of instances in the Erie riding where municipalities do not encourage the year-round use of certain cottages. Perhaps by allowing them to insulate, the next question to lead into it would be that they are permanent residences and lack of sewers and other services in the area will cause, perhaps, further difficulties to the municipality.

The other matter concerning the matter of insulation is that hopefully when the regulations do apply to this particular paragraph, consideration will be given to the type of insulation and, perhaps, some protection to the property owner who may feel that he's doing a service to the Province of Ontario by reducing energy costs by applying insulation. Some of the construction materials used today

in new homes such as the 2x4s,—if we call them 2x4s—may only be in some cases 3 inches in width and perhaps about 1½ in. deep.

In some cases, in our discussions in the Ontario Hydro committee, dealing with the hydro rates, it has been suggested that insulation should be increased to 6 in., 4 in. and so forth. If we are going to encourage property owners to apply this type of insulation I think we are going to have to change the provincial building code so that persons are going to be protected.

If not, what they call a wet rot or condensed rot will occur in the building materials in a home and perhaps in five years' time, if there isn't breathing space in there, the person could lose his home or perhaps it will cost him more money. These are the points I want to bring to the attention of the minister.

The other one concerns subsection 3, section 3, I guess it is—no; it deals with the tangible personal property in Ontario as it becomes liable to tax. Hopefully, this will cover one of the overgenerous conditions which exist along the Lake Erie shoreline where we have our American friends who may come in with a boat and all the equipment necessary for it and they pay no taxes on it. I think at one time under Canadian customs regulations they could bring a piece of equipment in, such as a boat, and it would be valued at \$5,000 or \$6,000. They would have the use of our Canadian waters over here, then take it back to the United States and pay no tax on it. I understand that now they can bring a boat into Canada as long as they file a report that it's here for, we might say, the life of the equipment. Again, I feel that persons in Ontario who have to go out and purchase a boat and motor are being penalized when we allow other infractions under overgenerosity of the present laws that they can come into Canada and get off scot-free without contributing any taxes at all, and I think this should be corrected.

Those are the points that I wanted to bring to the attention of the minister and, hopefully, he will give consideration to my suggestions.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, taking last things first, I guess, on insulation we're proposing that the exemption apply where the dwelling is complete and isn't just in the course of being constructed. If that were the case, then the new provincial Building Code would apply to require certain levels of insulation. It has to be a residence; it can't be a commercial property. The principle doesn't

extend to commercial and industrial enterprises or undertakings, it's strictly residential and it's intended really as an incentive to upgrade existing residences that may have little or not insulation in them. It doesn't really matter whether it's a permanent residence or a temporary residence. A seasonally occupied premises is just as much a qualified building as a permanent townhouse, we might say. So I want to make that point clear.

I'm not too clear myself on what the hon. member is referring to with respect to boats.

Mr. Haggerty: Summer residents.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Summer residents coming in here with their boating equipment—that is not much different from winter vacationers from Ontario going to Florida with their cars. Florida doesn't apply a Florida retail sales tax or some part thereof to any of us who are lucky enough to be able to spend some time there at any time of the year. I don't think we've ever extended the principle, where someone was coming in as a visitor rather than as a resident, that tax would be applied. That's a principle that I think would be counterproductive in the long run.

The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) touches on a point which has concerned me; there's no intention in the bill to tax newspaper. The intention is to try to apply the taxing statute to advertising material put out under the guise of newspapers. The section presently reads, "newspapers however purchased," and under that we have had a regulation attempting to interpret newspapers meaning publications, usually daily or weekly, containing news, advertising and literary matter. This includes trade show newspapers, but doesn't include credit or business reports or similar printed matter.

The difficulty with this is that we cannot get a definition which is sufficiently sharp that it homes in on the true newspaper and exempts the true newspaper, be it daily, weekly or whatever, without getting into some difficulties with advertising flyers that may contain some item of news—and it doesn't matter how old it is; there's no requirement that news be current. Some have gone so far as to public excerpts from CP bulletins that might be six weeks old just for the purpose of including in their advertising material some element of news, a masthead, an address and so on, and they would appear, under the definition under the Act and under the definition by the regulations, to be a newspaper and, therefore, free of retail sales tax, in, one might say, unfair competition with those who are legitimately putting out

advertising material of one form or another and not trying to get it up under the guise of newspapers.

I think the last thing in the world that would ever happen, I guess, would be if newspapers were dragged in under the Act and taxed the way advertising material is intended to be taxed. But what we're trying to find is a definition that will distinguish the one from the other.

[3:45]

What does concern me, though, as I said in my remarks, was the concern expressed by the member for Ottawa Centre that this is broad. It does appear to me to be broad and I have expressed this concern to my staff. I had wondered whether it needed to be this broad in order to accomplish what we're seeking to accomplish. If I can come up with anything when we are in committee on this, any way in which to modify this in some fashion, or if the hon. members opposite can help me in coming up with something that will accomplish what I think is accepted as a desirable goal, then I certainly would be happy to entertain and see introduced an amendment to that section; but we do need something.

The member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) referred to section 4 in his comments, and yet I think he was speaking about the imprisonment provision in section 11 as being rather Draconian. When we get into the details of the bill, I think I can explain to him and to hon. members just what was intended and why we have proposed these particular amendments.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for committee of the whole House?

Agreed.

ONTARIO GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved second reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income Act, 1974.

Mr. McClellan: I want to rise to oppose Bill 47 on behalf of this party. I want to inform you, Mr. Speaker, that we are opposed to it in principle, that we will divide on it and that in the unfortunate eventuality that it passes, we will move that the bill be sent to committee of the whole House for amendment.

I want to say that we think this bill in principle constitutes an attack on the rights

of new Canadians in this province in no uncertain terms. What the minister is proposing to do is to change the residency requirement for the GAINS pension from five years to 10 years in section 1(2)(3).

We are well aware of the justification for these proposed changes. It's an exercise in Hendersonian restraint, pure and simple. The government will probably save some \$3 million or \$4 million, by our calculations, by virtue of the changes in residency requirements. But what is at stake is not simply a matter of dollars. What is at stake are the fundamental political rights of a group of people in this province, and the government has absolutely no right to take those rights away.

The pettiness of the measure also needs speaking to. At the present time, we are aware that the Ontario government pays the whole cost of GAINS pensions for people who do not meet the eligibility requirements for old-age security. I understand that some two per cent of GAINS clientele are in the category of people who do not meet the old-age security requirement. I am also aware that they constitute something in the order of 17 per cent of the total cost of the GAINS programme. But the very fact that there are inequities in the federal legislation is no excuse for introducing those inequities into Ontario law.

This government's obsession with the kind of Hendersonian sleight-of-hand politics of switching costs from one level of government to another has gone utterly too far this time. The government has got itself into a tack on fundamental rights of people that is abhorrent to us in this caucus. What the government is doing is establishing two classes of citizenship in this province—those who are here 10 years and those who are here five years. It is utterly inappropriate to base the eligibility for government pensions on some kind of a distinction or discrimination as between classes of citizens. The government will be depriving Canadian citizens who happen to be new Canadians of entitlement for GAINS programming, and it is utterly inexcusable to be proposing these kinds of measures to this Legislature at this time, regardless of the sleight-of-hand cost savings.

I might mention, finally, that the net consequence to new Canadian citizens who are now put into a second class status by the changes proposed, is that rather than be eligible for GAINS pension they will be eligible for family benefits under a needs test and an assets test at substantially reduced rates of payment—the difference be-

tween something in the order of \$269 for a single person on GAINS, as opposed to \$190 a month for a single person on family benefits. Again, the government is simply establishing two classes of Canadian citizens by virtue of the length of their residency in this country. It is absolutely unacceptable to this caucus, and we will oppose the government on it when the matter comes to a vote.

Mr. Foulds: Shameful piece of legislation.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I would just like again to make a few comments on Bill 47, an Act to amend the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income Act. This proposal, of course, was made by the Treasurer in the budget. It would appear to me that this, of course, would eventually—or at the present time—bring citizens together in receiving their benefits. I think, however, that we will support the legislation, but feel—

Mr. Moffatt: Bring citizens together?

Mr. Edighoffer: —that it should go to committee to make certain that this is hopefully phased in over a period of time.

Mr. McClellan: You'll phase it into the legislation, but you may phase people out.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: That's the first time I've heard of phasing-in discrimination. You can cut it anyway you want. In fact, what you are going to have is people now—

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member address his remarks to the Chair?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, what they now have are people who have been here six years who are in receipt of GAINS, who will be here seven years in receipt of GAINS—and other people who will have been here nine years and not be eligible for GAINS.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Not now.

Mr. Martel: It certainly will—when the government introduces this. They have to have a 10-year residency requirement. If they don't get it now; if they haven't got it now—they've been here eight years.

Hon. Mr. Meen: They have a year to apply.

Mr. Martel: They have a year to apply. Be that as it may. What happens when they have been here eight years?

Hon. Mr. Meen: They can apply.

Mr. Deans: They may not be eligible.

Mr. Martel: Sure, and they may not be eligible because they may not have been here 10 years. What is even more sinister is the point I want to talk to, because the government can phase in discrimination and the Liberals will accept what they adopt. If you look in the explanatory note and you try to hang your hat on something, it says it is to coincide with what the federal government is doing—right. Why don't they do what the federal government does and introduce an escalator clause?

In the GAINS portion—in all the pensions in Ontario—the beggars over there went to Ottawa a number of years ago and decried the fact that the federal government did not have an escalator clause in the Canada Pension and the old age pension, and they screamed blue murder that they should put in escalator clauses. When it came time for them to come back to Ontario and to put these escalator clauses into such things as the Workmen's Compensation Board pension benefits or in the mother's allowance under family benefits, of course, the Tories backed off—and here they go again. They nibble. They take what is convenient. Because it coincides with what Ottawa is doing, therefore they will introduce it.

Well, why don't they put an escalator clause in the pension in Ontario, as Ottawa does? Now, that would be taking it too far. It brings in the discriminatory aspect of it, and that's all well and good. And because the Liberals in Ottawa believe in discrimination, of course, so too should the Tories. Why be any different? You've always been the same. There is not much sense in changing now.

One wonders why they introduced it the way they did a couple of years ago, though. I was involved in those debates, and I guess it was because on the eve of an election a year away, we could bring in that thing. Barrett looked good doing it. Ontario had to, because there was sufficient pressure from the senior citizens in Ontario, and in the face of an election, what in God's name do they do but introduce the clause in the bill which says five years. That's what Barrett was doing. But it cost us money. The difference between the Tories and Barrett is, he understood the legislation. He understood the handout game in Ottawa better than anyone else and when he—

Mr. Reid: They caught on to him after one term, I can tell you.

Mr. Martel: Well, we will talk about Barrett, if you want.

Hon. Mr. Meen: It was not a long term—

Mr. Martel: It's an indication, I think, of what I said earlier.

Mr. Reid: They are suffering for it now.

Mr. Martel: It's funny when drowning rats can all get on the same boat, Pat. All the right wing finks could get together in a hurry in BC, and it is obvious they are doing it here this afternoon in the Legislature as well.

But Barrett knew the Ottawa legislation better than anyone in Canada. He went down to Ottawa long before this government did to see if he could get a crack at the Canada Assistance Plan funding, and he got some and so Ontario followed suit. I suppose Wacky Bennett Jr. will now move legislation which will, in fact, bring in discrimination in its rankest form. But we oppose it. We oppose it on that and, as I say, we oppose it because it only goes half way.

If they are going to talk about following the Liberal example in Ottawa, the least the Liberals could have done is insisted on an escalator clause, because there is an escalator clause in Ottawa. The only thing that they accept readily over there is discrimination, but not an escalator clause that this government asked for. The Liberals stand condemned, as the Tories stand condemned, for even introducing the bloody thing. It is not costing the province that much and I simply abhor the fact that if a person has been here for only six years, despite the fact that he is a Canadian, despite the fact he has residency and citizenship, because he hasn't quite made it he is not going to be eligible. That is rank discrimination.

I would encourage the Liberals—seated to our left but philosophically to our right—to change their position on the two grounds. It is discriminatory. I really can't understand the Liberals supporting that garbage, I really can't, and I would encourage anyone who is in control over there to have the caucus reconsider the decision and oppose that amendment, and in particular that clause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate? The hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, there are occasions on some bills where another voice repeating, perhaps in a different way, the same arguments that have been made is im-

portant and essential, and I intend to do that. The minister knows that his colleague, the Treasurer, in a laconic statement, introduced in the budget the full implications of which are now reflected in what appears on its face to be nothing but a technical bill, referred to this problem, and I quote what the Treasurer said:

It would be appropriate at this point, however, to state that legislation will be introduced changing the GAINS residency criteria, which is presently five years in Canada. Effective April 7, 1976, new applicants for GAINS must meet the same 10-year residency criterion that is required for federal OAS and GIS benefits.

[4:00]

What the minister is doing—for the sake of conformity and for no other reason that we can tell, although we have tried to find out the quantified number of dollars that the government will be saving by this kind of measure—what the minister is saying is that if you come here as a landed immigrant and obtain your Canadian citizenship or if you have fulfilled the residency requirement that would permit you to apply for your Canadian citizenship, in this particular respect you must wait another five years before you can get the additional few dollars that this government provides to bring a person's income up to what we call a guaranteed annual income. I can't understand how this government could say that there can be Canadian citizens in this country, some of whom are eligible to apply and some of whom are not eligible to apply.

We have spent a good deal of time over the last 20 or 30 years abolishing the distinction between citizens who become citizens by application after five years landed immigrant status and citizens who are native-born. A native-born citizen is a person who will have been here for the residency requirement long before the point in time when he has to meet the requirement to be eligible for GAINS, and the minister knows that. The only people who can be hurt are non-native born Canadians who are either citizens or eligible for citizenship. That's what the minister has done. Why the federal government ever adopted 10 years is beyond me, but it certainly should not be a relevant argument in this assembly as to what this government should be doing with respect to the kinds of discrimination which have been pointed out by my colleagues.

I noticed that the minister interjected and said that of course as of April 6, 1976, if anybody considers himself to be an eligible

person, he has a full year in which he can make his application. Therefore, in the so-called technical language of taxing statutes, a notch provision is providing some kind of opportunity for persons who are presently eligible but haven't as yet made the application. The government is giving them one year to apply. One year isn't adequate because there's no arbitrary period of time which will remove the inequities, even for those persons who may now be eligible.

I don't pretend to have followed all the intricacies of the debate that took place about it, but I know the broad substance of it. One of the major problems we in this caucus face is to endeavour to get persons who are disabled, unemployable and in receipt of family benefits assistance or general welfare assistance transferred to the guaranteed annual income programme, so that those persons will be designated as unemployables and will be eligible for the additional numbers of dollars which are paid under the GAINS programme which are not available when one takes simply into account the funds which are available under family benefits assistance or general welfare assistance on a monthly basis.

So, if my assumption is correct, the government one year from now will be denying persons who may very well meet the present residency requirement but, who through the arbitrary decisions of this government, are not eligible for GAINS because the government will not admit that they're unemployable. Then, at some point in the future, if they become in the eyes of the government unemployable, the government will be able to say: "You must still remain at the reduced amount because, where you used to fall within the five-year residency requirement, you now fall within the 10-year residency requirement and you're not going to be eligible."

What we think the government is saying is that it wants to take a large number of people out of the GAINS programme, not because they're unemployable, but because they haven't been here for the additional five years. That is another reason why we oppose the bill.

I assume that the statements I have made are specifically accurate because the question of who qualifies is not a decision which is made on some objective test of residency. There are other criteria which are involved to determine whether a person becomes eligible for the GAINS programme.

If the minister insists on extending the five-year provision to 10 years on April 6 or April 5, 1977, there will come a cutoff point for

persons who would otherwise have been eligible, in the minds of most persons, and who would be unemployable. If they become unemployable after that date, the minister will say, "You may be unemployable now but you're not eligible for GAINS because we've changed the rules and it's a 10-year period."

I can't conceive that the government could justify a saving in the expenditure of funds at the expense of persons who must be, in most cases, 65 years of age or over; and to do so at the expense not of native-born Canadians but at the expense of Canadians who may be Canadian citizens or eligible for Canadian citizenship after their five years in Canada. They will be told that in order to get this additional supplement they must be here for another five years.

Mr. Martel: Scrooge.

Mr. Renwick: Now in those two gradations of classes of people this government which, in many cases, prides itself on the non-discriminatory nature of its legislation is in fact discriminating in a most reprehensible way. It is disguised as a mere amendment in order to make it conform with decisions or rules which are established by the federal government for old age security and guaranteed income supplements.

We say to the minister, "You're wrong. Will you reconsider? Would you stand the bill down? Will you withdraw the bill?"

Mr. Bounsall: Withdraw it.

Mr. Renwick: He can simply say, "We have made a mistake. We didn't understand the implications of it."

Mr. Martel: The Liberals will support them.

Mr. Renwick: I say to my colleagues on the left, in the Liberal Party, that I don't understand how it is possible for members of a party which, over the years, has insisted upon the Canadian citizenship requirement for eligibility for a large number of other more remunerative matters, at this point in time to say, "You can be a Canadian citizen or be in the country as a landed immigrant; have been here for five years and become a Canadian citizen; but you are not eligible for the GAINS programme without waiting for another five years." We can't possibly conceive that with proper consideration, the Liberal Party would not support us in our opposition to this bill. We ask their members to support us if the minister and the government will not withdraw the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other hon. member wish to speak to this bill? The hon. member for Kitchener.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask if this might be an opportune time for the minister to deal at least with the points raised by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) so that we can have an explanation to see if the bill, as has been suggested, is one which will not deny benefits to persons who are receiving benefits at the present time but will deal to some degree with persons who are here for more than five but less than 10 years and their presumed ineligibility for benefits. Perhaps if the minister could respond to those particular matters, we would have more information which would be of use.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, in order to have the other details answered, would the minister in his reply give us an indication of how the GAINS benefits are calculated for those people who are not now in receipt of guaranteed income supplements? My understanding has always been that the GAINS benefits are directly related to the amount of old age pension and guaranteed income supplements.

Mr. Martel: About \$40 a month.

Mr. Good: If the minister is paying now, could he tell us how those benefits are calculated for persons who are not in receipt of guaranteed income supplement or old age security?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the rate established for GAINS is presently \$269.30 for an individual or twice that for a couple. That's predicated on the basis of OAS/GIS at that figure, less \$38.88, whatever that comes out to. And, as the hon. members know, every time the OAS/GIS has been adjusted for the cost-of-living index—the last figure being a \$4.30 increase at the beginning of this month—the government has reflected at least that amount forward through to the beneficiaries under OAS/GIS and GAINS; in this case, bringing it up to \$269.30.

The other side of this programme, and a very expensive side of the programme, is that to which the members have been directing their observations in this debate. It concerns at present—that is, as of the end of March; it will likely be somewhat lower this month because of the requirement for requalification—some 6,200 GAINS recipients with the five-year residency qualification but lacking the 10-year qualification, which therefore would qualify them for OAS/GIS. That part of the programme, as one hon. member mentioned—

I think it was the member for Bellwoods—represents two per cent of the total clientele under GAINS and yet roughly 17 per cent of the total budget money set aside for GAINS. It's an extremely expensive part of the programme, in other words.

I honestly don't know why we extended the programme to the five-to-10-year group in the first place. I think it would have been a lot wiser to have limited it to the same clientele qualification area as that under OAS/GIS; in other words, the 10-year residency rules, where a very substantial part of the GAINS total figure of \$269.30—which, I should emphasize, has to take into account any income from any other sources as well; but that is the figure we presently look at as the minimum. This part of the programme tends to be open-ended, because every last cent whereby OAS/GIS is increased therefore is also passed along to those GAINS recipients in the five-to-10-year category.

It is a budget matter which the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) had to weigh very carefully. The expense is about \$23 million on a total-year basis and is anticipated to rise to well over \$30 million a year in the next two, three or four years, with indexing and the like. These individuals, if they are not on OAS/GIS and GAINS—some because of their own income or lack thereof—might well qualify for assistance under the Family Benefits Act or the General Welfare Assistance Act.

Mr. Martel: There is a lot less.

Hon. Mr. Meen: In the case of—I am not familiar with these because they are under another ministry, but my recollection is that general welfare assistance receives an 80 per cent contribution from the federal government and the Family Benefits Act assistance is 50 per cent. The member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Martel: Both get 50 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Both get 50? Well, there is some assistance under those Acts from the federal government; and although, admittedly, they do take a look at the means—they have a means test—and their payments are not quite as generous as ours have become under OAS/GIS—they are something around \$190 or so where it is needed—it was felt by the government, and it was felt by us, that for this period of five to 10 years—

Mr. Martel: They got as hungry as everybody else, though.

[4:15]

Hon. Mr. Meen: If they are getting as hungry then they can get assistance, and

assistance is available to them. There has been some suggestion that we are taking something away. At the very most, one could concede, and I guess one would concede, that one is taking away an expectation held by those who may be approaching the five-year residency qualification date; that come that magical five-year date under the Act as it has existed, they would then qualify for GAINS. All of those who have qualified, and we think there will be a number who are qualified but have never applied to us, for whatever reason—they have not applied to us but they are qualified—they have a year in which to make that application. If they qualify, then they are qualified and they will remain qualified right through until the time when a substantial part of the GAINS programme is picked up by OAS and GIS.

I suggest to hon. members that we are not taking away anything in terms of dollars. We are not taking away anything except possible expectation that someone was going to be able to get on the GAINS programme after five years, and there may well be some in that category. There is other assistance available to them where they need it, and we feel that in bringing this into line with the federal government, not only will the savings be there, which are of the order of \$3.5 million to \$4 million in the first year, increasing in the next year; of course, they double up, so that over a period of five years the total cost of \$23 million is saved even at today's dollars—\$23 million even at today's dollars—and by four or five years from now that saving will be substantially greater, but that kind of saving can then be passed forward to the GAINS clientele in the 10-year category and we will then have the additional moneys available for that purpose.

Mr. McClellan: There are still two classes of citizens.

Mr. Martel: Arthur, that is convoluted.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I just repeat that there is the phasing in—I am not repeating this point, I suppose—there is the phasing in, in effect, over the next year. No GAINS recipient will lose. Any present GAINS recipient and anyone who qualifies within the next year up to April 6, 1976, will be in the GAINS programme through the five-year period right up to the point where he comes into the final system under OAS and GIS.

I think that concludes my observations, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

CENTRAL ALGOMA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTE ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 51, An Act respecting the Central Algoma Board of Education and Teachers Dispute.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. minister wish to make opening remarks?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks that follow along on the very short remarks I made when I introduced the bill on Friday morning. I might just say, first, that I am in receipt of a copy of a letter written to Mr. W. R. Wilson, the director of the Central Algoma Board of Education. It reads:

Dear Sir:

In view of the public meetings held this week by the teachers and the concern our teachers have regarding further delay in getting students back to school, the teachers of Central Algoma Secondary School have spoken to the Minister of Education and officially notified him that they are voluntarily returning to school on Monday, April 12, 1976. The teachers have been assured by the Minister of Education that there will be legislation requiring final offer selection. We hereby notify the Central Algoma Board of Education that the teachers are ending their strike and will be in school April 12, 1976.

(Signed)
Peter Barrett,
President,
Central Algoma Division,
OSSTF, District 30.

That was a letter, as I say, written to Mr. W. R. Wilson, the director of education for the Central Algoma Board of Education. Subsequent to that letter, the Central Algoma high school opened today and pupils are back in their classrooms and teachers are back teaching in that particular school.

The only thing that remains unresolved is the resolution of the problem, the settlement of the contract which ended Aug. 31 and which has been under negotiation for some time, since April 15, 1975. This bill provides a method for solving that particular part of the problem. It puts the matters in dispute to final offer selection.

Final offer selection was chosen in this particular case because there are actually relatively few matters still in dispute; basically monetary matters plus, as I understand it, one or maybe two other conditions of work.

It is a situation in which final offer selection can work very easily and I hope and I think very well.

It is for a one-year contract because that is what the people in this particular area, the teachers and the school board, have been negotiating about since, as I say, last April. They've been negotiating for a one-year contract.

Because of the actions which, as I have indicated, have taken place so that the schools are now open, I propose in committee—again, this is as I indicated in this House on Friday morning—to move an amendment which will change the preamble to outline the situations which now apply and which are historically correct as of today and as of when this bill receives royal assent. I will also move an amendment which would remove subsections 1, 2 and 4 of section 2 because they are not necessary because the teachers are back in the schools and the board has not locked anyone out.

As of this bill receiving royal assent, everyone will be deemed to have agreed to final offer selection under Bill 100. Of course, once that happens under Bill 100, for the term of this contract and until the new contract which finally comes about because of final offer selection has expired, there can be no further strike or lockout.

I really see no need for a long debate in the House over this particular bill. It's a situation which I would hope and had hoped we wouldn't have to debate further today. I spoke to the board over the weekend and indicated that all it had to do was agree to go to voluntary final offer selection and we could have let this bill die on the order paper. Such was not the case; therefore we need this bill in its amended form in order to put the final piece in the puzzle of that dispute and bring it to a finality.

I see that my friends across the House have moved their usual reasoned amendment on this particular bill. I would suggest to them that there is no real place for that reasoned amendment on this bill. I would hope that they would just forget about it and withdraw it.

We're doing exactly what the parties want in the Central Algoma situation; exactly what they want. I see some shaking their heads. They want to open those schools and they want the matter put to final offer selection. That is what the parties want; that is what the teachers want; and that's what we're doing with this bill. I think we could pass it in the next 20 minutes and the whole situation would be taken care of.

Of course, if they're going to continue to obstruct the bill in their usual way by placing a reasoned amendment—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The interesting thing is, those members kept saying to us during the last two debates that all we did was bring in the same type of bill—that we had come back and brought in the same type of bill in these disputes. I said then and I say again we will deal with each situation individually on its own merits, with a piece of legislation if necessary. I hope it's not necessary but it seems to be in certain cases. We'll bring in a piece of legislation tailored to the particular situation.

Having a bill which is entirely different from the last two bills we brought in, my friends opposite now drag out their same reasoned amendment and bring it back in—the same reasoned amendment—with no consideration for what the teachers particularly up there want. The teachers have asked for exactly what we've done.

Mr. Foulds: We are not opposed to it. It's a matter of principle.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's not just a case of a matter of principle.

Mr. Foulds: You don't understand the difference between principle and expediency.

Mr. Bounsall: We have the principled position in this matter!

Mr. Foulds: The schools are open today.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's a case of whether you are concerned about the students up there and about the morale situation. The schools are open today, the teachers are back there today. So why take the time of this House with a long, convoluted argument repeating all the same things? Let's just get down to business. We have got a few other disputes to worry about.

Mr. Foulds: That's exactly what happened last time, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the creative people are on this side of the House, and the non-creative people, of course, sit over there on that side.

Mr. Foulds: The theory is that this is a democracy.

Mr. Bounsall: We've proposed the only creative solution that looks to the future for long-term peace.

Hon. Mr. Wells: They sit on that side of the House—right from that aisle down—and the blinkers are right on them.

Mr. Wildman: I welcome the comments of the minister and I do admit his attempt to be innovative in this particular dispute—and I mean that sincerely. However, the bill as introduced, even with the amendments which he has suggested and which will come after second reading in committee, still involves compulsion.

Hon. Mr. Wells: On whose part?

Mr. Wildman: On the part of the government toward the board, in this case.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Toward the board, not the teachers.

Mr. Wildman: I agree with the minister. I had hoped that we wouldn't have had to debate this bill today, either. I would have agreed again with the minister that I would have hoped the board would have agreed to go to arbitration voluntarily, since the teachers had indicated they would do that this weekend.

I had contact with both sides over the weekend, as did the minister. The board, after a long discussion, came to the conclusion that it could not voluntarily agree to final offer selection. It hasn't done it, and so again we are presented with a situation of compulsion—that is, in this case, compelling the board to agree to something it doesn't want in order to bring an end to a dispute.

The impasse between the secondary school teachers in central Algoma and the Central Algoma Board of Education could have been resolved had both parties displayed willingness to resolve the dispute.

Mr. Ferris: It's resolved.

Mr. Wildman: The dispute is not resolved; the schools are open, but the dispute is still there. Instead, both sides have been involved in personality conflicts which have delayed negotiations and poisoned the atmosphere to the extent that they have proved to be obstacles to fruitful negotiation. From Feb. 6, when strike notice was served, until the ERC hearing last week, there were only four or five meetings between the two sides—including the two mediation sessions—and the investigation of the bad-faith bargaining

charges brought by the board against the teachers.

The failure to come together for negotiations appears to have been the main reason the dispute has dragged on for so long. For the 45 days or more since strike action was contemplated, the two sides have met across the table only once.

Legislation ending the Metropolitan Toronto and Kirkland Lake disputes was mostly responsible for the unwillingness to negotiate in central Algoma. With the passage of those Acts, Mr. Speaker, boards and teachers across the province were convinced that the government saw back-to-work legislation and imposed arbitration as a final step in resolving labour disputes in the educational field. If strikes are ended in this way, it is ridiculous for boards or teachers to be flexible and to move in negotiation.

Mr. Cunningham: The teachers wanted arbitration.

Mr. Wildman: Whatever is lost in negotiations cannot be won back in arbitration. I hear the comment that the teachers wanted arbitration. It's important for the members to realize that in this case, and in all other cases, we are not being partisan—we are considering the principle of compulsion. We are not here to support the teachers or the board; we are here to discuss the principle of compulsory arbitration.

The opposition warned that the passage of the legislation in the Metropolitan Toronto and Kirkland Lake disputes would have this effect—that is, that people would not want to negotiate; and it certainly has had that effect in central Algoma. As a matter of fact, at one point before the strike, back in January, the two sides were only about \$13,000 apart. That's the total package. Surely a settlement could have been reached if both sides had really been serious about it.

[4:30]

Instead, all those involved have been expecting for at least one month, and perhaps more, that the strike would eventually be ended by legislation. This was hardly conducive to negotiation and neither side really negotiated. As a matter of fact, as I said before, they hardly even met.

Because of the long duration of the strike without any appearance that real negotiation was taking place, the Education Relations Commission held a public hearing last week to determine if the students' opportunity to complete their credits was being jeopardized. Both the board and the teachers agreed that

if the strike continued much longer the students' progress would be impeded. Since Central Algoma Secondary School is on a semester system where students complete their eight credits by studying four courses in each half of the school year, the effects of a prolonged closure there could be far more serious than it was in other areas.

Up to this point, school closures resulting from strikes has taken place in non-semestered systems or have straddled two semesters, as in some of the schools in Metro. The closure at CASS is the first time a strike has taken place in one semester only.

While the ministry requires 110 hours per credit, the students have lost over 30 hours. They have received 13 hours of instruction and there are only 53 credit hours remaining. Therefore, course content will have to be curtailed. Courses which require repetitive practice for skill development, typing for instance, will be difficult to complete.

As well, a prolonged dispute can only have detrimental effects on the development of the school as a community, and as a centre for community development in central Algoma. If the two sides had really been concerned about the progress of students and the future of CASS, then they should have moved heaven and earth to reach a negotiated settlement. At the public ERC meeting last week, the teachers indicated their concern by offering to return to school voluntarily and to submit to voluntary arbitration, preferably final offer selection, if the board would agree. The board stated that final offer selection would be acceptable, if the teachers would return to the so-called "mediate offer" which they had proposed before the strike began.

Again this indicates that a settlement could have been reached long ago without a long closure of the school if both sides had been willing to move just a bit. This offer by the board, however, was not acceptable to the teachers and was not really in keeping with the spirit of voluntary final offer selection the teachers were suggesting. Even at this stage, it appears that both sides could reach an agreement if the government would make clear to them that that is what is required of them, instead of taking the responsibility away from them by imposing arbitration.

The teachers have returned voluntarily to school today, that is all the teachers are in school, and I believe about two-thirds of the students are in school. That obstacle to real bargaining, if it was one, the strike, has been removed.

The school is open, and hopefully this would mean that good-faith bargaining could

continue. Surely the government realizes that the bad-faith bargaining charge laid by the teachers recently against the board should be dealt with and ruled upon to make way for real negotiation to bring about a settlement. It is about time the government took the bad-faith bargaining provisions of Bill 100 seriously.

The two sides in teacher-board disputes have to realize it is their responsibility to negotiate settlements and that government will not continue to allow them to dig in their heels and stall in expectation that compulsory arbitration would be imposed by legislation. It's the responsibility of the board to negotiate in the interest of the students, the community, the taxpayers and in education in general, just as it is the responsibility of the teachers to negotiate a settlement in the interest of themselves, the community and education.

Both sides must take these responsibilities seriously and not slough them off to the Legislature of this province and to the government. The government must make clear that is its position, that it is the job of the parties involved to negotiate settlements locally. Legislating arbitration does not do that. It will only indicate that intransigence and irresponsibility will be rewarded with legislation rather than penalties for bad-faith bargaining. We believe the bad-faith bargaining charge should be dealt with, and if it is proven penalties should be imposed to force negotiation to proceed in good faith to a settlement.

The schools are open, the strike is over; now let's have a negotiated settlement.

It's for these reasons, and the fact that we cannot support the compulsion in the bill, that I am moving the reasoned amendment as printed on the order paper and seconded by Mr. Foulds. If it is passed, as the minister suggested in his opening remarks, Mr. Speaker, then we will move amendments in committee to delete section 2 and renumber the following sections accordingly.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Williams moves that Bill 51 be not now read a second time but be read a second time one hour hence, and that it now be referred back to have it incorporated therein the following amendment:

Section 1: Delete subsection f and reletter following subsections.

Section 2: Subsections 1 and 2 to be deleted and the following be substituted therefor:

During the period from and including the first Monday after this Act comes into force until an agreement as defined under the School Boards and Teachers Collective

Negotiations Act, 1975, comes into effect, no teacher shall take part in a strike against the board of education and the board of education shall not lock out a teacher.

Subsections 3 and 4 to be renumbered 2 and 3.

Section 3: Subsection 1 to be deleted and the following substituted:

The terms and conditions last offered by the board to the teachers shall be implemented on an interim basis.

Subsection 2 to be deleted and the following substituted:

The parties involved are instructed to resume forthwith negotiations in good faith in order to resolve all matters remaining in dispute.

Subsection 3 to be deleted and the following substituted:

The parties shall each give written notice to the Minister of Education within seven days after the day this Act comes into force setting out all matters the parties have agreed upon for inclusion in an agreement and the matters remaining in dispute between the parties, and the notice shall be deemed to be notice to the commission and thereafter, except as provided in section 57 of the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, a party shall not withdraw from negotiations hereinafter provided for.

Subsection 4: Delete.

Section 4: Delete.

Renumber sections 5, 6 and 7 as sections 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Ferris: I would like to make a few comments, Mr. Speaker. I will agree with the Minister of Education that there probably is not a necessity for a great deal of debate. It is probably no surprise to the people to the right of me that we will be supporting the legislation and we will not vote in favour of the reasoned amendment.

I think that we are looking at a situation where it is good to see that the teachers have taken the initiative and opened the schools again—

Mr. Wildman: A school; there is only one.

Mr. Ferris: A school. That's right; there is only one. The educational programme has commenced again, and there is much credit to them for this. It is most unfortunate that the board has not seen fit to take the same kind of action and eliminate the possibility of having this bill before us. But since that is

the case, and it probably is a sign of what has happened over the last year—and it is now a year that they have been talking—it seems only logical that we proceed.

We have once again gone through the normal steps of Bill 100—conciliation, fact-finding and mediation, including for the first time on both sides, I guess, a bad-faith charge being made to the ERC.

Mr. Wildman: Both have charged that.

Mr. Ferris: Yes, both have. With respect to the choice of final-offer selection—

Mr. Wildman: The teachers' charge has not been dismissed. It is still pending.

Mr. Ferris: If my friend would listen, I said they have both made charges.

With respect to the choice of final-offer selection, I believe that could be very useful. It is the first time that we have seen anything other than compulsory arbitration introduced into this. In discussions with people who have been involved, I have learned that both sides at one time or another, albeit never agreeing at the same time, have had discussions on final-offer selection. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this.

Very briefly, I would like to mention a couple of points of concern that we have. One that I feel most strongly about—and this relates back to the position we took in the other strikes—is the responsibility of the ERC and their response to the educational requirements of the students. In previous comments we tried to stress that local situations should be viewed and acted upon and not tied up to a number of days or anything like this, particularly in this situation, as has been mentioned, in which it is a semester system. It has been closed for 35 days of a 94-day school term.

It would seem that probably the natural thing would be that perhaps we should be looking at it in half the time that the Metro system or a nonsemester system should be looked at. This is why we strongly feel that we have to have this more closely watched while the strike is going on.

I was looking back today—I wonder if the minister would perhaps comment after—at a statement made by the minister talking about the ERC on March 11 in the debate about Kirkland Lake. He said:

They [the ERC] sent me a set of ground rules under which they would operate for this responsibility, one of them being that if I wish to have them give me an opinion they would give it to me if I asked for it. The other was that under various circum-

stances they would form their opinion themselves.

It might be interesting for the minister perhaps to talk a little bit today about those various circumstances.

Better still, perhaps the minister could table a document which would explain the ground rules ERC works under, and the conditions, as it views a strike and the various situations. It might be most useful so that those who are concerned, the members of the Legislature especially, would fully understand the workings of this body.

A couple of minor concerns we also have are in relation to subsection 3 of section 2, dealing with the PD days. The clause is exactly the same as that included in the Metro and Kirkland Lake bills. Perhaps in his comments the minister might wish to give us some kind of assurance that his office will take the action necessary, especially in this semester environment, to ensure that these really will be used as instructional time and that we will not be looking at the potential change being made in Metro, where they are now saying we don't really need those. That in itself is another matter but I think we should also address ourselves to that question and how it can be assured that the term will be used most effectively.

Another comment is I feel it is perhaps unfortunate that we could not be looking at a two-year settlement here. The minister alluded to that early in his comments—that neither side had talked about it—but perhaps it could have been introduced as an option. I don't feel we will make an amendment in this instance but it puts the situation into the unenviable position that, almost on the day the settlement is announced, negotiations will begin for the following term. I think it would be far better to have had a settling down period, if it was possible, but apparently since neither one made this any part of any offer it would, I believe, also constitute a problem.

In conclusion, as I said, we will support the bill and not the reasoned amendment. We would hope that the school system in central Algoma can once again become a functioning, good educational environment and the students will not suffer any more damage than has been done.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, we appreciated the minister's remarks when he came into the House and the fact that in this bill he has provided a different route than in the other bills.

It would be a great temptation for us in this party, in this particular dispute, to

simple-mindedly ease our way into supporting the government bill, particularly as we know the background of this bill. At one point they were only \$13,000 apart. The board laid a bargaining in bad faith charge against the teachers which was proved to be false. The teachers have laid a bad faith bargaining charge finally against the board which is still being proceeded with.

[4:45]

The board, from what anyone in contact with the dispute can tell, does not seem to be very interested in bargaining. The teachers for some time have made an offer that they would be willing to participate in final offer selection, going to that process voluntarily, which is a stance we would support. The board has rejected voluntarily going to final offer selection, clearly indicating that they are the ones who are impeding the negotiations at that point.

It would be very easy in one sense for us to say that a bill coming in which in essence puts both parties to the dispute in the situation of having compulsorily to accept final offer selection is a position which is in support of the teachers' position, the position which we support, the position of the workers, the working slob in any situation.

Interjections.

Mr. Bounsall: That phrase "working slob," was coined by the member for Armourdale (Mr. Givens) to describe the teachers in a derogatory way.

It would be very easy for us to accept what was in the government's bill, if we did not look at the bill and the situation from a principle point of view. And that principle tells us that we should not proceed with compulsion as a means to settle labour disputes.

I know the minister has an obligation on him, or feels it very strongly in a particular situation to find what is emerging to be perhaps an easy way to the solution. But one worries, and I worry in particular and our party worries, about a compulsory solution being handed to anyone when either or both of the parties do not particularly want that compulsory solution. We're opposed to it, not just from the compulsion of it, but because we know it doesn't lead to good labour relations again in the future. In the case of any board or group of teachers upon which this is placed, we can almost look ahead regretfully to what's going to happen at the termination of this contract and know there are going to be further labour problems.

The problems will be partly a result of the bill which we have introduced in this House

which forces on at least one side a procedure which it has not agreed to. It would be very easy for us, I restate, to say this is what the teachers want, so let's vote for it in this bill and let's proceed. The teachers have again shown their good faith by voluntarily returning to school. I would say that our reasoned amendment is a very good position, whereby we let the board know that we are not going to bail them out on this one. They are going to have to bargain to a conclusion. We would say, if we had a provision which says they must bargain to a conclusion, "We are not going to bail you out by either of the two forms available in the bill, compulsory arbitration or compulsorily going to a selector who chooses one of two extremes in each case; you're going to bargain to a conclusion."

That's the kind of compulsion in terms of collective bargaining that we would only tolerate. We would say to them: "Look, here's a room, get into it. You're not coming out of it until you have a solution and we stop the food and water on the third day." That's what we would like to see in terms of getting an agreement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You could also learn to listen a little.

Mr. Bounsall: All right, but both sides need to learn to listen to each other.

Hon. Mr. Wells: So do you. You didn't even hear the letter that I read.

Mr. Bounsall: I heard it and I listened to it.

Mr. Foulds: Oh, yes he did. We got an advance copy of it.

Mr. Bounsall: We considered that letter this morning.

Mr. Foulds: We know that they want voluntary binding arbitration.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That isn't what the letter said.

Mr. Bounsall: I might just quote some of the minister's remarks back to him.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We're presenting this bill today. That's why they are back.

Mr. Foulds: Well, why didn't you suspend reading it? They got the bill yesterday.

Mr. Wildman: They even volunteered to go back at the ERC meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bounsall: You will have to contain the minister, he is getting agitated about my remarks here.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There may be a little sloppiness in the NDP; you have even a little sloppy mistake in your amendment there.

Mr. Bounsall: Listen, on that very point alone, we have made many fewer mistakes in our amendments than you have made in yours over the years, I can tell you. In fact, the mistakes per bill are much fewer.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You just took the last one and put it in. You didn't even read it.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, we did.

Mr. Ferrier: You need a new legal counsel, Tom.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You didn't read it. Well, Jim, you are slipping.

Mr. Renwick: We will ask permission to revert so we can amend it.

Mr. Bounsall: The minister is a little bit inconsistent. Just a week ago today, when I asked him about the Windsor situation, he said: "I have said many times in this House, and will continue to say it, negotiated settlements are the best kind of settlements." That is what we, in principle, are saying to you, Mr. Speaker, and we are willing to take a stand on that very statement. That is what our reasoned amendment, in fact, says.

I won't be unduly long in my remarks. The minister admitted today that the board, even faced with the type of legislation we have before us, showed again its complete intransigence by not even agreeing to voluntarily put it to final offer selection, so we wouldn't need to have this bill before us.

In that regard, I have had many representations from people in the Windsor area about Bill 100 and how it could be changed, and the debates we have had here on Bill 100 as it progressed through the various committee stages, and the bills that had to result since then. The only change that I could see that's required in Bill 100 would be a stronger section on the good faith bargaining provisions, so that there was both quick action on and stiff penalties for bad faith bargaining.

When the charge of bad-faith bargaining is laid we shouldn't have to wait for three weeks before a decision is reached. A mechanism should be set up, probably within the Education Relations Commission, for those

charges to be immediately heard and investigated and reported on within the week. When the charge simply isn't dismissed, when bad-faith bargaining is found, some stiff financial penalties should immediately apply; not just leave it for the community to believe or disbelieve the person looking into the bad-faith bargaining charges.

So we need a speedup and we need some automatic, fairly high, stiff penalties applied and applied for the number of days in which, in the future, it's evident that bad-faith bargaining is still occurring on the part of one of them. In the Algoma bill, the Central Algoma Board of Education and Teachers Dispute Act, it is fairly clear that if there is bad-faith bargaining, on which side that onus lies.

I have two other small points. One is, the minister has chosen to use final offer selection as the route here. It is a new one, it is a different one in terms of compelling them to go that route, but I have profound reservations about final offer selection. One group in this dispute, the teachers, favoured that as the solution. The minister is now bringing it in in a compulsory way.

Final offer selection by any arbitrator who has arbitrated other disputes and then come to a final offer selection dispute, has said about that, when he has made any public comments at all, that it is not nearly as good as the normal arbitration route because he has to pick and choose, in essence, between two extremes and does not have the flexibility to play off and give midway positions among various positions. He is faced with choices which he would prefer not to make, and choices which would result in a poorer contract, than if he had been allowed to write his own arbitrated decision.

So I have much less faith in a final-offer-selection decision than I have in any arbitrator's decision, and I, therefore, with that strong reservation about final offer selection, dislike it even more when it's involved in a compulsory manner, as it is in this bill.

One final point: I can see, as I see in the Windsor situation—if I can draw a parallel but not go into it in detail—I can see the Algoma board of education's position being influenced by what I believe to be an Ontario trustees' association stand, to this year at this particular point or over the last two or three months—particularly since the Toronto teachers' bill was brought in—to not negotiate in good faith to reach a negotiated settlement but to just let the dispute hang on as long as one can. There's no danger in it be-

cause the government will finally come in and bail them out by putting the teachers back to work in some form, either by binding arbitration or by this method, final binding selection of one of the two extremes in each of the points that are in dispute.

They are waiting to be bailed out. They want to be able to say, in an election that they are facing in December, in referring to the final monetary decision placed upon the electors to whom they are responsible: "That monetary side of it is not our doing. It was an arbitrator from outside or a selector from outside."

This profoundly disturbs me because of the behaviour we are going to see from boards currently in dispute and the attitude boards are going to take in the future with respect to labour disputes between teachers and boards. They are going to sit back and say: "It is only a matter of time. We can let the strike or the lockout drag on and the Minister of Education will bring in a bill which gets us off the hook."

This is evident in this Algoma board of education dispute with its teachers. It is just as evident, as I see it, as in the dispute between the Windsor board of education and its teachers. So I dislike the compulsion; and I dislike even more compulsory final offer selection as a solution to this dispute, even though in this instance the teachers would welcome it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the hon. member, I am wondering if this might be a good point at which to adjourn the debate in order to go into private members' hour before another speaker starts. Perhaps the member would like to move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Sweeney moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR:

ABORTION REFERRAL REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. Drea moved second reading of Bill 37, An Act to register the Referring of Abortions.

Mr. Drea: First, to set the framework for this legislation, I would like to point out to the House that this does not involve any philosophical or any medical dissertation on

abortion. This is purely an economic bill. It is aimed at ending the exploitation of those who, for one reason or another, go to so-called professional counsellors where a fee is charged and invariably the advice is that the particular surgical procedure be performed in a jurisdiction outside of either Ontario, or indeed, in this bill, outside of Canada.

Regardless of feelings about the efficacy of abortion, it is a social problem in our time. When I was first in this House, Mr. Speaker, I suggested at that time, back in 1972, that we were not going to abolish abortion by legislation, that abortion has always been with us, that indeed the only reasonable suggestion was to provide the individual who was considering this procedure with all of the alternatives.

At that time, Mr. Speaker, I suggested the deck was virtually stacked against the particular woman who found herself in a quandary as to whether or not to give birth to the child; and that applied for any of the reasons that she felt that giving birth to the child was unacceptable, either socially or morally, and opted for the alternative of giving birth to the child.

[5:00]

Mr. Speaker, the counselling services in this province haven't really improved since that time for any woman who today is seriously considering an abortion. It's extremely difficult for her to find alternatives that are as practical as going through with the abortion. I would certainly say, Mr. Speaker, in some fairness, that some of the responsibility for that must fall upon government, whether it be the federal government or this provincial government.

I think that, realistically, all of us know the alternatives just certainly aren't there; and as such we have a social problem. In terms of that social problem, the federal government does have jurisdiction at the moment over the actual procedure, but it apparently changes its policies with different federal ministers of justice. It now has a third force, which is the federal Law Reform Commission, making other suggestions.

I do not wish to dwell on that. I want to come back to the question of the professional abortion referral agency, which is either charging a fee or sending people outside of the jurisdiction of Canadian law or of the appropriate provincial health authorities. Bearing in mind the social overtones to the problem, I can think of no one more vulnerable in our society.

Perhaps it's an artificial vulnerability, but it's been created by all of us. Because there is an enormous stigma attached to the female who is having the so-called unwanted child, either by virtue of the fact that she is not in wedlock with the father, or the fact that society frowns today upon large families—there are the economic considerations in this latter instance. Indeed there may be health considerations as well. Whatever the circumstance, she is extremely vulnerable to the criticism of society.

As a matter of record, Mr. Speaker, I think she is probably the most vulnerable person in our entire society, considering the whims and caprices of those who, but for the grace of God or good luck, could be exactly in the same position.

Therefore, I find it appalling that anybody can today set up an abortion referral agency with only the price of the business licence involved. There has been abundant disclosures in the press about the practice of fee-splitting with physicians in the United States. There have been rather abundant disclosures of the type of advice given by some of these people. Obviously, their type of advice has to be highly suspect, when indeed a portion or a substantial amount of the profit is derived if the surgical procedure is done in another jurisdiction.

I'm also somewhat dismayed that despite these revelations, that despite pleas from a particularly articulate and a particularly intelligent group of women who compose the task force on women for the mayor of Toronto, the civic authorities throw up their hands and imply there appears to be no way to control this type of agent.

Well I suggest that perhaps the onus is on the Legislature to at least provide economic protection. I think that when, for the price of \$10 for an advertisement in a newspaper, someone can become a counsellor; can in some cases enter into a conspiracy or what amounts to a conspiracy to defeat the laws of Canada by transporting someone to another jurisdiction and assuming no responsibility when the person comes back; in this situation surely the time has come for economic control. If the Ministry of Health—I read this with some dismay—feels the situation cannot be controlled because it legitimizes it, and if the boards of health of the local municipalities feel they are not in a position to attempt to control this, surely it becomes a matter of economic control.

It has been documented in the press that people are referred to physicians in New York State but the fee the physician re-

ceives does not add up to the fee the person here was supposed to provide, many times a great portion of it in advance. There have been complaints from some of the large abortion operations in New York State that people here have been misled; they thought half of their fee had already been paid. It hadn't. It went to the person who picked up a telephone, who arranged transportation for them, who booked them in.

In short, we have a combination of a business enterprise which deliberately goes out of its way to exploit females, by virtue somehow of becoming a travel agency, by booking them transportation, sometimes by air more often by bus. Someone takes a fee for telling them where there is an institution in New York State or in Michigan; it is someone who takes no responsibility for the calibre of the institution or of the particular physician who is supposed to perform this surgical procedure.

I would suggest that we would have no right interfering in this type of operation if there were no facilities and procedures available under Canadian law. Whatever our personal opinion is about those procedures, nonetheless they are the law of the land. They are administered in this province fairly and justly. Indeed, if they were administered on the same level in the United States, there are procedures whereby OHIP would pay at least the Ontario rate for the abortion.

However, I suggest we are in a situation in which women are being told they cannot obtain that type of surgical procedure in Ontario—which is a lie—by people who are ostensibly in business. Women are being deliberately exploited for profit-making purposes by those who would rather make a profit than accept their social responsibility.

The whole area is surely an important social concern and indeed a moral concern. I concede that it's an individual moral concern, and that individual concern probably is more pressing than any collective or any communal moral concern.

When someone is faced with that quandary, in a society as controlled as this one; in a society in which we have accepted collective responsibility for the vulnerable to protect them against those who would exploit them, I fail to see why there has been such a delay in accepting responsibility for the abortion referral agencies.

I suppose, and I have some thoughts on this, one of the answers might be to ban them. I don't think that would be very

practical at all because then it would be an under-the-table type of arrangement. It would be an arrangement which was being forced upon those who were the least educated, the least sophisticated, the least cosmopolitan in our society. There are provisions in community-funded organizations, in provincially-funded organizations and in federally-funded organizations, where people can go to seek information or counselling.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware, that in the Province of Quebec right now abortion referral centres are the latest target of organized crime. You have in the Province of Quebec what is known now as "*la pette guerre*." You have had shootings arising out of just who is going to run these centres and to where they are going to be referred in New York State. I am not suggesting that is the case in Ontario, but there have been links in Ontario in the past between those who are operating referral agencies and a particular physician who is now incarcerated in New York State. There have been extremely close links to organized crime in New York State. Remarkably, since that physician has been incarcerated, the particular people who were doing the referrals to him and to him alone in Buffalo have ceased to advertise. Nonetheless, they are still doing an extremely good business.

In terms of exploitation, this type of service is one that exploits, for a fee, the weak, the helpless and the uneducated. Read the articles that have been prepared by females in the *Globe and Mail*. I use the word females because they have gone in under the guise of being in a particular situation where they wanted some counselling or some advice about an abortion. There is no question but that the particular type of clientele who frequent these establishments are the people newest to Canada; as I've said before the least educated, the most vulnerable, and frankly the most desperate.

In terms of straight economic regulation, and I don't like to put it on this level—not for qualms about the particular issue because I think everybody has known for some years, my concern with this particular social problem—except that these agencies in themselves are not concerned with the social problem. These agencies in themselves, in all fairness, are taking advantage of people to make money. It has always been my practice, when people were taking advantage of others to make money, to find ways to control them by removing as much of the profit that attracts them, as possible. Then we see what their

moral standards are, because if the easy money is out of it I wonder how many will stay around to give the advice and counsel they all claim to give.

In terms of the registration, it is quite simple. One of the things is bonding. After all, if they are supposed to be making accommodation for you, if they are supposed to be booking you into a legal establishment, then surely there has to be some check of the person's business record, of the person's credibility; and indeed some deterrent to prevent them from taking a shortcut. I think that bonding, as it has done in so many other industries, will more than meet that need.

The reason I have suggested putting money into trust, particularly where there is a fee-splitting arrangement involved, is that I question the taxpayers of Ontario, through OHIP, should have to pick up the pieces if the woman is referred either to an incompetent or indeed an unlicensed practitioner. When that woman returns here, we have no alternative except to apply the necessary remedial surgery, the necessary hospital care, the necessary rehabilitation, and indeed a great many other things.

[5:15]

After all, if the person could, in the first instance—except by virtue of their particular predicament or the very many other factors that I have mentioned—have made a clear choice in Ontario and been provided with access to that free choice, whether it was to abort or whether it was to give birth, why should we allow that person to be victimized, the money to go down there and then, if anything happens, we have to pick up the pieces?

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is no one referring abortions to the United States who is prepared to pick up the medical cost if anything goes wrong. Certainly in the United States, because they have a very backward system of medical care compared to ours, there is no reasonable way that the woman can get the necessary treatment there because she can't afford it. In short, she is brought back to Ontario as quickly as possible, because if anything is the matter we have the health care system well within the economic means of everyone, through OHIP, whereby something can be done.

I think that if any persons are going to refer people outside this province because they believe New York State is better, then those persons have a responsibility to this province and to the remainder of the community if something goes wrong. I want to

say again that perhaps the answer is the fee should be banned. There is indeed to me a very moral question as to whether people should be allowed to charge—and I am not talking about the physician, I am talking about the very moral thing in society.

Should advice on health care by a layman or a non-practitioner on a referral basis be a matter for funds changing hands? Surely, if this is the type of thing, then it seems to me redundant that we would have such things as the United Appeal; we would have such things as municipal, provincial and federal funding of social agencies. Surely if an Ontario hospital cannot advertise its medical service, why, under the guise of working through an abortion referral, should an institution in New York State or Michigan or Massachusetts be allowed that right? I think these are very serious questions and they may lead indeed to the banning. I have stopped short of that. I regard this, in many cases, as an extremely sleazy business, one in which the vulnerable, as I have said so many times today, are separated from their money and what virtually amounts to false pretences. In some cases, there is a remarkably close line between some of these operations and what we knew in an earlier era as virtual white slavery. Again, there is the vulnerability, the economic costs to be considered, and the person's own physical and mental state is something that is held in abeyance.

In conclusion, I have presented this bill partially because of my dismay that municipal people don't seem to be able to come up with an answer, and partially because our own Ministry of Health does not seem to be able to come up with an answer. With all due respect to the present minister, who is incapacitated, I don't think that moving in and controlling this field will legitimize or cast aspersions or do anything to physicians beyond our jurisdiction. If it did, I would be the first to agree with it. In this area, I do not think it does.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that to ignore the problem, to say it is complicated, to say there are a great many complexities because of other jurisdictions, because of certain uncertainties in our own social sphere, because of changes that may or may not come, surely this is begging the question by a Legislature that is specifically charged with the obligation to protect the weak, the helpless and the vulnerable, and to say it is difficult to protect them—if that was the attitude we wouldn't have a Legislature today. It would have had a demise more than 100

years ago. It has always been difficult. I suggest this bill isn't the final answer, but I think it certainly does establish the areas in which we can control this industry and we can end the exploitation of people who would really cry out to us, if they could, for an end to the exploitation.

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, we cannot support this bill because, in spite of the member's brave words, it is totally inadequate for the purpose which he says it's intended; that is, the protection of women who, at a difficult time in their lives, may be exploited. But more than that, we can't support this bill because it appears to give credence—it not only appears to, I think, but it does give credence—to the practice of referring women out of this country for surgical procedures, for abortions. We surely should not condone continuation of a practice which seems to say that we cannot provide health care for our own women in our own province.

Further, we cannot support this bill because it sets absolutely no standards for abortion referral services, and it isolates abortion from the whole field of contraceptive counselling, which I believe it must be closely tied in with.

There is an interesting statistical backup, I think, to what the member was saying. There are indeed many abortions performed outside Canada. The interesting thing is that the majority of those are not referred by abortion referral agencies, but are referred directly by GPs to contacts they have among the medical profession in the United States. Which speaks again, I think, to the absolute necessity of making sure that our health care system can provide the services which Canadian doctors themselves feel to be necessary and apparently are not provided here—or they would not themselves find it necessary to send their patients to doctors in other countries. Licensing those abortion referral agencies which send patients out of Canada doesn't help the very fundamental problem that services are not apparently available in this country.

There is no doubt that, at the moment, Canadian abortion referral service centres are providing services. I believe there are centres which are providing legitimate and excellent service and for whom the protection of licensing might not be a bad idea.

Some interesting figures were provided for me by one such abortion referral centre of the clients that they saw during the calendar year from November, 1974, to November, 1975. They saw a total of 1,702 clients dur-

ing that period, of whom 362 women were sent to them by doctors. These were not women who answered an advertisement in a newspaper or heard by word of mouth from friends that this referral service was available. These women, who came through a physician, were 21 per cent of the total. Another 131 women came directly from hospitals in Metro Toronto—that's about seven per cent of the total—and another 1½ per cent, or 27 women, came from other agencies. In other words, 30 per cent of the women who came to an abortion referral centre came from doctors, from physicians and from hospitals.

In Sudbury, in 1974, the Association for Contraceptive Counselling and Related Areas counselled a total of 242 women who were seeking abortions; and, of those, 110 were referred by physicians. Again, sadly, 162 of that total had to be referred to New York State for the operation, because there was no availability of services in their home area.

If such a service is required, as it seems to be, since doctors and hospitals are using it so freely and so frequently—and I might say in passing that our own Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) supports and uses legitimate abortion referral service centres—then, as I say, the fact that both physicians and individuals use them with such frequency seems to prove the necessity is there.

Surely what we require is not a piece of legislation which addresses itself so narrowly to the problem, but some real effort to ensure that abortion counselling is integrated into the provision of contraceptive counselling and services for both men and women in contraceptive counselling, as outlined in the Minister of Health's (Mr. F. S. Miller) preamble to the health promotion branch paper, I think it was in January, 1975, should be followed.

The Ministry of Health itself sets out as its general objective for the family planning programme "The development of comprehensive and accessible family planning and conception control services with informational, promotional and service components." This overall provision of services was reiterated by the minister in a letter dated Feb. 11, 1976. He was writing at the time about the provision of therapeutic abortions in Toronto hospitals and he said, "As our family planning programme develops, we hope to see the improvement in co-ordination and streamlining of patient referral and the accessibility of good, thorough contraceptive counselling."

The problem at the moment is that we do not have co-ordination and streamlining

of patient referral in this province. We do not have accessibility of good, thorough contraceptive counselling for all the men and women of this province and at present the ministry's family planning programme obviously doesn't meet all the needs for referral and counselling. If it did meet all the needs for referral, we would not have the enormous number of physicians and hospitals that we do have referring women to abortion referral centres. If we had excellent counselling, we wouldn't have the number of repeat abortions that we see.

The bill before us seems to recognize that there is a need for improvement but it doesn't attempt in any way at all to set standards for those agencies which are legitimately attempting to fill the gaps in the ministry's programme. These standards must surely be considered as part of a licensing procedure. It's not enough, as the member has done, to look upon this as a commercial transaction.

Because this bill does nothing at all to set standards; because it doesn't base the issuing or withholding of licences on clearly articulated standards but solely on the geographical area where women are sent to, we feel we have to oppose this bill.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, listening to the comments of the mover of this bill, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), I have to conclude, first of all, that the bill doesn't do anything, any of the things, that the member said it was intended to do. That's one of the reasons I very strongly oppose it.

Secondly, the member said that the whole philosophical basis, whether one agrees or doesn't agree with abortion, is not an issue here but I suggest it is an issue here. Because one of the things this bill will do, whether we intend it or not, is expand the whole opportunity for abortion procedures.

The member spoke of the vulnerability of women and how it was the obligation of this Legislature, how it was the obligation of the government, to protect women who are vulnerable. I agree with him. This bill will not do that. If anything, it will make them more vulnerable. It will exploit them even more.

What about the vulnerability of the child? He never mentioned that. That's the philosophical basis that's here. It's here whether we want it to be or not. Let's stick to the bill.

Mr. Drea: Let's. Be careful what you say about me.

[5:30]

Mr. Sweeney: First of all, this bill, by its very nature, would circumvent the existing law of Canada which this government in its jurisdiction certainly has an obligation to uphold. The existing law of our country says very clearly that abortion is prohibited except when the life or the health of the mother is in jeopardy and when a medical decision is made by a hospital committee. The law of Canada also says there shall be no advertising. Yet by this bill, and I quote from it: "referrer" means anyone . . .

Anyone at all, the corner grocer, the taxi driver, anyone.

Under section 4: "An applicant is entitled to registration . . ."

In other words, anyone who applies automatically gets it. There are a couple of exceptions, granted, but anyone gets it. What we are saying is, this anyone in fact takes the place of a hospital committee. Let's not kid ourselves, a "referrer" by the very definition of that term is making a medical decision, by the very act of referring it especially outside of this country. The decision has been made that an abortion will be procured.

Mr. Drea: Did you read the Sun?

Mr. Sweeney: That's circumventing the law of this country. Section 13 of the bill says that where the registrar has grounds to believe that there is false or misleading advertising it may be done away with. But it doesn't say that there shall not be advertising. By the very nature of that statement, there shall be advertising. We are circumventing the law of this country that way.

We talk about protecting women who are vulnerable, but what are we really doing with the women? We are putting them into the position where they are getting medical advice from non-medical people. That certainly doesn't protect them. We are putting them in the hands of potential incompetents. That certainly doesn't protect them. All that is possible through this bill. We are putting them in the hands of people who will counsel them, people who are considering making a profit on it at the very time when they are most emotionally vulnerable. That's certainly not helping them.

The member's own words were: "This is a sleazy, dirty business." I agree with him; it is. Do we legalize, do we legitimize a sleazy, dirty business? That's what this bill will do.

It is almost like saying that sometimes robbing a bank is a dirty, bloody business. What follows? Do we legalize it?

The member himself referred to New York State. Is the member aware of the fact that referral agencies, which were permissible in New York State, have been abolished by state law? I'll just give a couple of reasons: "To outlaw commercial abortion referral services" and "to prevent later blackmail of women who had undergone abortions."

These are the arguments given in New York State to deal with those "engaged in activities which, in the final analysis, require judicial condemnation." This law, which sought to emancipate women, did not intend to deliver them as helpless victims of commercial operators for the exploitation of their misery. That's what happened in New York State when such a law was permitted.

These agencies are referred to as: "A broker in the sale of medical and hospital abortion services in violation of the public policy of the state." These abortion agencies have, in fact, been rendering medical advice. These agencies were carrying on activities which, if carried on by a legal medical doctor, would be illegal. These are the kinds of things this member would have us support with this bill.

I would concur with something the member said earlier. We shouldn't be legalizing or legitimizing. We should be banning. We have in place in this country, in this province—and I don't approve of it but we have it and I recognize the law and I will support the law as it exists—opportunities for women to procure an abortion if that's what should be done. They are there, but for God's sake nothing like this. We will do more harm to our society, to our laws, to the very women we are trying to protect by bringing in a piece of legislation like this.

I will apologize if I am wrong, but I believe there's more to this bill than just a private member's bill. I believe that strongly, that there is something else behind this bill; whether it's the intent of the government or pressure from outside, I don't know.

Mr. Williams: The private member's bill before us today for debate received first reading on March 31. On that same date, I was speaking in the House in response to the Throne Speech. The common thread that runs between these two seemingly unrelated matters can be found in my comments at that time, pertaining to the need to preserve the values that constitute our quality of life in Ontario.

I expressed the view that a desire for change in social attitudes or conditions need not necessarily be equated with a demand for change in basic values. On the other hand, we must be aware of, and respond to, conscious or unconscious effort in some quarters to insidiously distort basic values rather than to openly demand change of values.

I suggested that we, as legislators, tend sometimes to respond too quickly to pressure groups or to "public trends" that we erroneously read into extensive news coverage on a given topic. As a result, we might find ourselves enacting compromising legislation that can emasculate existing laws governing social order and behaviour. I respectfully suggest that this proposed piece of legislation is a good case in point.

It would appear that this bill undoubtedly has been introduced with the best of intentions, possibly in response to the considerable amount of media coverage that has been given to this subject by the Toronto press. This type of legislation might well appeal to that breed of person such as one finds among the reform element which controls and dictates the local politics in the inner core of the city of Toronto.

Mr. Drea: That is libellous, absolutely libellous.

Mr. Williams: However, passage of such a bill would be an affront not only to the vast majority of the people of Ontario who respect and abide by existing laws governing abortion in this country and province, but it would as well offend those very laws. Such a law, in fact, would place in disrepute the present laws that find the principle of abortion on demand to be unacceptable, but which recognize the right of a woman to have a therapeutic abortion for health rather than social or economic reasons.

The matter of therapeutic abortions is itself a matter of debate. As we know, the federal law governing abortion was amended in 1969, whereby a therapeutic abortion would be permitted under four specific conditions; namely:

1. The pregnancy constituted a threat or would be likely to threaten the life or health of the mother.

2. That a presentation of such evidence was approved by a majority vote of a committee of three doctors in an approved hospital.

3. That the procedure was performed by a qualified medical practitioner in an approved hospital.

4. That pertinent records of such cases be kept and reported to the Minister of Health as required.

Unfortunately, no precise definition has been given to interpret what is legally meant by a "threat to health." The practical result has been that a very liberal interpretation has been given to the term to include the simple, emotional stress experienced by a woman with an unplanned pregnancy. The therapeutic abortion committees of many hospitals in Ontario apply this interpretation so generally as to allow, in fact, abortion on demand. They are paying lip service in too many cases to the responsibility of counselling and discussing with the patient the consequences of an abortion medically and socially. I personally disagree with the shocking laxity in this area.

Anyone who argues to the contrary cannot say that women do not have reasonable access to abortion services in the province under the law of this country. For example, in 1970 there were approximately 11,000 therapeutic abortions performed in Canada, representing three per cent of live births. In 1971, there were 16,000 therapeutic abortions in Ontario, representing 12 per cent of live births. The number is not decreasing. There were 96 abortions performed at Toronto General Hospital in 1969. In 1972, there were approximately 2,500 therapeutic abortions carried out in Toronto General Hospital.

While I personally disagree with the extent to which abortions have been allowed under this amended legislation, at least the patient does have to seek the counsel and approval of a therapeutic abortion committee, comprising three medical doctors in an approved hospital, and the operation must be performed by a qualified medical practitioner in an approved Ontario hospital. These controls and supervision are not assured to a woman sent to a foreign country for an abortion. The argument for more careful assessment and counselling of patients by therapeutic abortion committees in hospitals will have to be the subject matter of a debate in this forum on another occasion.

The announced intention of the bill before us today is to require the registration and bonding of individuals outside Canada for an abortion and to require a post-operative medical examination by the medical officer of health of the woman who has undergone the abortion.

How perverse; how humiliating; how demeaning. It is perverse in the sense of

clothing with legal respectability a person or persons who would be party to arranging for an illegal act by Canadian law to be carried out in a foreign jurisdiction where the laws accept the principle of the right to abortion as one of convenience rather than of necessity.

It is humiliating in the sense that such a provincial law would be, in fact, flouting the present abortion laws in Canada by giving a mantle of social acceptability and respectability to a clandestine form of business undertaking set up for the express and sole purpose of counselling people on how to circumvent the guidelines and controls that exist in Canada for allowing a legal abortion.

It is demeaning, not only to the woman who has undergone the abortion by requiring on her return to Canada that she be subject to medical examination by the public health officials, but also demeaning in the sense of the flagrant disrespect such a law would show by, in effect, discrediting the present practices and procedures for obtaining a therapeutic abortion in this country.

The establishment of an abortion referral agency in other jurisdictions has led to disillusionment as to their value, and in some jurisdictions to their outright ban.

[5:45]

New York State is a case in point. As was pointed out by the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), New York State was obliged in 1971 to ban abortion referral services, as it became apparent to the New York legislators that abortion referral services were a multi-million-dollar business which was exploiting the misery of women for commercial purposes.

During the legislators' inquiry in that jurisdiction, it was revealed that there were instances of fee-splitting; some doctors were getting fees at both ends by doing the abortion and cashing in on the profits from the referral services. There was also massive evidence that flagrant advertising techniques were used, medical advice was given over the telephone, and women who resorted to this abortion referral service were being open to subsequent blackmail.

Legislators found that the abortion referral service was such a good business, and that so many services sprang up, that it was not possible to provide the requisite surveillance of such groups, with the result all of them were subsequently banned under New York law.

Mr. Speaker: The member has about 30 seconds.

Mr. Williams: It appears that I do not stand alone on this issue. Not only do members from the opposition parties voice their concerns on this fundamentally important issue. I note that the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) has expressed similar views in the past when she was president of the Canadian Medical Association. In July, 1974, Dr. Bette Stephenson called for a ban on all profit-making abortion referral agencies. I agree. However, the basic principle involved goes beyond the question of whether the referral agency is profit-making or otherwise. The profit motive is not the essential consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have very few comments that I want to make. I suppose the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) feels a little isolated, as he should. The legislation is drafted in such a way that I can't help recalling the bill that he introduced with regard to travel agencies and noting the similarities in the two bills. Not only are there similarities, in some cases there are straight lifts from one bill into the other. It surprises me; I never thought I would see the day in this Legislature where we would view abortion in isolation and as a commercial venture.

This isn't a debate on the merits of abortion, because there is no place in the Ontario Legislature for such a debate. The matter is dealt with under the Criminal Code of Canada, and the debate that must take place must of necessity take place there. But I would have hoped, if we were ever going to discuss family planning, contraception or any of the matters related to the kind of counselling that people need in the Province of Ontario, that we might do so within the context of the Ministry of Health and not within the context of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

A fee—why would the member want to establish a profit-making operation that would be in the business of referring people for abortions? Why would he want to do that? I can't understand why he would want to establish that kind of an operation in Ontario for that purpose, to legitimize it in that way and then to make the reward based on the numbers of people you were able to refer for abortion. Why would he not address himself to the much more important issues of counselling, of care, of concern, rather than this whole matter of abortion?

Let me read the bill. The bill, as one would expect it to be from this member, is simply a bill that deals with the registration of a company, the registration of a business. You know, the bill provides for the registration of individuals charging a fee for referring individuals out of Canada for abortion. Why would the member do that? Why would he not simply set it up to register everyone who refers anyone, in or out of the country? If he considers it necessary to do so, why would he isolate it? The bonding of abortion referrers—for what possible purpose? Is this going to apply equally to physicians as it does to others in the marketplace so to speak? Is that what he has in mind? Then there's the setting aside of abortion referral fees in a trust account pending the results of a post-operative medical examination by the local medical officer of health of the woman who has undergone the abortion.

If we read this bill very carefully, it reminds us of the school trip on the plane—that's what he's really talking about. He's not talking of any concern or care about the whole matter. He's not talking at all with any concern or care. He's talking about the setting up of a commercial enterprise to deal with what is ostensibly a matter of health.

Mr. Drea: They are there today and you know it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wentworth has the floor.

Mr. Drea: Read the Sun every day. They are there.

Mr. Deans: I don't have to read the Sun every day. My motives are not dictated by the press, so I don't have to read the Sun every day to find out the difference between right and wrong. I don't have to read the Sun every day to find out the difference between setting up some commercial endeavour to take advantage of people over and against trying to deal with the legitimate problems that confront them.

Mr. Drea: They are there today and you know it and you won't do a single thing about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wentworth has the floor. We have restricted time.

Mr. Wildman: You are in government.

Mr. Deans: If the member were legitimately concerned, as many members are, about this entire matter, this member—

Mr. Drea: You know better than to say that.

Mr. Deans:—this member would then have proposed legislation which would have enabled people to take advantage of the proper kind of counselling services which might inevitably make abortions unnecessary. Which might. That's the kind of approach—

Mr. Drea: I have done that. Where were you?

Mr. Deans:—that ought to be taken. I frankly condemn this as a bit of hypocrisy and it is the usual government approach from that side.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I think I could talk on this matter of abortions for most of an afternoon, but I see I'm limited to about seven minutes. I do find it most distressing and appalling that this House should have to waste an hour of its time dealing with a bill which is attempting to legitimize the whole process of abortions. Surely in the month of April, when we are reminded in so many ways of a supernatural presence and the beautiful time of rebirth and joy, we should be looking for ways of protecting Ontario's unborn children rather than looking for ways of doing away with their very existence.

It is as inevitable as the sunrise that man should see the substance of faith and hope in the tangible world so obviously responding to forces beyond himself or his accumulated knowledge. Foetal development in itself is a force beyond man's control and comprehension, and what right has man to deny the presence of new life in this world?

I don't know whether the member for Scarborough Centre—

Mr. Drea: Be careful.

Mr. Riddell:—reads much of Pearl Buck's writings, but I would just like to take a quotation from this Nobel Prize-winning author. It says:

Since the foetus is a creature already alive in the process of development, to kill is to choose death over life. At what point shall we allow this choice?

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The point of privilege?

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, my personal views toward abortion are extremely well known

in this House and I very deeply resent the implications that I am in favour of abortion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Huron-Middlesex.

Mr. Riddell: I fail to see the point of personal privilege, but I'll continue on here with the quotation:

At no point, either as life begins or as life ends, for we who are human beings cannot for our own safety be allowed to choose death, life being all we know. Beyond life lie only faith and surmise, but not knowledge. Where there is no knowledge except for life, decisions for death are not safe for the human race. I would not add the weight of choice to kill rather than to let live. A retarded child, a handicapped person, brings his own gift to life even to the life of normal human beings.

It was mentioned that there were something like 2,000 abortions carried out in Toronto. I happen to have some figures here which indicate that last year there were 7,230 abortions carried out in five Toronto hospitals. It estimates the annual cost to the province of abortions in the city at close to \$2 million but there are no records of whether the women who had abortions lived in the city. I think this abortion rate is truly alarming.

I also read an article in the Toronto Star dated July 2, 1974, which states, "Commercial abortion referral services should be banned in Canada, Dr. Bette Stephenson, president of the Canadian Medical Association, said yesterday." The minister said abortion counselling should be provided through voluntary service agencies. She said she would rather see abortion referral services entirely banned than licensed. However, she said licensing would be the next best answer if we find the established voluntary agencies cannot do the job. But who says they are not doing the job?

I also have a letter here which indicates that abortions done outside the province are paid for. I want to bring that to her attention.

Finally, I want to indicate that New York State was obliged, in 1971, to ban abortion referral services as it became apparent to the New York legislature that abortion referral services were a multi-million-dollar business exploiting the misery of women for commercial purposes. During the legislature's inquiry it was revealed that there were instances of fee-splitting. Some doctors were getting fees at both ends by doing the abortion and cashing in on the profits from the referral services.

There was also massive evidence of flagrant advertising techniques used, medical advice being given over the telephone and women who had resorted to these services being blackmailed. The legislature found the abortion referral service was such a good business and so many had sprung up that it was not possible to provide the requisite surveillance of such groups with the result that all of them were subsequently banned under the New York law.

What are we wanting to do here? Legalize it. I want to close simply by saying here in Ontario let's show some leadership in solving this problem in a positive way, both for the mother and for the child. Surely, abortion isn't the best we have to offer.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to speak for two minutes?

All right; this order of business is discharged from the order paper.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would advise hon. members that tomorrow afternoon—and not necessarily in this order—we will expect to hear the contribution from the official opposition to the budget debate, item 1; we will then proceed with completion of second readings on Bills 51 and 47; go on and do Bill 48, the amendments to the Tobacco Tax Act, and then legislation as it appears on the order paper.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Kerr, Hon. G. A.; Minister of the Environment (Burlington South PC)
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